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Chickasaw County

Volume IX

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Chickasaw County

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

August 3, 1936

Supplement to Assignment #2 Formation of the County
Early Settlements

Some Early History of Chickasaw County
By Jeff Busby

Chickasaw County, when organized, was much larger than it is now. It included most of what is now Calhoun County, and the North part of Clay County. It was bounded as follows:

Beginning five miles Northeast of Okolona at the Monroe County line. It followed the North line of Township 12 West 39 miles to a point one-half mile Southwest of Banner, now in Calhoun County; then South 24 miles to a point three miles Northeast of Cadaretta, then East 18 miles to a point one mile Northeast of Hohenlinden; then 4½ miles South to near old Cumberland; then 21½ miles East to a point three miles Northeast of Siloam, now in Clay County; then North 28½ miles along the Monroe County line to the place of beginning.

Chickasaw County was almost twice as large when created as it is now, containing about 1077 square miles of territory. The western line was three and a half miles beyond Pittsboro, passing near Ellard and Big Creek, both of which places were in Yalobusha County. Some of the places which are now in Calhoun County, but which are within the territory forming part of Chickasaw County when organized are: Pittsboto, Slate Springs, Hopewell, Salbougla, Benela, Erin, Cherry Hill, Oak Grove, and Keas Bridge. Other places where post offices have since been established in that part of Calhoun County, which was formerly part of Chickasaw are: Beginning at the north part of the County, Busyton, Elf, Lantrip, Bishop, Reid, Freedom, Old Town, Loyd, Ellzey, Woodridge, Vardaman, Hollis, Derma, Calhoun City, Vanrish, Wardwell, Reagan and Bentley. Many of the postoffices at these

places have passed away with the passing of the old Star Route mail service, and with the coming of rural free delivery and improved roads.

Calhoun County was organized on March 8, 1852, and was named for John C. Calhoun, the great South Carolina statesman. When Clay County was organized on May 12, 1871, about two hundred square miles of the Southeast corner of Chickasaw County was joined to parts of Lowndes and Oktibbeha counties to form Clay. Places that were established in what is now Clay County, which was part of Chickasaw, were Una, Belle, Caradine, Montpelier, Pine Bluff, Beaseley, Abbot, Dalton, Big Springs and Palo-Alto. Palo-Alto was a village of considerable importance, situated in what was then the Southeast corner of Chickasaw County. It was to become one of the centers of culture and refinement, and the home of some of our most distinguished citizens, Henry L. Burkitt, who served with distinction as a State Senator, lived there. He was the father of Frank Burkitt, who lived in Okolona and was regarded as one of the outstanding men of his time in our state.

Chickasaw County, as now composed, contains 507 square miles. When it was organized in 1836, Houston was made the County Seat. Before that time, a settlement had formed about old Houlka. About a mile Southeast of that place was Old Agency, a center of Indian Activity. When the treaty was signed with the Chickasaw Indians in 1832, giving them a right to select sections of lands for homesteads while they remained here, almost all the lands surrounding Old Houlka were claimed by the Indians.

With the formation of counties and the coming of settlers from the other states, settlements were formed in various parts of the County. A post office was usually established, and around this developed the community. So important was the question of mail service that the treaty with the Chickasaw Indians signed at the Council House in Pontotoc County in 1832, contained the following provision:

"The Chickasaw Nation request the Government to grant them a cross mail

route through the nation as follows: one to pass from Tuscumbia in Alabama, by the Agency, and by the place to be selected for the offices to be kept and to Rankin in Mississippi on horse back, once a week each way. The other to run from Memphis, in Tennessee, by the offices and to the Cotton Gin in Mississippi--to pass once a week each way. They conceive these mails would be useful to the nation, and indispensible to the carrying on the business of the nation when the offices are established, but they would respectfully solicit the mails to be started as soon as possible, to open the avenues of information into their country.

"John Donely has long been known in this nation as a mail carrier; he rode on the mails through our nation when a boy and for many years after he was grown; we think he understands that business as well, if not better than any other man--and we should prefer to have him carry our mails to any other person."

It is my purpose to give somewhat in the order in which they were established all the post offices which have been in the County, and the postmasters who have served these offices. Each community may be reminded in this way of Associations, community life, and activity that meant much to them in earlier times.

Pursuant to the Act creating the County, John Delasmit, Richard Elliot, Thomas Ivy, Mr. Gates and Benjamin Anderson were appointed commissioners to organize the County. A site was selected near the center of the County for the County Seat, which was to be called Houston for General Sam Houston, who was about that time Governor of Tennessee. Here the first post office in the county was established on the 5th of December, 1837, with Henry B. Cater, postmaster. Twenty-two regular postmasters have served Houston and vicinity during the one hundred years.

They are: Henry B. Carter, December 1837; James Laughridge, April 1838; Joseph Lancaster, January 1845; William A. Scott, February, 1848; Robert N. Dominick, January 1852; William D. Carr, March 1856; Hugh K. Martin, February, 1858; Richard G. Steele, October, 1859; Thomas C. Lyon, November 1859; John McKinney, September 1865; James George, January 1866; William D. Harlan, Jr., October 1868; John Yeager, March, 1869; William T. Harlan, August, 1869; Allen White, December, 1871; J. M. Griffin, August 1885; Andrew J. Jamison, May, 1889; James B. Gladney, August 1893; Andrew J. Jamison, July, 1897; Mrs. Beatrice Williams, May, 1907; Robert B. Waldrop, January 1916; William D. Woods, May 1922.

Andrew J. Jamison served under two appointments, and at his death, his daughter, Mrs. Beatrice Williams, was appointed postmaster, to January, 1916, the postmastership was held by Mr. Jamison and his daughter, Mrs. Williams, over the period of twenty-seven years, with the exception of four years during the second Cleveland Administration, when James B. Gladney was postmaster.

The next post office was established at Hopewell, about half way between Bentley and Slate Springs in what is now Calhoun County. Thomas N. Martin was commissioned its first postmaster on August 17, 1840. The office was discontinued in February, 1842, but was re-established in January, 1846, with John J. Ramsey postmaster. Other postmasters who served were: Jesse F. McCafferty, March 1846; John L. Hunber, June, 1846; G. M. Chrestain, July, 1847. E. K. Putnam was appointed postmaster in January, 1854; however this territory had been included in 1852 in Calhoun County.

The third post office established was Oak Grove, which was also located in what was later to become a part of Calhoun County. This office was located about five miles Northeast of Pittsboro between Reid and Old Town. On August 23, 1843, Benjamin Murray, Jr., was commissioned its

first postmaster. Then followed Martin Murphree, September, 1843, and Enoch J. Enochs, February, 1851. On the first day of May, 1852, the name of the post office was changed to Hartford, and Enoch J. Enochs was appointed postmaster. He was followed by Martin Murphree, July, 1853, and John W. Bennett, August, 1854. At that date it becamse a part of Calhoun County.

The next post office established was at Pikeville on the Houston to Egypt road, where L. E. DeMoville now lives. The first postmaster was Iradelle P. Vaughn, April 2, 1844; Mathew A. Phillips, February, 1848; Suprey A. Anderson, August, 1850; William D. Carr, December 1850; George T. Gates, May, 1852. He served until October, 1859, when the Pikeville office was consolidated with the Egypt Post Office, where George T. Gates became the first postmaster at the place.

The fifth post office established in the County, and the third in what is now Chickasaw County, was Prairie Mount, located on the old road from Cotton Gin Port to Pontotoc on a ridge about five miles northwest of Okolona. The first postmaster was Littleberry Gilliam, appointed July 2, 1844. He was followed by Lewis Glass, September, 1850; George Franks, January 1852; Robert M. Tendall, February, 1853; George Franks, October 1853; John H. Gilliam, October 1855; Emanuel Skinner, March 1858; and Benjamin Murray, May, 1858. On January 12, 1860, Prairie Mount Post Office was discontinued. The completion of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad through Okolona had caused most of the business men and leading citizens to move to that place, and Prairie Mount was abandoned as a business center. Robert M. Tendall, who served as postmaster there later served eleven years as postmaster at Okolona.

The Cherry Hill post office was established March 9, 1846, in what is now Calhoun County, about one-half mile South of Reid near the present location of a church. The first postmaster was Christopher Orr, who

served for nine years. He was followed by John B. Covington in May, 1854. This office, too, passed into Calhoun County, where a continuation of the postmasters will be found.

The next post office established--the fourth in what is now Chickasaw County--was Okolona. This place had been a rival of Prairie Mount. With the completion of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in 1859, giving Okolona contact with Mobile and other Port trading centers, it rapidly absorbed the business and population of Prairie Mount and the surrounding country. Its development, as a trading and cultural center, was rapid from that time. Many of the leading merchants and professional men, who had formerly located at Houston, moved to Okolona. Among these were Simon Myers, Charles C. Dibrell, Anthony W. Dibrell, and others who became leading business men in our section of the state. But the Okolona Post Office was established March 23, 1846, with William H. Wheeler the first Postmaster. The others in order were as follows: Robert A. Murdock, June, 1847; Hercules M. Noe, June, 1852; Powhatan T. Gewin, June 1859; Alexander P. Morrow, Jr., 1861; Anderson C. Norton, September, 1865; Nathaniel B. Williams, November, 1865; John White, September 1866; Miss Harriett Spencer, April, 1869; Erasmus D. Hale, January, 1871; William E. Waddell, March, 1873; Robert M. Tendall, June, 1878; Martha J. Tucker, August, 1886; Robert M. Tendall, July, 1890; Henry B. Lacey, October, 1893; William D. Frazee, September, 1897; Irene F. Elliott, July, 1899; Frank M. Elliott, February, 1913; Fred J. McDonald, June, 1913; William L. Johnson, May, 1928; Allen Dean, 1934.

The next post office established was at Benela, the 8th of June 1846. This was located at first about two miles southeast of Hollis. The name was changed to Keas Bridge, and the location moved to a point about five miles west to a prominence overlooking Yalobusha River. This was about 2 miles southeast of the present site of Derma.

While the original Benela Post Office remained at its first site, its postmasters were: Nelson Tarvur, June 8, 1846, and Robert Conner, March 1849. The original office was discontinued, the 3rd of May 1854. In the meantimes the Keas Bridge Post office was established by Thomas J. Enocks June 4th, 1851. On July 10, 1856, the name of Keas Bridge was discontinued and the Post Office name was changed to Benela at the Keas Bridge location. Thomas J. Enochs was the first postmaster of the new Benela post office. Keas Bridge was located on a point on the Yalobusha River which was considered near the head of navigation. This river was very difficult to cross during the rainy months of the winter and spring. It seemed that a man by the name of Keas had built a bridge across the river in the late 40's, and from this bridge the place took its name. Mr. J. M. Griffin who died Nov. 19, 1935, was interviewed and he remembered this community at Keas Bridge before 1850. He covered many incidents of the early history of the county. Notwithstanding his advanced age, his mind was keen and clear. He told of the early incidents with a sparkle in his eye, and evident pleasure written on his face. He told me that his father, [illegible] came to Chickasaw County in 1846, and settled two and a half miles Southeast from Old Benela, or Keas Bridge. On being asked if he knew Captain Enochs, who was then the postmaster there, with evident merriment, he replied: "Yes, I knew Captain Tom Enochs, and I will tell you how he got the name Captian. Long before the Civil War, Captain Enochs built a flat boat at Keas Bridge, loaded it with cotton; and when the rainy season came on, he carried it down Yalobusha River through what is now Grenada and Greenwood into the Yazoo River; down into the Mississippi, and then to New Orleans, where he sold the flat boat and cargo of cotton. On his return home to Benela, he was called "Captain Enochs", a title he bore the rest of his life.

Another story he told me was this: "A stranger, who was somewhat of a joker, came into town and asked me of the persons who lived there the name of the place. He was told that it was named Keas Bridge, (the town

being just on the hill above the bridge.) The stranger evidently was not greatly impressed by the importance of the place, so he called it 'Lick Skillet', by which name Keas Bridge was known for many years after that."

Several merchants had established places of business in Benela about 1850. Mr. Griffin remembered that James Simonton, a Jew, who had formerly been a partner of Simon Myers at Houston, moved from there to Benela and established a merchantile business. Other merchants there were Wiley Woodward, Tom Woodward, and Captain Tom Enochs.

Palo-Alto Post Office was established August 15, 1846. It was in the Southeast corner of Chickasaw County, some ten miles Northwest of West Point. That territory became a part of Clay County, when it was organized in 1871. It is certain that by 1850 more wealth, education and leadership had settled in the vicinity of Palo-Alto than at any other place in the County. This is disclosed by the census records. So important was the place in the early history of our County that I shall have more to say about it in another article. The postmasters at Palo-Alto were: Daniel B. Hill, August 15, 1846; John G. Baptist, August, 1850; William R. Sims, January, 1855; Andrew M. Barry, April 1859. The Post Office was discontinued the 17th of May, 1867, but was re-established May 6, 1868, with Andres W. Shattuck, postmaster. He was followed by James Burkitt, August, 1869, who was postmaster when this territory became a part of "Colfax", later Clay County, May 12, 1871.

The next post office established was first known as Monterey. In a short time its name was changed to Buena Vista. The valor of Mississippi soldiers in the Mexican War determined the name of this place. President Polk had called for volunteers, and his call had met an enthusiastic response in Mississippi. The first regiment was commanded by Col. Jefferson Davis who resigned from Congress to accept the command. He was ordered with his gallant band of soldiers, known as the Mississippi Rifles, to

join General Taylor, on the Rio Grande. Their first engagement was a t Monterey. T'was a long and desperate fight, and the Mississippi soldiers went through fire, smoke, and slaughter in the streets of Monterey during the battle, and gained the victory, though greatly outnumbered. Their conduct at Monterey excited admiration throughout the State and country. But this was not be the last glory attained by them. Colonel Jefferson Davis, by his celebrated "V-formation" in a narrow pass on the battle-field of Buena Vista, was able to repel the Mexican lancers and gather victory from almost certain defeat. This incident, too, electrified the people of Mississippi, because it was the valor of her sons that had played such an important part in the battle. There is a tradition that Jefferson Davis passed through Chickasaw County on horseback; that he dismounted and ate his lunch under the spreading boughs of a large white oak tree, which stood until recently West of the Houston and Buena Vista road, 100 yards North of the old Johns house. However that be, the post office was first established on May 26, 1847, as Monterey, with Uriah S. Williams, postmaster. On June 3, 1847, its name was changed to Buena Vista to commemorate the battle fought the 23d of February of that year. Uriah S. Williams was made postmaster. Following him was Andrew J. Pulliam, March 1860; Uriah S. Williams, February, 1866. The poast office was discontinued July 27, 1866, but was re-established with David G. Brown postmaster, September, 1876. Following him were: John C. Williams, January, 1878; Lemuel C. Suggs, May 1889; Pearl Parker, August 1889; Samue T. King, January, 1895; Mrs. Nora Bean, February, 1899; L. Olive Corley, February, 1900; Ophelia L. Suggs, September, 1901; Homer V. Pulliam, March, 1904; George D. Freeman, January, 1913; Samuel T. King, October, 1915. He has served continuously for the past twenty years.

The culture, refinement, and the importance of Buena Vista as an educational center of the County was not surpassed by any other place. I shall refer to it more in detail in another article.

OKOLONA
The Jewel of the Prairie Lime Belt of Northeast Mississippi
by Olga Reed Pruitt

Okolona, nestles a gleaming jewel, in the heart of the Prairie Lime Belt of Northeast Mississippi where it is etched in dark splendor against the rugged stretches of the Pontotoc rigge to the west. The name itself is musically suggestive of the early distinguished inhabitants of the community, the Chickasaw Indians, and the land retains the romance and glamour of their legends with the adoption of their name by the county.

Okolona had its beginning six miles to the northwest of its present location, when Littleberry Gilliam settled on the old stage route in 1836 and opened his home as an inn to the public, and so became the founder of the little villiage which he named Prairie Mount. There was soon established two small dry goods stores, a grog shop, blacksmith shop and a wagon repair shop which formed a thriving trade center at a time when obscure villages and plantations, and even insignifiwant landing places for small boats, aspired to become towns and cities. Prairie Mount was incorporated in 1852 but about the time of the permanent location of the survey of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, word of the new road became bruited about and two new homes and a saloon sprang up near the proposed artery of commerce, and so in 1845, in the rich prairie stretches,an embryo municipality wavered.

It soon began to grow into a trade center for that part of the country which had hitherto contributed to the growth of Prairie Mount. When time came to name the lusty infant,"Rose Hill" was first considered as a means of honoring the first two settlers, but Mississippi already boasted a town of that name and the idea was abandoned.

The responsibility of finding a name rested with the Aberdeen Postmaster Josiah N. Walton. This postmaster had made a trip, some time before from

Cotton Gin Port to Pontotoc,and had dined with Levi Colbert, Cheif Itawamba.Colbert instructed him to follow trails to the west which converge on a lake where his herds were in charge of a young brave whose name was Okolona. Arriving at the lake,the traveler was impressed by the stalwart beauty and dignity of the Indian. So it was that, when asked to suggest a name for the new town, he thought of the handsome Chickasaw Brave and named the town Okolona.

The town was incorporated in 1848 with H.L.Hill as the first mayor. With the building of the railroad the promising young town of Prairie Mount began its march back into the wilderness as its residents moved outto the greater advantages of transportation facilities. Okolona flourished, but with the minicipal decay and death of Prairie Mount.There are still some old land marks of this village today. Our present Supervisor Mr. Earl Anderson lives on the site of old Prairie Mount where one of our hardest fought battle of the Civil War xxxfoughtxx occured and where Col. Jessie Forrest was killed.

Okolona had barely had time to develop a civic pride before the rumblings of the Civil War were heard. And war found the little prairie town at the cross roads to all Federal objections. The division hospital was established here and from its sanctuary nearly one thousand still forms were borne to rest in the Confederate Cenetery which forms a picture of dignity and stately beauty on the towns outskirts.

Okolona was besieged by Federals on three different occassions . The first topk place in December, 1862, while the toeh was under the command of Col.C.R.Barteau. The second was in the early part of 1864 when the hospital was burned and the depot containing 100,000 bushels of corn. During the seige, while the buildings were burning , the Federals fired the corn fields from Okolona To West Point. The third raid was made in the first week in January , 1865. General Sam Gholson was then in charge of Okolona Again the enemy set fire to the town, every store being totally destroyed.

It was here that Gen. Wm. Cabell lay wounded; here that Gen. N.B. Forrest dashing and courageous cavalry, with 2500 men met and defeated Gen. Sooey Smith with 7000 men. It was following that victory, when Sooey Smith was fleeing toward Memphis that Col. Jesse Forrest was killed at Prairie Mount and his body brought back here to await burial. Gen. Forrest lost a toe in that encounter and was nursed back to health in what is now known as the Donaldson home. It was in Okolona that Gen. Earl Van Dorn organized a cavalry corps of 6,000. It was Okolona's own Col. James Gordon who organized, armed, and equipped, at his own expense, the first company of cavalry that went from this state.

Afterward, when the saddened, exhausted soldiers returned home, it was to find only the ruins of what had been a beautilful and flourishing town. With the courage that had wrested a home from the forests and sweeping prairies a few years before, they again set about to erect dewlling and business houses with a thought to permanency and wider horizons.

During the war the churches had been a solace and haven, having been converted into hospitals, and preceding that time the whole social structure of Okolona had been based on its religious life. It is thought that the Baptist was the first church organized, and it was immediately followed by the Methodist, with the Presbyterian being organized next.

Many business enterprises were launched, with the rebuilding of Okolona, which withstood the passing of time or prospered in changing hands. Foremost among these was the The Chickasaw Messenger, weekly newspaper, which was established in Houston in 1872 and moved to Okolona in 1876, with Capt. Frank Burkitt as editor. The Messenger served the town through the years as an organ of inspiration, and was changed to the Okolona Messenger in 1900 when it passed into the hands of Abe Steinberger & Sons. It was early in 1911 that W.T. Quinn

acquired the Messenger, and at his death in 1934, his mantle fell on the capable shoulders of his two daughters, and The OKolona Messenger lives as one of the State's most widely circulated weekly newspapers from one of the State's best job printing plants.

Following the financial crash of 1929 and the resultant economic chaos, Okolona entered upon its third building program, having been what radio commentators termed"The hardest hit town in the United States" in that crash. True to tradition, she again built for permamency with a widened scope that blossomed from a stamina which sruvived those years.

The American Legion, the business men and the five Federated Women's clubs joined forces with the City and in 1934 a Chamber of Commerce was formed. And Okolona was again in its way.

The Okolona of today is but the fulfilment of the promise of the Okolona of the late sixties. It has, for many generations, enjoyed renown as the home of culture and refinement. The white school system today has the highest rating obatainable in the United States. The Grammar School is rated A, the best, by the State. The High School is state affiliated and southern affiliated, which means that any student can enter in an A-1 College.

The acquisition of cheap electric current through TVA facilities has probably meant more to the community as a whole than any other factor. Rural sections are also reaping the benefits of electrification as a result and the city is developing industrially. Intensive dairying is being encouraged with a steady market afforded by the large plants of Wilson Packing Company and The Carnation Milk Company and the long growing seasons for pastures on the rich, warm prairie lands adding incentive to the industry.

Other smaller but no less essential industries are located at Okolona. It is a relay for the Mobile & Ohio railroad which forms a junction with the Okolona, Houston, and Calhoun City railroad here.

One of the most significant examples of the progress being made by Okolona was the establishment here in January, 1935, of headquarters of the Natchez Trace Forestry, a Federal project of many thousand acres designed to retire non-productive lands lying between the towns of Pontotoc, Houston, and Okolona, prevent soil erosion and conserve the timber and game thereon. In retiring these lands, burdened owners will be relieved through their purchase by the Government and settled on arable lands in happier surroundings. Developmentof the area and game preserve is affording employment for hundreds of men, as well as protecting fertile lowlands by impounding waters from the lands of Pontotoc ridge water shed and opening up a recreational area that will have far-reaching influence.

In recent years the recreational proclivities of citizens have been manifest in the numerous sportsmen's clubs and facilities for their activities. Within the city limits, the 80-acre Municipal Park, known ad "The Playground of Northeast Mississippi," with its large swimming pool and other features, attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Six milesto the south, the privately owned game preserve, Cedar Brake, joins the grounds and lake of the Rod and Gun club. Headquarters of the Prairie Belt Field Trial Club are held here and the range around Okolona is os such excellence that sportsmen from the North and East are finding it both profitable and enjoyable to make it the Mecca of annual pilgrimages during the open season on quail.

Thus does Okolona nestle, in charm and dignity, on the western edge of Chickasaw County where the undulating prairies are etched in dark aplendore against the rugged stretches of the Pontotoc Ridge to the west; wherein swell those cherish the rich heritage left by the pioneers of 1845; nestles, cordially inviting, where Highway 41--the shortest route between Memphis and Birmingham crosses Highway West 45--the direct route from the Great Lakes to the Gulf--nestles, strategically, at the intersection on the road to anywhere!

It is a fact, probably, known to only a few that a small cemetery lies in the heart of the city. It is situated almost due north of the Confederate Soldiers Monument, perhaps about where the Ford Service Station is. Two of the older citizens interred here were the late Mr. Kyle, father of the late Mr Talbot Kyle and Mrs Edgar Howell, whose only direct descendants are Miss Mollie Kyle and Mrs Edgar Howellnnow living; another, Mrs Ann Joiner Munson, deceased, and who is buried about six miles from Okolona an a farm cleared by her husband, Louis Joiner Munson. There are others whose names could not be recalled.[1] This cemetery must have been here nearly a hundred years ago.[1]

1. Interview with Mrs Edgar Howell, Okolona. granddaughter of Mr Kyle.

The following is a list of the citizens of Chickasaw County for the year 1837, obtained from the Records in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History:

William Sessions	William Burt
Thomas Sealy	David Grace
Jesse Rogers	Thomas Martin
John Rece	James Vance
James Martin	Austin Martin
Alex Armstrong	Dawson Duncan
Hardin Harris	Henry McGarity
W. M. Cook	J.W. Wells
Joseph Johnson	John Tober
James Plant	C.D. Pittman
Moses J. Miller	Sam Evans
A. P. Vaughn	Charles S. Mooney
James F. Walker	Jessie Gilliam
Barry Ross	Jessie Seal
Simon Beard	Abrion Byers
H.H. Fuller	J.W. Davis
Thomas Dulaney	David Griffin
Josh. A. Buhannon	Moses Johnson
Allen Johnson	John Doss
G.W. Thornton	H.W. Norton
Jack Delashmit	H. M. Goods
James Walker	John Dulaney
John . Seay	Wm. B. Foster
Charles C. Bebull	J.K. Kyle
Peter Tittle	R. T. Davis
James Mason	J.G. Steele

Littleby Gilliam
D. S. Buller
Edward Garrett
Thomas Paird
J.H. Boles
Abner Cantrell
Charles Graeff
Hosea Galloway
Claiborn Williams
Joseph Gates
P.G. Kyle
D.D. Brown
A.K. Cragg
C. Yarbrough
A.G. McLenon
Thomas Paine
Caleb Russell
C. Hightower
James Duff
Charles Gates
John Reed
Noah Watkins
W. Harrell
Ducilla Ivy
Allen Chapman
Jacob Arntt
Mames Delashmit
William Downing
N.G. Williams
Jeel P. Williams

Breeby Boles
Willis Webb
William Cunningham
John McFarlan
Greenville Boles
Square Partlett
Soloman Barrett
Thomas B. Reid
George S. Hoyt
Matthew Knox
William H. Williams
James Laughridge
Wyatt Clark
J.W.Ross
William Bishop
Willis Griffin
F. Dosier
J.S. Clark
Thomas Gates
James Thompson
J.B. Liverman
William Sample
G.W. Harrell
James Calvert
John Doye
Benjamin Bugg
S.S. Middlebrooks
John Parker
Thomas C. Williams
Daniel Williams

A. Byses
Thomas Warbridge
R.L. Aycock
R. Getchell
J.B. Middlebrooks

David Brown
H.R. Carter
A. H. Braddock
John B. Ray
T.B. Middlebrooks

Some Early Settlers of Chickasaw County
By Robert Lowry and William McCardle

Among the early settlers of Chickasaw County were Lewis Isbell, Thos. Lewis, and Charles Gates, Thomas Reed, Warren Harrell, Lewis Moore, John W. Donaldson, John May, Headin Harris, John McIntosh who in the early day was surveyor of the county, and the father of the late John McIntosh who was the father of that excellent lawyer and genial gentleman, Hon. J. R. McIntosh, who served the county most acceptably as a member of the Legislature, and is now a senior partner of one of the leading law firms of East Mississippi, located in the city of Meridian: Judge T.N. Martin, who was a member of the state Senate for four years, the father-in-law of Hon. W.S. Bates, who was probate judge of Pontotoc County, and later an honored member of the Houston bar; Christopher Orr, father of Hon. James L. Orr of South Carolina, and Hon. J.A. Orr of the city of Columbus; the former was governor of his native state, member of Congress and Minister to Russia; the latter was the first Colonel of the Thirty-first Mississippi Regiment, member of the Confederate Congress, and for some years judge of the judicial district in which he resided; Robert Pulliam, Benjamin Pulliam, father of Maj. Thomas Pulliam, of the Thirty-first Mississippi Regiment; Dr. N.S. Williams, a prominent and leading phisician, the father of R.P. Williams, a lawyer of high character in the city of Meridian; Richard Farr, the father-in-law of Rev. Thomas J. Lowrey and Eli Gordon; Benjamin Kilgore who represented the county in its

early days,the grandfather of Gen. J.H. Brinker, of the National Guard, who resided at West Point;Ezekiel Fuller, who was a soldier at the battle of New Orleans;Joseph Buchanan, the father of Thomas J, Buchanan, Sr. who is the father of Judge J. W. Buchanah, for two terms a member of the Legislature, Circuit Judge of his judicial district for several years, and father of Dr. J. M.Buchanan, an accomplished physician, and Superintendent of the East Mississippi Insane Assylum at Meridian, and Thomas J. Buchanan who was a prominent lawyer of Okolona; John Bell who was a member of the Senate from the county for one term; Benjamin Bugg, Henry R. Carter, T. J. Griffin who was a member of both branches of the Legislature; Major J.W. Wheeler, Col Henry Shackleford, who was the father-in-law of Gen. W.F. Tucker; Adam Lagrone, Capt. George Bowen, Anderson Beene, C.C. Marable, Samuel R. Evans, father of Major J. S. Evans of the eleventh Miss. Reg. and father-in-law of Hon. W. M. Inge who was speaker of the house of Rep. Henry R. Carter who was the first lawyer who located at Houston, the county site, and was very soon followed by Geo. Freeman, the father of Gen. G. Y. Freeman, of the city of Jackson; later Cyrus D. Baldwin, and a few years later General W. S. Featherston, who was prominent in the state from his early manhood. When quite a young man he was elected twice to Congress;during the war he was a gallant soldier with the rank of Brigadier-General; after the cessation of hostilities, he represented his county(Marshall)two terms in the Legislature, and was subsequently circuit Judge for six years, retired from the bench and resumed his profession, and served the county most acceptably as delegate to the Constitutional Convention of1890. Afterwards came the late Gen W. F. Tucker, who was first engaged in teaching school, devoting his leasure time to reading law; he served as probate judge of the county. Soon after his admission to the bar he took high rank as a lawyer; during the war he was Colonel of the 41st Mississippi Regiment, and promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General. He was father of the accomplished State Librarian, Miss Rosa Lee Tucker. He was a man of purity of character and a christian gentleman.

Chickasaw County

Historical Research Project

Assignment # 4

Canvassers: Mabel Calvin, Rubye Cook and Nora Austin.

Compiled: April 24, 1936

Written by City

I. Water- sheds

(a) Name of rivers, creeks etc. Origin of names.

The following are the rivers and creeks of Chic. County. The meaning of the Indians names were furnished by Mr. E.T. Winston, Pontotoc, Miss.

1. Houlka Creek- (Hullaka) a sacred thing or place.
2. Chuquatonchee-(Shukla-tanchi) hog corn or house full of corn.
3. Yalobusha River- "tad poles plentiful".
4. Topasaw Creek-(Tapa-sa) it separates.
5. Sakiahoma-(Sakti-lahoma) red furrowed banks.
6. Schooner- (Luca-koni) Black Pole Cat.
7. Mattuby Creek-(Mats-abi) where he was killed.
8. Talaboneia-(Tal-aia-binola) the place settled.
9. Chicot Creek- named for an Indian Chief.
10. Jane Creek
11. Long Creek
12. Red Bud Creek
13. Dick's Creek
14. Owl Creek
15. Mud Creek
16. Indian Creek.

(note) The meanings of the names of the Indian creeks in the county were secured from Mr. E. T. Winston, Pontotoc, Miss. omit

(b) Direction of flow, into what stream do they flow.

1. Noulka Creek rises in the edge of Pontotoc County, flows southeast diagonally through Chickasaw County and empties into Chuquatonchee just over the Clay County line.

2. Chuquatonchee Creek, east of the Pontotoc Ridge is the largest creek in the county. It rises in Pontotoc County and flows nearly northwest to southeast through Chickasaw enptying into Line Creek in Clay County. It is nearly fifteen miles long.

3. Yalobusha River rises in the northwest part of the county and runs westward into the Yazoo River.

4. Topasaw rises in Webster County, flows north through the southwest corner of Chickasaw and empties into Yalobusha River in Calhoun County.

5. Saklahoma is a very small stream. It rises near Wesley's Chapel in the northern part of the county and flows south into Houlka Creek.

6. Schooner, west of the Pontotoc Ridge in the western part of the county, rises in Pontotoc County flows south across the northwestern part of Chickasaw emptying into Yalobusha River.

7. Mattuby Creek rises in the northeastern part of the county near Okolona and flows southwest into Monroe County finally reaching the Tombigbee River.

8. Tallibonela Creek flows eastward across the northeastern part of the county ~~east into~~

9. Chicot rises near Houston and flows southeast into Houlka Creek one and one half miles above the Clay County line.

10. Cane Creek forms north of Woodland, flows due east through the southern part of the county and empties into Houlka Creek.

11. Long Creek rises near the center of the county and flows south into Houlka Creek.

12. Red Bud Creek rises near Egypt in the eastern part of the county and flows south into Chuquatonchee.

13. Dick's Creek rises near Van Vleet and runs south into Chuquatonchee.

14. Owl Creek rises in the north and flows south into Chuquatonchee Creek.

15. Mud Creek is in the northwestern part of the county and runs south into Schooner.

16. Indian Creek rises in the northeastern part of the

County and flows south into Schooner.

(This information was secured from a large county map in the County Superintendent's office.)

(b) Effect on county, on health, soil, etc.

The Pontotoc Ridge, passing through the center of the county forms an important drainage divide. The streams on the west eventually reach the Mississippi River and those on the east flow into the Tombigbee River. Except in the Flatwoods section, the drainage system of the county is well developed.

The creeks keep the land well drained and cause the soils in their vicinity to be very fertile, especially those of the larger streams, namely: Houlka Creek in the central aprt of the county, Chuquatonchee in the eastern section, Cane Creek in the south, and Schooner in the northwest. Houlka and Chuquatonchee are subject to overflow, which, of course, makes the soil richer but which also causes a decrease in production during wet years. However, a complete crop failure is seldom made. Without the creeks the entire eastern and western sections would be marshes and swamps and cultivation would be impossible.

The general health of the people in the smaller bottoms of the creeks is fair. The stagnant sloughs and water pockets in the larger streams furnish breeding places for mosquitoes, and Malaria is very prevalent in their vicinity.[1]

1. Health information secured from County Health Officer Dr. J. Rice Williams, Houston, Mississippi.

II. ELEVATION

(A) Highest point.

In the north central part of the county near Van Vleet, there is a high range of hills. The tallest hill in this range, known as the Fitzgerald Hill, is the highest point in the county. In the earlier days, before the county roads were graveled, this hill was nearly impassable in wet weather, and travellers always camped at the foot and got an early morning start over the hill. From the crest, the country around stretches as far as the human eye can see.

(b) Lowest point.

The lowest point as surveyed ~~and in reference to sea level~~ is two hundred twenty-four feet.[2] It is in the southeastern part of the county in the Chuquatonchee Creek bottom.

(c) Bottom lands.

There are 5,000 acres of Schooner bottom land in the northwestern corner of Chickasaw County. This land is very fertile, being black and sticky. Some of it is uncleared, and has an abundance of timber--ash, oak, redwood, and hickory.

Chuquatonchee Creek extends across the entire length of the county with a bottom about a mile wide. It is in the eastern part of the county, known as the prairie section. Several smaller creeks in this section empty into Chuquatonchee, namely: Dick's Creek, east of Van Vleet, Red Bud Creek near Egypt, and Owl Creek in the north. These and several small creeks of little consequence have bottoms which afford good farming.

2. Information from C. F. Futtrell, State Highway Engineer.

Next in importance to those of Chuquatonchee are the bottom lands of Cane Creek in the south and Houlka Creek in the central part. Houlka runs southward from Houlka town across the rest of the county--a distance of about twenty miles. Its bottom is more than a half mile wide in places, while at others it is less.

(d) Prairie lands.

The prairie lands begin east of Houston at Buena Vista, extending across the county eastward and run from Okolona southward across the county. In fact, the entire eastern section of the county is in the Prairie belt.

The flatwoods section, beginning at Houston, compreses the entire western section of the county.

(e) Rugged regions.

Beginning at Houston, the Pontotoc Ridge runs northward and is only about three miles wide. This region is hilly and not very productive. Accentuated by the level flatwoods on the west and the prairie lands on the east, it forms a prominent topographic feature of this part of the state.

Eastward from Houston and northeast to Van Vleet there is a strip of rugged land about eight miles wide. These hills are interspersed with inconsequential creeks and branches and their bottoms. This portion affords good pasture lands.

III. Lakes, Marshes, Bayous.

None are found in this county.

Chickasaw County

IV. SPRINGS, WELLS, AND MINERLA WATERS.

(a) Springs.

There are quite a few small springs in the county. Rock Spring on Highway No. 15 on the Pontotoc Ridge has a bowl of solid rock about three feet in diameter. Three big streams empty into it from above. Just at the foot stands an aged, unusually large birch tree. The names of some of the earlier settlers are carved on its bark, for throngs of people gathered there for picnics and pleasures as Rock Spring was an ideal place for an outing. (Dr. J. M. Walker, Houlka, Miss.)

(b) Wells.

1. Ordinary wells.

Deep bored wells and common dug wells afford water to the people around Houston and Okolona, but in the flatwoods section cisterns are used almost exclusively.

2. Artesian wells.

There are none.

(c) Mineral waters.

The Lewis Mineral Spring on the J. P. Hill farm three miles South of Woodland is the only spring in the county that has been analyzed. The analysis is said to have shown large quantities of salts, sulphur, and iron, but the formal analysis has not been located, as Mr. Lewis, the owner died several years ago.

Mrs J. W. Strickland
County Supervisor, Historical
Research Project, Chickasaw County

accepted 7r.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

Canvassers: Mabel Calvin, Blanche Colbert, Rubye Cook.

Supplement to Assignment No. 4, Topography and Geology.

Lewis' Mineral Well.

"Lewis' Mineral Well is located only a few miles west of Woodland, miss. It is an over-flowing well, and the water is always fresh, and will keep indefinitely in an air-tight vessel. It is a sure cure for all stomach, liver and bladder troubles. A number of cases of Pellagra have been successfully treated. It is especially good for old sores, sore-eyes, exzema, itch, and other skin diseases. Dr. Hand, state chemist, says it contains more health giving properties than any water analyzed at the State Laboratory.

ANALYSIS

By Dr. W. F. Hand, State Chemist

	Grains per gallon	Parts per million
Silica Oxide	24.010	411.531
Iron Oxide	4.600	78.848
Aluminium Oxide	.500	8.570
Calcium Oxide	35.100	601.614
Magnesium Oxide	63.661	1091.150
Sulphur Trioxide	97.672	1674.098
Chlorine	14.673	247.895
Potassium Oxide	1.726	29.584
Sodium Oxide	53.490	916.819
Carbon Dioxide	183.129	3138.831
Total	478.351	8198.936

(Copied from the Times Post, March 28, 1913, G. W. Williams, Editor and Proprietor.)

Chickasaw County

For several years quite a great deal of water was sold from the Lewis Mineral Well. After the Lewis family moved away the land was rented out and the well was not cared for. Water is no longer sold from the well but quite a few people still go there and get the water to drink for medicimal purposes.

In the March 28th issue of the Times Post Mr. Lewis ran the following add:

"All persons wishing to order the Lewis Mineral Water should address S. H. Ricks and Sons, Woodland, Mississippi. The water will be delivered on board the cars at Woodland at 20 cents per gallon where vessels are furnished. If vessels are not furnished by parties ordering, an extra charge will be made for cost of same.

J. A. Lewis, Proprietor.
Houston, Mississippi

This well is on land now owned by Mr. J. P. Hill, of Woodland.

Mrs J. N. Strickland
Supervisor, Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

CHICKASAW COUNTY

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

CANVASSERS: Mable Calvin, Rubye Cook, and Blanche Colbert

May 20, 1936

ASSIGNMENT SEVEN: SOILS AND MINERALS

I. The Principal Soil-Forming Material in Chickasaw County

(a) Pontotoc Ridge

The Pontotoc Ridge is a backbone averaging more than 500 feet high and parts the waters that flow into the Tombigbee on the east and the westward flowing tributaries of the Mississippi. Bordering the main crest on either side are rugged broken hills that drop suddenly to the lowlands of the Prairies on the one hand and those of the Flatwoods on the other. It is a small wedge shaped region, entering the state in Tippah and Alcorn Counties and running south, coming to a point at Houston, in Chickasaw County.

The soil of the Pontotoc Ridge is a red loam derived from the weathering of the sands and marls of the Ripley formation which is now thought by some to be the same age as the upper portion of Selma Chalk further south. The Ripley is capped for the most part with the sands and clays of the Lafayette formation. The soils of this ridge are derived largely from the Lafayette red sands and clays. Small areas of residual soils derived from the Ripley are also present. These soils are in a measure distinct from the Lafayette soils in the other parts of the state.

(b) Prairie Region

The northeast Prairie occupies a narrow belt of land lying chiefly west and southwest of the Tombigbee River in the northeastern po

tion of the state. This region embraces the eastern half of Chickasaw county. The topography of the region is that of a gently undulating plain containing some nearly level areas. The elevation varies from 200 tp 500 feet above sea level.

The soils are black, calcareous clay loams that do not drain perfectly but are strong and productive. They are derived by the weathering of a soft marly chalk or limestone belonging to a formation known as rotten limestone or Selma Chalk. In unweathered outcrops the rock is blue in color but soon weathers white on exposure. The chalk contains some clay and the soils resulting from its disintegration are ordinarily a clay soil; but there are some sandy phases of the soil which yield sandy types of soil though these are very limited in extent and are, as a rule more numerous near the base and near the upper surface of the chalk. The chalk also contains Marly layers which contain quantities of cretacions of Calciun Phosphate. These cretations contain as high as 22% phosphoric acid and the soil derived from the marl contains in some places 2 % of phosphoric acid. The presence of such large quantities of this mineral explains why the application of commercial phosphates has produced little or no effect on the black prairie soils of the area.

The soil often contains many fragments of the more insoluable parts of the limestone particularly the cast of shells and bones which contain calcium phosphate. In areas where these phosphatic concretions occur not only are the residual upland soils supplied with mineral but also the valley lands through wastes from the higher lands. The chalk from which the soil is derived also contains grains of glancorite(a silicate of iron, potash, magnesia, and alumina). This mineral is the source of much of the potash found in the prairie soils.

Beside the sandy soils derived from arenaceous phases of Selma Chalk there are also isolated areas of yellow sand and red clay soils derived from the Lafayette which at one time probably covered the entire exposure of the Selma and from which it has been almost completely removed by erosion. These Lafayette soils are very different from the residual Selma soils in that they contain a much smaller percent of lime of potasha and phosphoric acid.

Deposits of almost pure calcium carbonate are found near Okolona; analysis shows 95 to 98% pure limestone or lime carbonate.

(c) Flatwoods

Immediately west of the Pontotoc Ridge lies a narrow belt of level land called the flatwoods. The lands are flat as a rule, the elevation varying from 200 to 300 feet above sea level. The principal soil of the area is a residual soil derived from the weathering of a heavy clay. This clay belongs to the flatwoods or Porters' Creek division of the Eocene Epoch. The clay from which the soil is derived is a fine grained clay containing a high percent of finely divided silicia. This clay contains a relatively small amount of lime and the soils are consequently deficient in lime. In the extreme western part of the county the material consists of a grayish, non-calcareous silt and clay.

The alluvial soils of the overflowed stream bottoms consist predominently of silt and clay. They are derived from the recently deposited material, laid down by overflow waters which is being added to where overflows occur. This material is derived from the various soils occuring in the drainage basins of the streams where there is considerable wash from the Calcareous.[1]

1. Lowe, E. N., Mississippi State Geological Survey, Bulletin, No. 20.

II. Soil Types as based on Color, Structural Characteristics, Surface Features, and Drainage.

(a) Pontotoc Ridge

The soils of this region are principally of two types, a reddish clay and sandy loam. The former is the most abundant type of the region. It ranges in depth from 3 to 9 inches. The subsoil is either a plastic red clay or a friable sandy clay. In limited areas both the soil and the subsoil contain a high percent of sand. The sand is composed of 29% sand and 58% silt and 15% clay. On an average the subsoil contains less silt and more clay than the soil. The sandy loam soil is deeper, as a rule, than the clay containing about 64% sand, 24% silt and 12% clay. The mechanical condition of the subsoil is about the same as the other type. It contains less silt, more very fine and more than three times as much clay as the soil.[1]

(b) Flatwoods Area.

The residual soil formed from the flatwoods clay has texture varying from a clay to a silt loam. The subsoil is usually a tough plastic clay. In color the soli varied from gray to dark brown. On account of the undrained condition of much of this type, the proper moisture conditions are often difficult to obtain during the plowing season and the fields are frequently cloddy. As the clods do not dissolve readily they may persist during the growing season and interfere with the growing crops. The depth of the soil is from 4 to 5 inches. It is composed of about 15% clay, 75% silt and 10% fine sand. The subsoil contains nearly four times as much clay, nearly half as much silt and about the same amount of sand.

The elevation of the flatwoods is greatest in the northern portion. The streams are usually sluggish and meandering, a condition which subjects the stream areas to frequent overflows.[1]

1. From Soil Survey of Chickasaw County, E. M. Jones, in charge of the Miss. Geological Survey

(c) Prairie Belt

The upland soils range in depth from a scant covering of barren chalk to two feet or more. In color it is usually black or dark brown but light gray and even yellow colors occur. The soil is composed of from 50% to 60% silt, from 10 to 20% clay and from 20 to 30% sand. The average subsoil contains about equal amounts of clay and silt, about 45%, and 10% sand. The large amount of clay contained in the soil renders it difficult to cultivate properly when it is wet. If the land is plowed when wet the soil will puddle as turned from mold board and form clods. Whenever the soil contains the right amount of moisture it is friable , turns and crumbles well and is easy to cultivate.

This soil is usually yellow or brownish yellow in color, the coloring matter being produced by the oxidation of iron sulphide and glauconite in the chalk. The coloring matter is usually not visible in the soil because of the presents of organic matter and because of the more complete weathering of the rock particles.

The valley soils vary from clay to sandy loams and vary in depth from one to five feet. They are usually dark in color due to the presence of organic matter. The topography being level, it is often necessary to assist the natural drainage. If plowed wet or dry the clay soils do not pulverize readily and should be cultivated only when at the proper moisture content.

III. Series of soils found in Chickasaw County

1. Pheba- fine sandy loam, silt loam, clay
2. Lufkin- silt loam, fine sandy loam, clay
3. Oktibbeba- fine sandy loam, clay
4. Susquehanna-clay
5. Houston- clay, chalk(Houston material)
6. Sumter- clay

7. Ruston- sandy loam, fine sandy loam, clay loam
8. Orangeburg- fine sandy loam
9. Greenville- clay loam
10. Trinity- clay
11. Hannibatchie- fine sandy loam, silty loam
12. Ochlokonee- silt loam, silty clay loam
13. Cahava- fine sandy loam
14. Myatt- fine sandy loam
15- Rough gullied land.

IV. The value of each type as to crop raising, grazing and timber crops or any other value.

(a) Pontotoc Ridge

The Pontotoc Ridge is especially adapted to the grouth of the Elberta peach, and is very much more productive of farm crops in general than its appearance would indicate. Some of the red clay soils after cultivation from 15 to 20 years, during which cotton and corn were raised exclusively, are capable of producing of from 15 to 20 bushels of corn and from 4 to 5 hundred pounds of seed cotton per acre. In addition, this area is especially adapted to the raising of legumes. Some hardwood is found, hickory, walnut, oak, locust, and some chestnut, also gum and pine.

(b) Prairie belt

This section consists of open prairies almost devoid of tree growth but has a herbaceous flora and prairie-loving species, like the prairie clover, mellilotus, compass plant, and milkweed, besides an abundance of good grasses. Because of this quite a few cattle are raised for dairy purposes. Most of the soil of this section is very strong and productive, lack of fertility being due to the physical condition improper tilliage than to the lack of m ral plant food.

Because of poor drainage the land is hard to cultivate.

(c). Flatwoods

This region was origionally covered with forests of post oak, Spanish oak, and loblolly pine, but now the forests are being cut for timber and the lands cultivated, though as yet the region is not extensively farmed. It is difficult to cultivate, is not highly productive, and needs drainage badly. However it has been demonstrated that some of the soils when properly treated produce excellent crops. Red oak, post oak, spanish oak, gum, hickory, loblolly and short leaf pine characterize the forrest.

V. Commercial Stones; Building Stone; Iron Sandstones, Hydraulic Limestone, etc.

The Cretaceous territory extends from the Tennessee line, latitude 35 degrees, longitude twelve degrees, southwest to the west line of Pontotoc, south through Chickasaw. The economic materials are marls, lime, and building rock. The greater area of rotten limestone is simply an immense marl (bed) existing under this name. The cretaceous marls of the northeast are found in the greater area of Chickasaw. The greensand species are found between the northeast prairies and the flatwoods, and are said to contain about fifteen per centum carbonate of lime and a little less than one per centum of potash. The rotten limestone, because wealthy in this greensand marl, is considered valuable for fertilizing purposes. The clay marls are simply a conposition of clay and rotten limestone, and show in some cases as high as thirty-five per centum carbonate of lime but are lower in potash. The micaceous greensands of the lower

Flora

There are no National Forest Reserves, State Parks or Forest Nurseries in Chickasaw County.

A. Location and extent of woodland.

Practically all the timbered land of Chickasaw is in the western part of the county, west of the Natchez Trace. There are possibly three thousand acres of timbered land in the county valued at one-half million dollars. Ninety-eight per cent of this is second timber. Two per cent is virgin. (From an interview with J. L. Martin, Houston, ~~June 21, 1926.~~)

B. Economic value of forests.

~~(a) Soil protection. (Minnesota Forestry)~~

Most of the small farms have some small timber. It holds the soil on the hillsides and keeps it from washing away. It supports the vegetation growth, re-establishes the ground cover, and makes the top soil rich and fertile.

~~(b) As shelter against extreme temperature. (Minnesota Forestry)~~

Maximum temperature inside the forest is always lower and the minimum terperature higher than outside.

The physical and physiological process which accompanies any plant growth necessarily reduces the temperature of the air, at least during the vegetation period. First, because the leaves evaporate the water. Second, because the heat of the sun is consumed in this evaporation, and the plant can not become heated to the same extent as a rock or soil without any vegetation cover. Similarly, the ground under plants can not become greatly heated on account of shading. Third, the surface from which heat radiates at night is much greater when the vegetation is on the ground than then the ground is bare. Forest being the most highly developed form of vegetable life, exerts this influence in the greatest degree.

Trees consume water and a rapidly growing forest may during the year consume and transmit into the air a volume of water equivalent in depth to twelve inches over its entire area.

C. Forest Trees and Forest Types: ~~in Chickasaw County~~ (Observation)

~~(a) Soft~~ Soft wood

1. Short leaf pine distinguished by long leaves, scaley bark and cones.
2. Sweet gum has sticky gum and a round, very prickley burr.
3. Black gum has small berries.
4. Cotton wood very distinghishable by white leaves and fiber that resembles cotton.

Hardwoods, ~~kinds, group them into groups as:~~ Oaks, maples, etc,

1. White oak is more valuable than the red oak, has a smoother grain and grows taller;
2. Red oak - rather coarse grain, short and stocky, used for heavy foundation timbers; Very tough and hard;
3. Live oak - leaves are long and narrow, bark is comparatively smooth;
4. Black Jack - a scrub like timber grown on cut over lands;
5. Hickory tree - very tough and rough, nut round shaped;
6. Scaley bark - a branch of the hickory, it has long body, a scaley bark, and bears a large oblong, easily cracked nut;
7. Walnut - distinguished by the black nutritious and delicious nuts, the wood is unusually fine grained and is used in the manufacture of expensive furniture.
8. Chestnut - characterized by prickly burr and very edible kernal;
9. Holly - an evergreen used chiefly for Christmas decoration, distinguished by prickly leaves and red berries;

Cedar - very valuable and fine grained.

Fruit bearing trees; ~~how used.~~

1. Mulberry - fruit used as food for hogs, chickens and birds;
2. Plum - fruit used for jelly and preserves;
3. Crabapple - used for jelly and marmalade;
4. Cherry - red berries furnishing food for birds;
5. Huckleberry - small bushy tree, berries of little value, except to birds;
6. Haw has small bushy stock and round, red fruit.
7. Persimmon - round, large seeded fruit, excellent for hogs.

B. Products from the home forest. ~~(Observation)~~

Staves,

Axe-handles,

Lumber,

Rosin,

Pine tar,

Posts,

Boards and shingles,

Cross-ties,

add Dup.

~~6. Method of cutting and handling timber on your farm: This information will be sent as interviews are made with the farmers.~~

Marketing Farm Timber 6-

Occasionally a farmer sells a small tract of timber, or even a few trees from his farm.

The local price of the farm timber varies from $2.50 to $10.00 a thousand.

There is no cooperative marketing done in the county, but there are over the county concentration yards where lumber from a number of small mills is collected for shipment.

Pine is the most important timber with hickory as a possible second. The major part of the pine lumber is shipped to the northern and eastern parts of the United States and Canada because of better prices and market facilities. Eighty-five per cent of the hickory timber and manufactured axe handles are shipped to England and Denmark

8. Practically nothing has been done to protect the woods against insects and fungi. There is a kind of organization of farm owners who agree among themselves to protect the forest against destruction by fire by giving an alarm when the fire is discovered, helping to extinguish the fire, and reporting any person who wantonly starts a fire. There is a law against wanton destruction of forests which involves heavy penalties, found in Section 928, Mississippi Code of 1930, which is never enforced. If this law were enforced and the persons violating it properly prosecuted, there would be far fewer fires and less destruction of timber. Protecting the Woods

Conservation is being fostered by the State Forestry Department by a moving picture dealing with conservation, which is shown every year in the high schools of the state. ~~(Mississippi Forestry)~~

Improvement and Reproduction of Home Forest.

A number of facilities are now being used to educate the people of the state in the improvement and reproduction of home forests through schools, newspapers, radio, Arbor Day programs, etc. This has resulted

in splendid cooperation by student bodies as well as small farmers.

~~10.~~ Street and Highway trees: ~~(Observation)~~

~~We have very little information as to~~ The planting of trees along the streets and highways is being taken up by Conservation clubs & Woman clubs etc. In many cases the stately oaks have been conserved along our thoroughfares, making them shady and beautiful. Along the highway approaching Egypt from the west, there is a long avenue of burdock trees. These trees were evidently planted years ago and form a stout hedge on either side of the road.

~~11. Wild flowers. (Observation)~~ Wild Flowers

Chickasaw County is a veritable flower garden. There is no place where flowers are more fragrant or more beautiful.

In the spring wild roses, violets, daisies, sweet williams, red bud, wisteria, dogwood, and black-eyed-Susans turn our forests and roadsides into a riot of color and sweetness. Throughout the summer and fall we find a wealth of honeysuckle, morning glories, poison ivy with its beautiful red, bell shaped flower, lilies, cacti, dandelions and goldenrod.

Wild flowers are described more in detail as follows: ~~Mrs. J. H. Strickland~~ Supervisor - Historical Research

Joepye Weed has a small, deep purple flower that grows in large clusters. The plant has long slender leaves and grows along streams or in low damp places. Blooms in mid-summer.

Eupatorium has tiny white flowers that grow in clusters, has a notched almost triangular shaped leaf. It blooms in midsummer in old fields and pastures.

Wild Senna has a leaf very much resembling the leaf of the locust tree. It has a bloom with small yellow petals with brown pistils making the center. The plant grows about two feet high and had blossoms from top to bottom. It grows more abundantly in the prairie section though it is found in every section of the county.

Rudens belong to the Blackeyed Susan family but does not have the black center. The plant has a pointed leaf of medium size that is green and rough. The petals are yellow.

Dowslip blossoms resemble a sweet pea very much. It is a light purple color and grows on a vine that has very small leaves. In the early morning when it is fresh this flower is very beautiful.

The Partridge Pea has a pink blossom like a sweet pea, though much smaller. It has a small leaf and grows on a vine. Blooms in summer and fall and makes a little bean-shaped pod with berries inside. This vine is found in old fields.

The Shooting Star has a small fringed purple flower surrounded by prickles. The rough green leaves are extremely long and slender. It grows in wooded section and blooms in summer.

The Maypop is a vine. It has a beautiful purple bloom, the petals being made of tiny purple threads. The center is made up of five star-shaped stamens. They make a fruit which is round and nearly as large as an egg, containing many seed. When it is ripe it is the delight of children because of its sweet odor and good taste. It is found most every where that wild plants grow in the county.

The Begger Tick plant grows from two to five feet high. It has tiny conical shaped leaves. The blossom is small and lavender in color. It looks like a miniature daisy. The seed are very plentiful in the fall and cling to one's clothing if he gets near the plant. Hence the name, Begger tick.

We have found two varieties of wild Asters in our field trips. The purple aster has purple flowers that are very much like the tame aster in shape and size. It blooms in the fall. The white aster is a very tiny flower with a yellow center and very small white petals very close together making up the outside of the flower.

The wild goldenrod is very beautiful in the early fall and grows in profusion all over the county. The plant is slender and grows from two to four feet high, depending on the fertility of the soil. It has very small green leaves and the tiny flowers are yellow and cover the stalk from its center th the top. It begins blooming about the middle of August and blooms until frost.

The wood violet blooms in the spring-being one of the first flowers to appear. There are two different kinds, the purple and the white with a purplish stripe and purplish edges. The purple ones are not as dark in color as the cultivated ones and none of them are so fragrant. The leaves are like the leaves of the tame violet. They grow along streams and in low shady places.

The daisy or forget-me-not is an early spring flower. It has a very small lavender waxy like flower that grows on a thread-like plant two or

three inches high. Its leaves are light green. This little flower may be seen almost anywhere in the spring and grows profusely.

The wild rose is very common in the county also. It has a dwarf bunchy bush with light green leaves like the tame rose though it is not as hardy looking. The flower has single pink petals and is very fragrant. It blooms profusely. There is also a running rose. It has white blossoms.

The dandelion is a well know wild flower. The plant grows from twelve to eighteen inches high and has long, slender, rough, green leaves. The bloom resembles the double poppy except that it is not as large. They are light yellow in color. The seed of the dandelion form in a furry ball that is scattered by the wind in the fall. It grows in pastures and along the roadsides.

The primrose is found in great patches around Buena Vista, Egypt, and Okolona. It seems to be the nature of the plant to grow on prairie areas in fields and meadows. The blossom has four large pink petals with yellow stamens. The plant does not grow very high and has light green slender leaves.

The yellow Adder's Tongue grows in shady, wooded places. It has a yellow blossom that looks like a lily. The leaves are also shaped like that of the lily, being slick and a light green color. This plant grows from two to five feet high and the shoots up on a long slender stalk.

The Mayapple blooms in May-thus its name. It grows in rich and freshly cleared places. The leaves are about four inches across, notched and slick and dark green in color. The blossom is snow white with a yellow center. It is about two inches in diameter, and has about five large waxy petals.

The wild Morning Glory is just like the cultivated vine by the same name. The flowers are not quite as large, but are blue or purple in color

The vine grows in fields of corn or cotton and in pastures. They bloom all summer, and open only in the morning.

The Lady's Slipper has a slick green leaf about two inches long and an inch wide. The flowers are yellow and shaped like the orchid except many times smaller. These tiny flowers make a cluster in the top of the stalk similiar to a bunch of grapes. In the fall it has small red berries. This flower grows on wooded bluffs.

The Milkweed may be found most anywhere. It small slick green leaves and a cluster of tiny white blossoms in the top of each limb make of the flowers. These little blossoms are waxy in appearance and are snowy white. The leaves and stem contain a sticky, white, milky looking substance or fluid which shows up immediately after a leaf or stem is brokem.

There are quite a few wild legumes that have a very pretty blossom, that resembles the sweet pea. These are scattered over the county. Some have lavender blooms. There are two or three kinds that have a small yellow blossom. One legume that we found had tiny white flowers not much larger than a pin head. The seeds of all of these plants form in a pod like peas or beans.

The Poison Ivy has a beautiful, brillian Orange, bell-shaped flower. The flowers are arranged in clusters. It is a vine the leaves of which are green withtthree long notches. The vine usually wraps around trees, bushes or posts. If one comes in contact with it, it caused an itching rash to break out on the skin. Thus it is called poison ivy.

The Gerardia has a large yellow flower, bell-shaped like the foxglove. The blossom appears at intervals along the stalk, usually in groups of two. The plant has a stalk that grows about three or four feet high, and the leaf is small and slender. It blooms in midsummer in old fields and pastures.

The French Mulberry or Callicarpa has a small pink flower no larger than a pin head that grow in clusters at the base of every leaf. These flowers

make clusters of small that turn to a beautiful wine color in the fall. They are found on a bush about three feet high and have a large fuzzy leaf.

The Asclepiodoria, commonly called yarrow or red milk weed is very common in the summer time. It has narrow dark green fuzzy leaves about two and one half inches long. The flowers are in clusters and are a bright orange color. They have five petals that stand staight up and five that grow at the base of the flower and curl under. It grows about eighteen inches to two feet tall and usually falls over when the bloom comes.

The Trumpet vine has a long bell-shaped flower with five petals which are a brilliant red in color. This vine has slick leaves which branch out at regular intervals along the slender stem on each side; usually eleven small leaves make up a large leaf. This vine is found on trees or old buildings and blooms in the summer time.

The Rhexia grows on a very slender stalk about a foot high, and has narrow fuzzy leaves that do not grow profusely on the stalk. The flowers are either pink or blue with four petals and long yellow stamens, growing out of a long bell shaped seed base. The flowers resemble the wild rose except they are not as large and are very delicate looking. It grows along roadsides and in pastures.

We have observed another flower belonging to the milkweed family. It grows on a slender stalk about one and one half feet high and has a long thread -like leaf which is dark green. The tiny flowers look very much like those of the red milk weed and grow in about a half dozen clusters at the top of the stalk.

The bind-weed has large white flowers with purple centers, and long white stamens; these flowers resemble the morning glory and grow on a vine that has pointed, almost triangular light green leaves.

The St. John's Wort grows in pastures and is of a woody type, that

is it has many small slick green leaves growing on the many limbs that branch out from the main stalk. It has tiny yellow flowers encased between two leaves. The blooms are at intervals along each limb from top to bottom.

The sweet william grows in shady wooded places and blooms in the spring. It grows about a foot high and has medium sized green leaves. The flowers are orchid colored with about five slick waxy like petals and grow in clusters of probably a dozen flowers at the top. This is a popular as well as a beautiful flower and has a delightful fragrance.

The wild honeysuckle is probably the most fragrant wild flower common to the county. It is a vine that usually runs on trees and bushes. It is sometimes used as a porch vine for shade. The blooms are pink, white and yellow, according to the variety of the vine. The petals are long and slender and havve a tendency to curl backward. It has a long stamen which when pulled out leaves a watery substance that tastes like honey.

The dogwood flower that grows on a tree is one of our very prettiest and most admired wild flower. It is seen in the spring and appears before the leaves of the tree. It has about five snow white petals with a pale green center, all of which grew in clusters at the end of the branch. Along with the dogwood in the spring comes the red bud and the haw tree. Both of these trees have beautiful blossoms.

The Elderberry bush is very beautiful in the spring. It is covered with large clusters of white blossoms. The bush grows to be very tall and in the fall the bloom clusters turn to clusters of wine colored berries. It grows along fence rows, in fields and pastures.

All of the wild flowers collected locally were identified and classified for us by Dr. Clytee Evans, Houston, Mississippi.

Mrs. J. H. Strickland
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Mabel Cal in
Elma Holloway
Mattie Lee Buchanan

Historical Research Project
November 19, 1936

Supplement to Assignment S---- Forest and Flora

Products From the Home Forest.

The lumber industry has been an important asset to land owners and to labor, in Chickasaw County, as a source of income and employment. In the early development of the county the timber was marketed principally in tracts. Some of the valuable white oak timber in the Flatwoods was sold for one dollar per acre, and great quantities of it was wasted by timbermen, who only used the best.

The Prairie Belt was never very heavily timbered, but there was some oak, gum, and elm. The Pontotoc Ridge and Flatwoods had extensive forests of pine, oak and hickory. The principal products from these forests have been lumber, staves, and handles.

Practically all the lumber previous to 1870 was sawed with a whip-saw and hand planed, but it was of the highest grade possible as is evident in the older homes.

The Tabb family has been identified with the lumber industry for three generations. In 1870 D.D. Tabb established a sawmill and gin eight miles south of Houston. So extensive were his operations that a community soon sprang up with a church and school. This was and still is known as the Tabbville community. Mr. Tabb bought large tracts of timber, cutting, sawing, and shipping extensively to northern and eastern markets. At times he operated three to five small mills at once. He had thousands of cross-ties cut and shipped to northern markets. Since no books were kept, it is impossible to estimate the extent of his operations, but he employed an average of thirty to forty men all the time, with more or less according to the season. Since there were no good roads at that time, the mills could only operate during the summer and early fall. The timber was hauled

in wagons to Okolona and shipped from there.

Mr. Tabb's son, J.P.Tabb, went into partnership with him in 1908 and continued to operate the business until 1912, when they moved to Houston, and the son assumed full control of the business. He, in turn, continued in the lumber and cross-tie business until his death in 1933, when he was succeeded by his son, Jim Hugh Tabb. Thus the three generations have been operating the same line of business since 1870. Due to diminished timber resources, there is now no output except to local markets, and the business is small.

In 1904 Brevard and Woods from Tennessee located a saw-mill and stave mill at Houston, operating in this vicinity until 1914; they bought large tracts of hardwood timber and had a thriving business for several years. All the timber for the M.&O. Railroad, from Okolona to Calhoun City, was supplied by them when they first came to the county. At the peak of their operations, they had a monthly payroll of $1600 and a daily output of 1000 feet of lumber. Only local labor was used. The diminishing supply of timber caused the mills to cease operations in 1914.

J.E. Dendy, with his father and brothers, has operated a saw-mill and planer since 1903 on their farm six miles south of Houston. The Dendy Brothers have been successful, and their mill has been an important asset to the community. Mr. Dendy says: " At no time has there been a scarcity of labor; in fact, I can get a great many more men than I can use any time. The people are anxious to work."

Hardwood and pine is the kind of timber that has always been used, and during the years of 1925 and 1926 an average of six cars per week was shipped to northern and eastern markets. The average wage has been $1.00 per day for labor, and from twelve to fifteen

men a day have been employed. The timber has been purchased in tracts in some instances, but it is more profitable for the landowner to cut and haul the timber to the mill and sell it there, especially if he has a team with which to do the hauling.

Mr. Dendy does not ship any lumber now, as he is unable to supply even the local demand, due to an increased demand and a decreased supply of timber. He stated that there is very little virgin timber in the county at present.

The Furgerson-Palmer mill at Houlka was the largest mill that has ever been in Chickasaw County. It was in operation for about twelve years, during and after the World War. It had a band saw and put out only rough lumber, all of which was hardwood. The timber was hauled on log wagons from the western part of Chickasaw and from Calhoun County, where the owners had thousands of acres of timber.

About one hundred and fifty men were employed with a payroll of $20,000 per month. During the war some of the lumber was exported to France and England, while some was sold to the United States Government for ship-building purposes.

John McConnico and Arthur Smith had a large band saw-mill at Hall Siding, four miles west of Houston in the Flatwoods district, about fifteen or twenty years ago. They bought a large tract of timber, most of which was white oak, and it took about five years to cut it. This mill cut only rough lumber, most of which was shipped to northern markets. The payroll and number of men employed could not be obtained.

After sawing all the available timber, Messers Smith and McConnico moved to Louisania. The staves cut by these men were said to be the finest that could be found, some of them being as much as thirty feet long. According to Mr. W.D. Woods, prominent citizen of Houston, some timber cut by this company was used to construct a

huge wine tank, the largest that was ever built, for use in the Paris Exposition. This timber was cut from Chickasaw County forests, shipped to Memphis, Tennessee, from there routed by water to New Orleans, thence to France.

The Toomer Lumber Company was organized in 1912 in Houston, with a saw-mill and planer combined, Mr. Toomer having bought it from a man named Higginbotham. This mill has furnished employment to an average of forty persons with a payroll of approximately $15,000 annually Only pine timber has been manufactured, and much of this lumber was at on time shipped to northern and eastern markets. However, very little lumber is now shipped out of the county, due to depletion of local forest

The Dyer Handle Factory is located at Van Vleet. It manufactures axe handles, which are shipped abroad; only hickory timber is used. This mill employs about fifty men at an average wage of $2.25 per day. Mr. Dyer says that he has timber in sight for several more years operation, although it is not all grown in Chickasaw County; some of it is bought from the adjoining counties of Lee, Monroe, and Calhoun. He was with the Delepierre Lumber Company at Pyland for a number of years before going into business for himself at Van Vleet in 1914.

D. A. Box operated a saw-mill in Houston from 1921 to 1927. It was located near where the City Ice Plant now is. He bought his outfit from Cecil Dosset in August 1921, and sawed up a small tract of timber from what was known as the Pruitt place, about three miles west of Houston. In the summer of 1922 he added another boiler, a much larger engine, a trimmer, edger, and planer and went into the lumber business on a much larger scale. Heretofore, he had sold only to local dealers, but now that he had trebled his capacity and output began looking for a better market. He sold through commission agents and to wholesalers, direct, in Chicago, Cincinatti, St. Louis and other northern cities. The timber had been purchased from a Mr. Gordon and was about three

miles southeast of Houston on the Starkville road. It was hauled in by trucks and teams, sawed, dressed, and shipped. It took three years to cut the timber off this tract, and at the expiration of the three year lease, the entire mill, lumber yard, etc. was leased to the Chickasaw Lumber Company. Eighteen months later, Mr. Box moved the mill to Bruce, Mississippi.

There is still sufficient timber to take care of local needs for several years to come, that is for buildings, fences, fuel, and repairs. Also, prices are better and the demand for lumber greater than at any time since 1925. However, prices are still very low on many woods products, notably, cross-ties, posts and poles, and stave blocks.

Methods of Cutting and Handling Timber on the Farms.

In the early days of the county practically all the timber was marketed in tracts, standing, because the average land owner had no facilities for handling and hauling the heavy timbers. Roads were bad, especially in the winter time, and specially constructed log wagons and teams of an unusually large size were necessary to do the hauling.

Now, however, many farmers cut and haul their timber to the mill, themselves, thus getting a better price for it. Sometimes, of course, small tracts of timber are bought by the mill-owner from individual farmers, and he hires the timber cut into logs in the woods and hauled to his mill, where the saw-mill operators take charge of it. There is usually a woods crew, which trims the trees, a logging crew which loads and hauls the logs to the mill, and a mill crew. The size of these crews depends largely, of course, upon the size of the timber tract and the length of time in which it is to be worked up.

In most instances the timber is cut with an eye to continuous

production on the land, with five or more seed-producing trees per acre left. The trees are sawed from one to three feet from the base with a cross-cut saw instead of chopped with an axe as was formerly the case. After they are trimmed and sawed to the desired lengths, the logging crew takes charge of them.

Two poles large enough to hold up the log, called " skid poles " are placed in a slanting position against the back of the truck or wagon and on the ground. A chain is then attached to the log, and a team of mules pulls it up on the vehicle, where it is securely fastened.

A few farmers have small, portable mills run by traction engines. If a neighbor has a small tract of timber to be cut, the mill is moved to the woods and operations begun. It is usually placed in the heart of the woods and the logs "snaked" to the mill. This method consists of attaching a chain to the log , hitching it to a team and pulling it in. Especially is this method used in wet, swampy places, where wagons or trucks are likely to stall. When the lumber is sawed, the mill operator is usually given a toll, and the mill is moved elsewhere. The farmer then sells his lumber to the larger mills, thus securing a little ready cash, or uses it for building purposes.

In some instances, especially in the Flatwoods section, these small mill-owners purchase timber from the farmers, saw it and sell to the planking mills.

Practically every farmer uses wood for fuel at home, while a few cut and haul wood to town for sale. He goes into the woods and saws the trees down,and saws the trunks and limbs into desired lengths,and then splits to an average size with an axe.

On the whole, cutting and handling timber is much easier than it was fifty years ago, even. Roads are better, timber is not as large, nor as plentiful, and cutting facilities have greatly improved.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Sources of Information:

Jim Hugh Tabb, Lumberman

J.E. Dendy, Lumberman and Farmer

W.D. Woods , (ex-post master)

Ashton Toomer, Lumberman and Mayor of Houston

S. M. Hall

J.E. Atkinson, Tax Assessor and Farmer

R.E. Atwell, Banker (Bank of Houston)

Prairie Lumber Company, Okolona

Mrs J.W. Strickland
Supervisor, Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Historical Research Project

Whiteside County

August 20, 1937

Assignment #8 Flora a supplement

Wild Flowers of Whiteside County

Joepye Weed has a small, deep purple flower that grows in large clusters. The plant has long slender leaves and grows along streams or in low damp places. Blooms in mid-summer.

Eupatorium has tiny white flowers that grow in clusters. has a notched almost triangular shaped leaf. It blooms in midsummer in old fields and pastures.

Ilé Joepye has a leaf very much resembling the leaf of the Joepye tribe. It has a bloom with small yellow petals with brown pistils resting the center. The plant grows about two feet high and has blossoms from top to bottom. It grows more abundantly in the prairie section though it is found in every section of the county.

Rigwa belong to the Sunflower Aster family but does not have the black center. The plant has a pointed leaf of medium size that is green and rough. The petals are yellow.

Sweelp blossoms resemble a sweet pea very much. It is a light purple color and grows on a vine that has very small leaves. In the early morning when it is fresh this flower is very beautiful.

The Partridge Pea has a pink blossom like a sweet pea, though much smaller. It has a small leaf and grows on a vine. Blooms in summer and fall and takes a little bean-shaped pod with her pea inside. This vine is found in old fields.

The Sheevin Ter has a small fringed purple flower surrounded by prickles. The rough green leaves are arranged [illegible] stem in a coiled position and blooms in summer.

The HAYHOP is a vine. It has a beautiful purple bloom, the petals being made of tiny purple threads. The center is made up of star-shaped stamens. They make a fruit which is round and nearly as large as an egg, containing many seed. When it is ripe it is the delight of children because of its sweet odor and good taste. It is found most every where that wild plants grow in the county.

The Beggar Tick plant grows from two to five feet high. It has tiny conical shaped leaves. The blossom is small and lavender in color. It looks like a miniature daisy. The seed are very plentiful in the fall and cling to one's clothing if he gets near the plant. Hence the name, Beggar tick.

We have found two varieties of wild asters in our field trips. The purple aster has purple flowers that are very much like the tame aster in shape and size. It blooms in the fall. The white aster is a very tiny flower with a yellow center and very small white petals very close together making up the outside of the flower.

The wild goldenrod is very beautiful in the early fall and grows in profusion all over the county. The plant is slender and grows from two to four feet high, depending on the fertility of the soil. It has very small green leaves and the tiny flowers are yellow and cover the stalk from its center to the top. It begins blooming about the middle of August and blooms until frost.

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three inches high. Its leaves are light green. This little flower may be seen almost anywhere in the spring and grows profusely.

The wild rose is very common in the county also. It has a dwarf bunchy bush with light green leaves like the tame rose though it is not as hardy looking. The flower has single pink petals and is very fragrant. It blooms profusely. There is also a running rose. It has white blossoms.

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The vine grows in fields of corn or cotton and in pastures. They bloom all summer, and open only in the morning.

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The Milkweed may be found most anywhere. It small slick green leaves and a cluster of tiny white blossoms in the top of each limb make of the flowers. These little blossoms are waxy in appearance and are snowy white. The leaves and stem contain a sticky, white, milky looking substance or fluid which shows up immediately after a leaf or stem is broken.

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make clusters of small that turn to a beautiful wine color in the fall. They are found on a bush about three feet high and have a large funny leaf.

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The Trumpet vine has a long bell-shaped flower with five petals which are a brilliant red in color. This vine has slick leaves which branch out at regular intervals along the slender stem on each side; usually eleven small leaves make up a large leaf. This vine is found on trees or old buildings and blooms in the summer time.

The Rhexia grows on a very slender stalk about a foot high, and has narrow fuzzy leaves that do not grow profusely on the stalk. The flowers are either pink or blue with four petals and long yellow stamens, growing out of a long bell shaped seed base. The flowers resemble the wild rose except they are not as large and are very delicate looking. It grows along roadsides and in pastures.

We have observed another flower belonging to the milkweed family. It grows on a slender stalk about one and one half feet high and has a long thread -like leaf which is dark green. The tiny flowers look very much like those of the red milk weed and grow in about a half dozen clusters at the top of the stalk.

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The dogwood flower that grows on a tree is one of our very prettiest and most admired wild flower. It is seen in the spring and appears before the leaves of the tree. It has about five snow white petals with a pale green center, all of which grow in clusters at the end of the branch. Along with the dogwood in the spring comes the red bud and the haw tree. Both of these trees have beautiful blossoms.

The Elderberry bush is very beautiful in the spring. It is covered with large clusters of white blossoms. The bush grows to be very tall and in the fall the bloom clusters turn to clusters of wine colored berries. It grows along fence rows, in fields and pastures.

All of the wild flowers collected locally were identified and classified for us by Dr. Clytee Evans, Houston, Mississippi.

Mrs. J. N. Strickland
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Canvassers
Miss Mabel C. Calvin
Mrs. Elma Holloway
Miss Margaret Sue Shell

CHICKASAW COUNTY

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
April-9-1937

Supervisor
Mrs. J.C. Hightower

ASSIGNMENT # 25

SUBJECT : ~~Tree~~ Survey

1. Tree Survey :

Due to Chickasaw County's extensive sawmill industry and much highway improvement many of our trees are gone and in some places there are no trees at all of any size. They have all been used. Too we do not have as great a number probably as other counties, since a large part of the county lies in the Prairie section of the state.

There are more than thirty historic old trees on the spacious lawn of the Captain J.T. Griffin home in Houston. Some are huge oaks, averaging eleven feet in circumference, while the others are stately elms. During the Civil War this place was the home of General W.F. Tucker. When he was convalescing from his wounds received at Atlanta, he planted small trees on his lawn, where they still stand, covered with moss.

On the Warren Reid Place, located about six miles north of Houston on th e Natchez Trace, are quite a number of large oaks. This place is said to be the first settlement in Chickasaw County and the oaks have stood there as long as the Reids can remember. These trees average thirteen feet in circumference and stand from about sixty-five to seventy-five feet high.

Not far from the Warren Reid place is the Betty Johnson Carter home. On the lawn are seven enormous oak trees. They were big trees when the home was built eighty years ago. The largest of these oaks is located near the end of the porch, and is sixteen feet in circumference and has a wide spread.

During the Civil War when the Federals raided this home, they took the dresser drawers from a pretty colonial bedroom suite, and placed them under these trees and fed their horses from them.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 25

1. Tree Survey : (Continued)

On the Rush Knox farm about seven miles from Houston, on Highway fifteen, there stands about the largest oak tree in this county. It is huge and perfectly shaped. It is twenty feet in circumference and is awfully tall for one so large.

Nearer the road there stands immense twin oaks, which measure twenty feet in circumference. They grow from the same root and are uniform in shape.

There is a well-founded tradition that General Jackson's Command, when on the march to the defense of New Orleans in the days of 1814, passed along through Chickasaw County and camped for the night in an old Indian field, finding nearby a luscious spring on the road leading from Pontotoc to Houston. This spring is still there and is known as Rock Spring. It is about dry now, only a tiny rippling stream trickles down through the rocks. At the head of this spring stands a towering beech tree over nine feet in circumference.

On this tree are carved many initials. In fact they are almost solid from about four feet to about twenty inches from the top. These dates recall to the minds of many Chickasawans, happy hours spent near the spring. The name,"W.C. Walker" is carved in letters at least six inches high around the trunk of the tree, about fifteen feet from the ground.

Doctor Walker carved his name there when quite a boy, with an ambition to become a doctor. He is now seventy-nine years of age and is one of Chickasaw's most beloved old doctors. Some of the dates read 1877, 1891 and on up to 1930.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 25

1. Historic Trees :

There are two large Magnolia trees in the yard of the W.B. Tabb home in Houston that were planted during the second year of the Civil War. Mr. Tabb's sad-grandfather, Judge W.S. Bates, brought them from Mobile, Alabama tied to his saddle during the war. His wife held the trees while he dug the holes and covered the roots. These trees are now about two feet in diameter and sixty feet high and are in a good state of preservation.

2. Largest Trees :

About six miles northeast of Houston on the Houston and Okolona road there is an old home nearing one hundred years. In front of this house is a huge oak tree which is twelve feet in circumference and about fifty feet high. It has a spread of from fifty to sixty feet, considering the branches on both sides. This is the old Carter place, now belonging to Mrs. Maggie Carter of Washington, D.C., and one of the descendants of the original owners. Mr. Alma Carter, thinks the tree is as old or probably older than the house.

There are several large oak trees around old Center Hill Church, which is located on the Houston and Van Vleet road. Some of the largest ones have blown down and decayed and there is nothing there except the stumps, but from this, they show evidence of having reached the century mark. The largest one is eleven and one half feet in circumference, and about sixty feet high, with a spread of thirty or forty feet. The others will average about ten feet in circumference.

There is an old oak tree on Highway number eight, between Buena Vista and Egypt, that measures eighteen and one half feet in circumference. Though it is hollow near the ground, its top has been broken out, and it is now nothing but a shell of a tree, but it is still living. It is one of the largest trees in this section

2. Largest Trees : (Continued)

it being in the Prairie section where trees are scarce, and deserves mention for that reason also.

The oak seems to be destined to be the largest tree in Chickasaw County, however, there is a pine tree three miles east of Houston that is nearly nine feet in circumference, it is the largest pine that has been located so far. It is probably seventy-five feet high, but due to the proximity of other trees, it does not have a large spread. Other trees in this grove will average eight feet in circumference.

On Highway number fifteen about two and one half miles south of Houston is a large sycamore tree eleven and one third feet in circumference. The limbs are also massive and it would have an immense spread were it not for the fact that the limbs over the highway have been cut.

Located at Sonora, about three miles south of Houston on Highway number fifteen, there is an unusually large cedar tree which measures ninety inches or seven and one half feet in circumference. It is unusually tall and has immense limbs for a cedar tree.

In the neighborhood of Sparta on the Brogan Place, is located a grove of huge oaks. There are at least twenty trees and two of the largest measure one hundred and eighty inches and one hundred and fifty seven inches respectively. The others are smaller but all of them are unusually large and they are said to be one hundred years old.

In the yard of the old Bramlett Home, at Prairie Mount in the eastern part of the county is a post-oak tree which is very fine and is over one hundred years old. It measures one hundred and thirty seven inches in circumference. All of the limbs on this tree are extra large although the tree isnt very tall.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 25

2. Largest Trees : (Continued)

In this same yard is an unusuall$ fine hack berry. It measures a little better than one hundred inches in circumference.

In front of this old home is an avenue of fine old cedars. They are unu s-ually large for cedar trees, and are as old as the post-oak. Two of the largest cedars measures sevnty-five inches in circumference four and one half feet from the ground.

3. Freak or unusual trees :

There is an unusual oak tree located about six miles south of Houston on Highway fifteen, which is solidly covered with some kind of growth which resembles a mock-orange. It is said to be caused from a certain worm boring into the wood. This tree is very peculiar looking. It measures ninety inches in circumference, and this growth does not seem to affect the growth of the foliage in any way.

In the back yard of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Woods of Houston, there are three non-bearing mulberry trees that are very unusual. The largest of the three, measures one hundred and six inches four and one half feet from the ground, but the way that this tree has grown, that is the smallest part of the tree. The main body of these tres have grown in a formation of knots that resemble massive cable knots, and are very freakish looking. They are begining to decay in places, and some of the limbs of the largest one have broken off. We were told that these trees are near seventy-five years old.

On the old Doctor Walker place just out of Old Houlka, ten miles from Hou-ston, on Highway fifteen, there grows an unusual mulberry tree. Th is tree is one hu ndred sixty inches in circumference and at about six feet from the ground there grew almost perpendicular, seven immense limbs that were as large as an ordinary mulberry tree, for a distance of about six or eight feet before they sprangled out,

3. Freak or unusual trees : (Continued)

and grew smaller limbs and branches. This tree is said to be unusual, and it doesn't grow exceptionally tall.

There is rather an unusual tree, which grows in Asbury cemetery, about two miles south of Van Vleet. It is an oak, ten feet in circumference, and extends a distance of nearly forty feet without a limb. From there to the top, there is no main body of the tree, but three huge limbs branch out, making the tree about seventy feet high.

A very unusual tree, in fact it is almost freakish, grows about one and one half miles south of Buena Vista. It is a large oak about four feet in diameter. It could not be measured as it has a bee hive inside it. This large tree grows about eighteen inches from the ground and then it grows at a right angle for about four feet, it then grows straight up as any normal tree should. On the bend of the tree as it grows upward is a wart as large as a foot-tub and extends outward about two feet. This old tree has many large limbs but does not grow so tall.

Another unusual tree grows near this freakish oak. It is an oak tree and grows in the shape of a fan. It is about as perfect as a tree can grow. On two sides it is broad and on two sides it is narrow. Thu s it gets its name. The body of the tree is low, and measures one hundred fifteen inches and has a spread of about thirty feet.

Generally, twin trees are unusual trees, however, a number have been found in Chickasaw County. On H ighway number eight, between Buena Vista and Egypt, there is a grove of large twin oaks in Chuqu atonchee bottom. In this grove of oak trees, five are of the twin type. The trees are grown from the same roots and have one base, separating then, and these trees have practically identical limbs. The largest of these trees measures one hundred eleven inches in circumference. All of this grove of trees are extremely tall.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 25

4. Flowering Trees :

One of the most beautiful spots in this county is about one half mile north east of Houston. There is a white chalk bluff slightly covered with a bit of grass, it is very high, and growing on the slope and top are cedar trees galore interspersed with red bud. Probably there are a few other trees, but one doesn't notice them as the eye is centered on the cedar and red bud. No place in Chickasaw County is more beautiful, just at this time of the year. The trees are not so large but they are very picturesque and this is indeed a beauty spot of Chickasaw.

In this county is a place known as " Witches Dance", lots of folk lore tales and traditions have been told about this place. Due to the current of th e wind no leaves are found there and no grass grows, however, around this spot, and on into Van Vleet in the northern part of the county, will be found more dogwood than in any other part of the county. The trees are not large, only thirty inches in circumference and smaller, but very numerous. One dogwood tree measured fifty-four inches.

There are some beautiful dogwood trees found about seven miles east of Houston on the road to Buena Vista. There is a grove of dogwood trees on what is known as the John's Hill. Among them there is a beautiful specimen of pink dogwood. It measures thirty-four inches bu t has a spread of about twenty feet, and is about twenty feet high. The white dogwood in this grove measures from thirty-four to fifty-four inch es, however, it is below four and one half feet as th ey begin to branch out about th ree feet above the ground. A few red bud trees are to be found in this grove of dogwood.

There are no dogwood trees of any size in Chickasaw County, as Mr. W.G. Williams of Vicksburg, came here a few years ago and bought all the dogwood trees of any size and had them cut and shipped away.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 25

4. Flowering Trees : (Continued)

The most beautiful and the largest red bud trees found in the county, are located on a local road leading to Sparta off Highway number fifteen. They are located about four miles north of Sparta on the right hand side of the road. There is a veritable little forest of red bud. One of them is very unusual due to the fact that it measures thirty-four inches in circumference and the blossoms grow directly out of the bark of the tree like moss. It is very unusual. These flowers start on the trunk of the tree about twenty inches from the ground, and the limbs are solidly covered like moss. This is the most beautiful flowering tree found. In this same part of the county were found numerous crab apple and haw trees. None were very large, but very colorful and beautiful.

About five miles east of Houston on the Will David Parker place, there is a tall dogwood, thirty-two inches in circumference and over in their yard there grows an old cedar tree, which is seventy-four inches in circumference.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 25

Information for this Assignment was obtained from personal observation made on tour of th e county by the Supervisor and Canvassers.

Mrs. J.C. Hightower

Mrs. J.C. Hightower, Historian
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County.

CHICKASAW COUNTY accepted 52

Historical Research Project

Canvassers: Rubye Cook, Mabel Calvin, Blanche Colbert
Date: July 22, 1936

Subject: Fauna Assignments #12

I. Insects

A. Insects as Pests of Farm, Garden and Orchard

1. Forage and Cereal Crop Pests:

The corn borer does extensive damage to the corn crops in this county. It appears when the corn is from eight to ten inches high and eats out the bud. There is no method of control except intensive cultivation in the fall and winter. This breaks up the clods under which the pests hybernate and breed. The corn borer does most of its damage in cold and damp weather in the early spring.

The ear worm does considerable damage to corn when it is in the roasting ear stage. No method of control is practised in this county. It is primarily a pest of corn, tomatoes, tobacco, cotton, and legumes. On vetch and other legumes it feeds in colonies.

The weevil is a very destructive to corn, peas, beans, etc., after they are harvested and stored.

The cut worm does a great deal of damage to crops, especially to corn. It is more prevalent in cold, wet springs. The only method of control is poison bait which is made up as dough, using Paris green as a poison. It should be spread upon the ground late in the evening when the worms come out to feed and do their damage.

Grasshoppers are not considered serious pests except during drouths, when there is very little green vegetation to feed on. At a time like this the grasshopper does considerable damage to green crops.

Poison bran mash is a very effective method of control.

(All the information up to this point was secured from Mr. J.C. Barrett, County, Agent, Houston.)

2. Garden Crops:

Ladybug eats leaves of the peas and beans and may be controlled by use of dusting of calcuim arsenate. [2]

Colorado Potato Beetle emerges from hibernation in the spring and lays its eggs on the underside of the leaves. Spray with Paris green 2 lbs. of arsenate of lead 4 lbs. in 100 gals. of water or arsenite of soda combined with Bordeaux mixture.[2]

Spotted Cucumber Beetle passes the winter in the adult stage hibernating in grass and all vegetation. Lead arsenate is used for its control.[1]

Striped Cucumber Beetle is a yellow, black-striped beetle and appear in numbers and attacksthe plants a s soon as they are up. Plant early squashes as a trap-crop around the field. Protect the vines with screens until they begin to run, or keep them covered with Bordeaux mixture, thus making them distasteful to the beetles.[2]

Squash vine Borer is a white caterpillar which burrows in the stem near the base of the plant. Plant a few early squashes between the rows of the late varities as a trap-crop. As soon as the early crop is harvested, remove and burn the vines. When the vines are long enough, cover them at the joints with earth in order to develop secondary root systems for the plant in case the main stem is injured. [2]

1 Farmer's Bulletin No. 1557
2 Bulletin #283, Agricultural Experiment Station of Cornell University.

Flea Beetle is a small black beetle that riddles the leaves with small holes and causes them to die. Bordeaux mixture as applied for potato blight protects the plants by making them distasteful to the beetle.[1]

Aphis is a dark green plant lice that feeds on the undersides of leaves, causing them to curl and wither. Spray with kerosens emulsion diluted with 6 parts of water or use one of the tobacco extracts. It is necessary thoroughly to cover the undersides of the leaves; the sprayer, therefore, must be fitted with an unturned nozzle. Burn the vines as soon as the crop is harvested and keep down all weeds.[1]

Squash stink-bug emerges from hibernation in the spring and lays its eggs on he underside of the leaves. The nymphs suck the sap from the leaves and stalks, causing serious injury. Trap the adults under boards in the spring. Examine the leaves for the smooth shining brownish eggs and destroy them. The young nymphs may be killed with kerosene emulsion.[1]

Cabbage worm: The green caterpillars hatch from eggs laid by the common white butterfly. There are several broods every season. If plant are not heading, spray with kerosene emulsion or with Paris green to which the sticker has been added. If heading, apply hellebore.[1]

Cabbage aphis: These small mealy plant lice are especially troublesome during cool, dry seasons when their natural enemies are less active. Before the plants begin to head, spray with kerosene emulsion diluted witth 6 parts of water, or whale-oil soap, 1 lb. in 6 gals. of water, or use one of the tobacco extracts.[1]

Cabbage root maggot: The white maggots that feed on the roots hatch from eggs laid by a small fly somewhat resembling the common house fly near the plant at the surface of the ground. Hollow out the earth

1 Bulletin #283, Agricultural Experiment Station of Cornell University.

slightly around each plant and freely apply carbolic acid emulsion diluted with 30 parts of water. Begin the treatment early, a day or two after the plants are up or the next day after the plants are set out. Repeat the application every 7 to 10 days until the latter part of May. It has also been found practical to protect the plants by the use of tightly fitting cards cut from tarred paper.[1]

Boll Weevil- Very destructive insect to cotton. The female lays the egg in the square or young boll, causing them to fall off or not to mature. Very little has been done toward the control of this insect, but dusting with calcium arsenate has proven helpful in some areas..

Cotton Lice appear early in the season and are hurtful, but not unless the weather is cool and damp. This is not as serious as some pests as it comes so early in the seasin.

Army Worm . A small worm that travels in droves, hence the name. it usually appears in late summer or early fall and eats all the leaves from the cotton stalk thus hindering cotton from maturing. It has been controlled somewhat by the use of dusting . This worm multiplies very rapidly and works fast so at the first appearance, the farmer should consult the County Agent for methods of control.

Red Spider . By the adoption of the preventative measures described in this bulletin[2] it is possible to avoid losses caused by the socalled "red spider" a minute creation that causes considerable damage to cotton in the Southern States. Injury by the red spider in the cotton field may occur from June to September. It consists in the rusting and dropping off of the leaves and sometimes in the death of the plant. For many years this trouble was called rust by cotton planters, who considered from the reddening of the leaves that it was a disease. The injury , however , is caused by the presence on the cotton leaves of multitudes of small mites called "red spiders". The presence of the

1. Farmers Bulletin 283

pest is first revealed by the appearance on the upper surface of the leaf of a blood red spot. The lower leaves usually are attacked first but infestation travels fast. The loss of foliage is always accompanied by the shedding of bolls. The total shedding of the leaves will prevent the development of bolls that remain.

Unlike many pests, the red spider may appear continuously over large areas. Certain fields are infested. Large fields are seldom damaged throughout, but smaller fields frequently become wholly infested.

Seasonal history and habits. Males are sometimes seen during the winter, but the red spider which passes through the ~~the~~ winter are chiefly females. The majority of the insects pass the winter on wild plants Since they support the pest during the season when it is hardest to survive it is clear that their elimination is of great importance.

Natural enemies. The red spider is known to be attacked by as many as 31 predacious enemies, which render valuable assistance in the control of the pest. Of these 5 are mites, 3 are thrips, 2 are midges, 4 are syrphid flies, 8 are lady beetles, and 1 a caterpillar. These predatory enemies in turn are known to be attacked by at least 75 species of predatory enemies and parasites.

Control of the red spider is most effectual by the use of preventative measures, such as, weed destruction, control on the evergreen dooryard plants, spacing, rotation and fertilizing. Certain chemicals are effective but expensive ans should be used only under direction from the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Dept. of Agriculture. Washington, D.C.

To summarize, to prevent injury to cotton by the red spiders the f following steps should be taken:(1) Destroy all weeds around the farm during the winter months and early spring(2) Spraying of cultivated plants around the dwelling with a contact insecticide;(3) Maintaining a finely pulverized surface soil; (4)

a finely pulverized surface soil;(4) destruction of early infested p plants on large areas of heavy infestation by plowing up and burning and finally,(5) spraying or dusting the cotton with any one of the recommended cantact insecticides.[1]

4. Orchards.

Bud Moth. The small brown caterpillars with a black head devour the tender leaves and flowers of the opening buds in early spring. Make 2 applications of either 1 # Paris Green or 4 # Arsenate of lead in 100 gal. water: the first when the leaf tips appear and the second, just after the blossoms fall. If necessary spray again.

Codling Moth. T his is a small pinkish caterpillar which causes a large proportion of wormy apples. The eggs are laid by a small moth on the leaves and skin of the fruit. Most of the caterpillars enter the apple at the blossom end. When the petals fall the calyx is open and this is the time to spray. The calyx soon closes , and keeps the poison inside ready for the caterpillars first meal. After the calyx has closed, it is too late to spray effectively. The caterpillars beco come full grown in July and August, leave the fruit, crawl down the trunk, and there most of them spin cocoons under the loose bark.In most of the country two broods raise annually. Immediately after the blossom falls spray with 1 # Paris green or 4 # arsenate of lead to 100 gallons of water. Repeat the application in three weeks.

Rusty brown plum aphis is present each year, doing damage to the foliage of plums and young peach trees shortly after they put forth leaves. Spray with nicotine sulphate.[2]

Farmers Bulletin No 831. The Red Spider On Cotton.
Bulletin No 283.

The San Jose Scale is a pest of peach, apple, pear, plum and other fruit trees, as well as plants. The insect takes its nourishment from sucking the sap from the trees, and in this way it is directly responsible for the death of many fruit trees each year. The presence of the San Jose Scale causes a pitted disease of the tree which will result in the exudation of droplets of gum.

Lubricating oil emulsion applied during the winter when the trees are dormant is an effective control.1

Peach leaf curl is caused from feeding of larva of the oriental fruit moth within the twig and is sometimes serious enough to require treatment. The oriental fruit moth damages both the twig and fruit of the peach. It is a pest of major importance especially among late maturing peaches and apples. Starvation of the larvae that would normally live through the w inter keeps the infestation down.[1]

The shot hole borer or fruit tree bark beetle attacks fruit trees that have been deviatalized by some other pest. They burrow into the bark of the trees. A thick coat of white wash after the severely infested limbs have been removed prevents the shot-hole borer.

Plum curculio is a small snout beetle that inserts its eggs under the skin of the fruit and then makes a characteristic crescent shaped cut beneath it. The grub feeds within the fruit and causes it to drop. Spray just after blossoms fall with arsenate of lead, 6 to 8 lbs. in 100 gals. of water, and repeat the application in about a week. After the fruit has set, jar the trees daily over a sheet of curculio-catcher and destroy the beetles.[1]

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1. Bulletin #283, Agricultural Experiment Station of Cornel University

Among insect pests that attack the peach few are more important or more serious than the peach borer. It attachs other stone fruits such as apricots, plums, etc. The borer in the course of its life goes through four distinct stages- the egg, the larva or borer, the pupa, and the adult or parent moth. The reddish brown eggs are deposited on the base or trunk of the tree. They hatch in the fall, and the young borers at once attack the trees burrowing into the soft bark or along the soft roots. Young trees may soon be completely girded. The infestation is usually shown by an exudation of jelly-like substance evident especially in damp or rainy weather. When the borer is full grown it encloses itself in a cocoon that is similar in color to the bark of the tree and is easily overlooked by the orchardist. In three or four weeks the pupa is developed and wiggles out of the cocoon as a beautiful clear winged moth that is sometimes mistaken for a wasp. In afew days the eggs are deposited and the moth dies.

For the young and small orchards and single back yard trees worming is a very useful and successful method of controlling the peach borer This must be carefully done so as to remove all borers and not injure the tree with the worming instrument. For larger orchards a chemical treatment has been adopted. It is Paradichlorobenzene often called PDB or gas.[1] It is very effective if applied properly and at the right time.

The canker worm or caterpillars are small measuring- worm or loopers that defoliate the trees in May and June. They build unsightly nests or webs on the branches. The insect hibernates in the egg state. The eggs are glued in ring like brownish masses around the smaller twigs where they may be easily found and destroyed. De stroy the nests by burning and spray with Paris green or arsenate of lead atthe proper time.[2]

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture- Farmer's Bulletin # 1224
2. Bulletin # 283, Agriricultural Experiment Station of Cornel University

B. INSECTS AS PESTS OF POULTRY, LIVESTOCK AND MAN

1. Poultry

A small insect called the mite appears at times in the poultry houses and becomes a serious pest. They hide in the dark places and feed upon the poultry at night. To rid the poultry house of mites it is very essential that it is kept clean and well aired. A white wash of lime for the poles and walls and applications of Black Leaf Forty will also aid in destroying these pests. The chickens should have excellent places to wallow in the dust as this is an essential principle in ridding their bodies of vermin. A dust of insect powder will also kill mites.

Lice are also another serious pest of poultry. They suck the blood and very oftenkill young chickens. A dip or spray of Kreso is very useful, also dust with insect powder.

2. Livestock

The stable fly, or stock fly, is one of the most important sources of annoyance to livestock throughout the United States. They are present in Chickasaw County and are pests that should be recognized and means of control used. Besides annoying the domestic animal this fly has a deleterious effect upon them owing to the quantity of blood drawn. Animals are very frequently so reduced in vitality as to permit certain diseases to become acute and cause their death. The stable fly is also an annoyer of man. It is concerned in part at least, with the transmission of cerdiseases, most motable of which is imfantile paralysis.

Practically all warm-blooded animals are attacked by the stock fly . It appears in the early summerand nearly always increases in abundance and injury in August and September. Horse manure has been considered the normal breeding place for this pest although it favors a mixture of manure and straw. Likke all other flies itngoes through four stages. It develops rather slowly and moisture is an essential factor to its

grouth. Manure in the barnyards should not be allowed to accumulate and straw stacks should not be allowed to become moist and sheltered from the sun and air. The natural point of attack is found in the immature stages and it is believed that by properly caring for the substances in which it breeds the insects may be kept well under control. Many mixtures of an oily nature have some value as a repellent but should not be used to often as they are not good for stock that are being in the sun. Kerosene extracts of pyrethum is a very good spray for killing the flies but it proves rather expensive. Work animals may be largely protected from the pest by means of covering. Little can be done to protect range stock from the flies. Traps have been used especially around dairy barns but they are not very important in the control of the fly. The proper care of manure and staw can notnbe stressed too much as this is the most important measure in the control of the stable fly.[1]

The horse fly is very prevalent in the county. Spraying will protect the stock to a certain extent.

There are no screw worms in the county now. The county agent stated that he had not heard of any damage being done by them in the last several years.

3. MAN

Man is affected directly or indirectly by all insect pests. The crop pests such as corn borer, boll weevil, army worm etc. in injuring the crop or destroying them, have a serious economic effect on man. Pests to stock and poultry must be comtrolled and this proves very expensive and effects business generally indirectly.

Malaria, which is directly traceable to the Anopheles mosquito has been one of the most serious diseases in the south causing a great deal

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin no. 1097

of suffering expense and death. Great strides have been made in the control of this disease by the use of screens for the home and projects in each county to destroy breeding places of the mosquito. Since the mosquito only breeds in stagnant water it is possible that all breeding places will be destroyed or drained in the near future.

The housefly carries Typhoid fever and diarrhoea germs which are transmitted in food and water. As is commonly known this insect breeds in filth principally barnyard manure and outdoor toilets. The general use of screen has practically elimated them from the majority of homes and all grocery and meat markets. The use of sewage system and sanitary toilets have aided greatly in the control of the breeding of flies. These sanitary measures together with the use of Typhoid vaccination has practically eliminated Typhoid fever.

The mosquito also carries Yeolow fever but there has never been a case in Chickasaw County that there is a record of.

In addition to its role as a livestock pest, the stable fly is important as an annoyer of man, and there is some indication that it is concerned, in part at least, with the transmission of certain diseases of man, most notable of which is infantile paralysis. This fly is not uncommonly encountered about the house and the same rules of sanitation that apply to the house fly apply to it.

Fleas are very annoying to man. Since they breed only on hogs, dogs, and cats, it is a very simple matter to destroy them by use of any insecticide and cleanliness of the sleeping quarters of these animals.

Lice only exist where sanitation is bad and can readily be destroyed by cleanliness and insecticide.

Bed bugs may be readily controlled by use of varnish and insecticides. Of course cleanliness is the most important factor in any such vermin. As long as man is clean about his person and his home he will not be bothered by them.

C. COMMON ROADSIDE AND FIELD INSECTS

Hymenoptera-

Insects of this type are wasp, mud-daubers, hornets, ants, hornets, honey bees, bumble-bees , yellow jackets ect, all of these are present in the county. They do no harm except for the sting which although very painful is not very serious. They will not harm man unless unduly disturbed. An application of Aromatic Spirits of Ammonia or kerosene will kill the poison and relieve the pain and swalling. The ant has been a very great nuisanse, and especially the Argentine ant which is destructive. The latter has been almost exterminated by the use of poison put out by the Extension Department at State College. The honey bee,of course, is an asset to the county. A great many farmers find the honey bee an asset for home use although there are no apiaries so far as can be ascertained.

Diptera-

All insects classified under this type such as; crane flies, robber flies, gnats mosquitoes and house-flies ect can be found in this county. The mosquito and house-fly have been discussed. The buffalo gnat is not found except in damp low areas on creek bottoms. Since there is so little of that type land in this county they are not e ever known to be of great importance.

Hymptera-

The stink-bug, water bug, and squash bug ect are to be found in great numbers. The squash bug is harmful in the gardens but the others mentioned do no harm.

Orthoptera-

Crickets , roaches, grasshoppers, katy-dids, devil-horses,walking stick ect belong to this type. Of the above named roaches are perhaps the most destructive in this section. They are very destructive in the pantry and in grocery stores and have been known to ruin clothing.They

They secrete themselves in walls and come out at night to do their dirty work.

A good insect powder or insecticide will finally rid the house ofthem. Many are trapped and used for fish bait by the fishermen of the county. The grasshopper has proven to be a great pest in some years, but they are not in very great numbers in this vicinity. Most of the insects of the Arthoptera type are more beneficial than harmful because of the many smaller, injurious insects they destroy.

Lepidoptera: The butterfly is very plentiful and is not harmful except in the caterpillar stage when it destroys foliage of vegetables, etc. The caterpillar of the swa low tail, butterfly has been known to literally destroy parsley beds.

Odonata: This type of fly, the dragon fly and demsel fly are natives of the county and are of value to man by destroying insect pests.

Coleoptera: This type includes Betsy bug, June bug, May beetle, Lady ug, Lightening bug, etc., and as a group are harmless. Facts have been given that are sufficient to establish the friendly and beneficial work which is being accomplished by the predaceous beetle in destroying insect pests.

D. Spiders

Black Widow spider is present in the county. Occassionally one is found. They are distinguished by a red dot on the abdomen. The bite of this spider is very injurious sometimes, causing death. The common spiders such as crab spider, funnel we spider, orb web spider, and cob web spider are very numerous here. The cob web spider is a great source of worry to the industrious housekeeper. They are a friend to man because of the many pests they trap and kill, especially the fly.

Ticks: The cattle tick in former years was a most serious pest in Chickasaw County.

It was irradicated by the use of the dipping vat. The count is now free from this pest.

Mites: Poultry mites have already been discussed. Mange among dogs is very common in the county. It is caused by a parasite which burrows under the skin, causing an itchin sensation. It should be treated as soon as discovered. Cleanliness and insecticide are the essentials of treatment.

Red Bugs ar plentiful in grass or woods lots. They have been said that if the red bug is as large as the flea, the bite would be poisonous. It is the bane of the picknickers existence. It has been recommended that the body be thoroughly rubbed with alcohol and a bath in warm salty water be taken as soon as possible after coming in from an outdoor trip.

There are no true scorpions in the county.

It has been estimated that at least 15% of the negro population and some what less of the white population is infested with worms. As is generally known the hook worm gets into the intestine via of the blood, first getting into the foot as children go barefoot. The tape-worm and pork worm gain entrance into the body via underdone food, generally meat. These pests are very serious and when an infestation is suspected, a physician should be consulted.

3. Fishes and Their Relatives

Due to the number of drainage canals that have been cut throughout the county, practically all the natural streams have been filled up or become too shallow for fishing. The best fishing is in artificial ponds and lakes which are private property. The trout, bass, grinnel, perch, and cat are natives to this county.

There are no alligators, but a few gars may be found.

Among the poisonous snakes found are the rattles, water moccasin, black and spotted, and copper head. These are not found in any great number, however. The non-poisonous snakes, viz, spreading adder, king snake, black snake, chicken snake, water snake, black and blue racer are quite numerous. These are beneficial and if it were not for the snakes, the county would soon be overrun by rats and mice as they are the principal article of food of the snake.

A toad will eat almost its weight in insects in one night in a garden, the toad begins to feed in the later afternoon toward dush, hopping about and on the alert for insects of all kinds. Its sharp eyes seek out bugs and worms. Cutworms which work at night are the especial prey of toads. They also eat moths which lay eggs on grass stalks at night and thus prepare for thousands more of caterpillars, army worms, cutworms, corn-ear worms, and other pests. When an insect is located, out shoots the long, green tongue of the toad, which can be projected almost the length of its body. The tongue moves with lightning rapidity, almost too quickly for the eye to see. It curls about the insect and draws it into the toad's mouth.

As the toad feeds at dusk and night, it is one of the most valuable agencies in the destruction, not only of cutworms, but of all varities of millers, or moths, the parents of worms and caterpillars. A few toads

established in a garden areof tremendous value. It has been estimated that the toad is worth $19,88 a year because of the number of insects he destroys.

4. Fowls

There are no game birds native to this county, but the woods and fields are alive with the singing birds and the air is melodious with the mocking bird, red bird, brown thrashers, field and meadow lark robin, blue bird, quail, and others. These are invaluable to the farmer because of their great destruction of insects and worms in gardens and fields. The blue jay is plentiful, but he is not a welcome guest becuase f his habit of destroying young birds and eggs, and fruit.

The birds of prey as hawk, or owl are rather plentiful. They are possible more maligned than guilty as they are considered only in the light of an enemy because of their destruction of chickens, rabbits and birds. They destroy great numbers of rats and field mice .

5. Mammals.

The mole is readily distinguished from the pocket gopher by th absence of cheek pouches and it's less conspicious eyes. The mole is not a rodent, and can readily be distinguished from any of the order and from the shrew by it's short strong claws, with palms turned aotward. It has a rather elongated body close plushlike fur, a pointed snout and short tail .Neither external eyes nor ears are in evidence, if not totally blind.The more common mole can at best merely diatinguish between light and darkness as what remains of its organs of sight are beneath the skin.

Habits. The mole lives mostly under the ground. Its runways are easily located by ridges on lawns, fields and gardens. Their appetites are almost insatiable. They have been known to eat their weight in a day, the food consists generally of adult insects nd their larva and earthworms

The mole plays an important part in uncultivated fields in moving and stirring the soil and bringing up subsoil, also carrying down organic matter from the surface.. They have contributed to the natural upbuilding of soil fertility. Under some conditions the mole may not prove objectionable and through their consumption of harmful insects and cutworms , white grubs and other species may prove decidedly helpful. In uncultivated lands they are in no wise harmful and should be unmolested. In cultivadd areas , however, the mole may seriously interfere with mans use of the soil and in making their mounds and runways they often disfigure and damage lawns and golf courses and seed beds in gardens. They cause damage to cornfields, gardens and flower beds by consuming seed corn and plant roots and also, by traveling along the rows, heaving the plants out of the ground, causing heavy crop losses by cutting off the water supply, and injuring the roots.

Control. Moles, are comparatively hard to control. Trapping is most universally practiced and efficacious., but it is successful only if the habits of the mole are known. They are very wary and if they suspicion any obstruction in their path will burrow around it. The trap has to be secluded. When captured the pelt should be carefully dried as theey are salable .It is of equal value as the Eoropean Mole. Although one farmer may not capture enough moles to make a shipment of pelts, the practice of shipping cooperatively through the Farm Bureau and other agencies has proven successful.[1]

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1 Farmers Bulletin No1716. Mole Control.

Opossums are plentiful in this county. Although they are destructiv in that they kill chickens, they prefer wild berries, persimmons an are known to eat dead animals. They are considered edible during th winter months.

Bats are fairly numerous. They build in the eaves and chimneys of houses and are known carriers of mites and bed bugs.

The dog is a domesticated animal that has been long considered a friend of man. There are various classifications of the dog according to his traits from the tiny Pekenese to the huge Wolf hound. Their habits are a result of generations of training and breeding. A good watch dog or hunting dog is considered an assett on any farm. There are always a number of stray dogs that are a menace. This and every other county will have taken a step foward when every dog must be vaccinated against rabies.

There are a few fox, minks,and skunks in the wooded sections of the county and the trappers realize quite a good bit every year from their hides. These animals in several neighborhoods are very great menace to poultry.

Mice and rats are very numerous and do thousands of dollars worth of damage in numerous ways. They destroy food, grain, and poultry. It is only by constant warfare with poison, traps, and cats that they can be controlled even to the extent that they are.

The rabbit is more beneficial than harmful. It destroys some vegetation in gardens and fields. The squirrel are not very numerous the county now. They are good food and do no harm.

Historical Research Project

Chickasaw County

Canvassers: Mabel Calvin, Rubye Cook,
Blanche Colbert.

June 25, 1936

Subject: Indians Assignment #9

1. Major and Minor Tribes

When first known to Europeans there were in what is now Mississippi several distinct tribes. The most important of these in numbers and in consequent history of the state, were the Choctaws and Chickasaws. The latter occupied the grounds that constitute the the morth eastern part of the state. There were other tribes in the state ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ occupying small areas near the coast or nnear the Mississippi River. They were the Biloxis, Pascagoulas, Yazoos, Tunicas, and Natchez. All of these became modified or disappeared in the early days of our history.

These tribes were constantly at war with each other, both before and after the coming if the white man. Their warfare was primitive and barbarous inthe extreme. There was no clearly defined limits of the territory of each tribe and the warriors were accustomed to proceed as far as their inclinations and game led them. In the more extended excursions a party of hunters would come in contact with another with a result of several being slain and a tribal war of vengence.

The Choctaws and the Chickasaws were ever at war, though the Choctaws were for Indians, a peacably inclined people. The Creeks and the Chickasaws were unspeakably cruel in their treatment of the fallen foe. An Indian warrior never surrendered. There were usually scenes of savage jubilation in an Indian village after a successful Sally-of-war, characterized by mutilation of the bodies of victims. All the Indians took and preserved as many scalps as possible, to possess a large number being a record of honor.

Nanih Waiya-- In historical times the Choctaws had a peculiar veneration for a great mound called Nanih Waiya, which was near the source of the Pearl river.(Nanih Waiya is in Winston County near the Neshoba line. H. S. Halbert in an article in the publication of the Mississippi Historical Society surmises that the name, which means "bending hill", is due to the curving form of the sections of rampart.) It was known among them as the mother of their race. Near it are several hills, which are probably the remaining portions of what was once a complete rampart of earth. There are several curious legends regarding this mound and its relation to Choctaw history, all of which suppose that the Choctaws came at one time from the west.

It is related that the long march from the west was so hard that when the nation arrived at Nanih Waiya the remnant alldied except the leader, who was swallowed up by the hill. After a few years the mound opened up and gave forth newly created Choctaws, to whom for a few moments the old leaders appeared telling them to live upon the land. Again it is related that the Choctaws in their march from the west were guided by a pole which planted at night, was found the next morning to lean in the direction in which they should march; that at Nanih Waiya the pole settled with a gay dancing movement into the earth and did not move again. One version of the pole legend has it that the Chickasaws were with the Choctaws up to this point, but that their leader crossed the river before knowing that the pole had settled, and that owing to a storm and rise of water the brother tribes on this account became separated. According to the Chickasaw form of the legend this trbe was possessed of the pole all the while, and it was in the region known as the "Chickasaw Old Field"(Footnote says that this was a name applied tb the section of the state between Tupelo and Pontotoc, where were the chief villages and council gatherings of the Chickasaws) that the pole took an erect position, consequently this became the center of the Chickasaw

territory.

When the Spaniards marched through the country, the Tombigbee river was crossed at a point in the northern part of what is now Monroe County, and the territory of the Chickasaws was entered. It was winter and both Spaniards and Chickasaws were suspicious of one another. At last a display of friendship was made between them. The Spaniards were established in winter quarters in a villiage near the chief town of the Chickasaws, called Chicasa.(T.H.Lewis in an article in the Publication of the Mississippi Historical Society locates Chicasa as in Pontotoc County, S½ of SW¼ of section 21, and N½ of NW¼ of section 28, yownship 11)Supplies ofbeans, corn and rabbit meat were obtained from the Indians who in turn received their first taste of pork from the Spaniards. Desota assisted the Chcikasaws in excursions against enemy tribes. A portion of his men accompanied a war party of Chcikasaws against a villiageto the northeastward.Another went against the Chocchuma Indians who dwelt near the mouth of the Yalobusha River.

Chickasaw Chiefs:

The Chickasaws had four chiefs and many lesser ones, all subject to a head chief. Two of their chiefs were Tishomingo and Coahoma. Another was Levi Colbert or Itta Wamba. The following tale is related of how he received this name. He had performed a deed of bravery and according to the Chcikasaw custom he was to receive a name for it. Being led into a concourse of Indians to receive the formal bestowal of his name he sat upom a stool instead of upom the ground as was the Indian fashion. And so he received the name of Itta Wamba meaning "Bench Chief"Coahoma signifies Red Tiger. There were four families of Colberts, sons of an Englishman who had lived in the Indian country after the time of theAmerican Revolution. They had homes respectively near the present towns of ShannonnAmory, Pontotoc and a point near the Tennessee River long known as Colbert's Ferry.

Chickasaw Celebrities by E. T. Winston

(This article was published in a recent issue of the Times Post.)

From Claiborne's Mississippi History we extract, under the date of August 14, 1797 the following letter from Capt. Isaac Guion, at the Chcikasaw Bluffs, to Gen. James Wilkerson.

"Owing to strong apprehensions of an attack by the Creeks on their towns, the Chickasaws did not appear here until the 10th inst. Yesterday Piomingo, the Mountain leader arrived in bad health. The Wolfe's Friend preceded him two days and is here with all his people and a very disorderly and turbilant clan they are. Great disorder prevails in this nation,,owing probably to the intrigues of the Spaniards, and the want of information and energy some where else."

"General Colbert,who was here a few days since with about one hundred of his people, manifeated a very friendly disposition and gave me permission to move my stores from the bank to the bluff, where the Spanish fort recently stood, and to erect there such works as I saw fit, observing that it would be extraordinary to deny us who were born on the same side of the water, a privilege that had had been granted to those born on the other side ofmit."

I immediately set a party to get pickets for a temporary cover for our stores and camp, a very heavy job for they had to be got a mile up the riverMargot (Wolf), rafted down and drawn up to the bluff by hand. I have however enclosed a sexangular stocka de of which the plan is transmitted.(This was afterward known as Fort Pickering, on the banks of the Mississippi in South Memphis and the cite is now a city park known as Jackson Park.)

"The Wolfe's Friend, eho has great influence, is bynno means inclined to the United States. There is an evident coolness between him and the Mountain Leader. I know not how itmwill end."

"The salt meat furnished by the contractor at Fort Washington-

Cincinnati- are in a great measure unsound, and I have obtained permission from the chiefs to purchase from James Allen, a white man living in the nation, a drove of beef cattle."

A sequel to this incident of the meat, permit us to say just here, is that Major Allen delivered the cattle in question, and after Captain Guion's soldiers had fed on the fresh meat, they cleared the Chickasaw Bluffs of Spanish troops, and then marched to Vicksburg and Natchez and did the same. Thus Mississippi Territory was organized- due entirely to the potency of Chickasaw Country beef.

In a footnote to CaptainsGuion's letter, above quoted, Mr. Claiborne gives this sketch of Major James Allen:

"James Allen was a North Carolinian, well educated and of a familyin easy circumstances. He came to the Chickasaw nation where he soon conciliated the favor of Gen. Colbert, a half breed whief of large fortune. Allen married his daughter Susie. Mr. Claiborne then proceeds to narrate a widely quoted romance of the Chickasaws, with old Houlka in Chickasaw County as the setting.

"Peggy, the daughter of Major James Allen and Susie Colbert, was very beautiful and received numerous proposals from traders returning from New Orleans to Tennessee and from the sons of the other Chickasaw Chiefs. The United States Agent at Memphis in charge of the Chickasaws, Samuel Mitchell, became deeply in love with her but she did not return it. He applied to her grandmother, and she considering it a very desirable match, sent Peggy off to the Agency with a string of well loaded pack horses and ten negroes in her dowery. Peggy dutifully made her journey, but she stubbornly and persistantly refused Mitchell declaring that she would never marry a drinking white man or an Indian. After two weeks the elderly suitor abandoned the conquest and sent her home. Just then t there turned a handsome young fellow, Simon Burney, from the neighborhood of Natchez who loved her very deeply and she in turn was enamoured with the gallant Burney.Both Peggy and her father feared interference

from Mitchel and his friends, so they were married without unnecessary delay and immediately left the nation."

Mr. Claiborne also mentioned in the same connection a grand-daughter of major Allen who was said to be the most beautiful woman in Mississippi. She was married to a scotch trader named McAuley, and went with her people to the west after the last ~~in~~ Chickasaw Treaty.

We can find no record of just when the Chickasaw Agency was established at Old Houlka but it must have been in the last decade of the eighteenth century. In Marschalk's statons on the Natchez trace this one was designated as"McKeys or the Agency". One John McKey seems to have been the agent at that time.

There seems to have been two of the Allens-James B. and John L. They were probably brothers but this cannot be affirmed. They were both designated as sub-agents of the Chickasaws. Maj. James B. no doubt married the daughter of General Colbert and lived at Old Houlka. His name also appears on the roll of membership at the Old Monroe Church.

Piomingo, The Mountain Leader. By E.T.Winston. Published in Houston Post.

This perhaps most noted of Chickasaw County's earliest Citizens also lends his name to one of the little known ~~trails~~ trails that intersected the Natchez Trace. "Piomingo's Trace" only appears on one or two of the earlier maps, but after identifying the leaders mountain, we may very easily locate the trail as starting at Johnny-main Mountain, mouth of Luk-unk or Okuna River- now in Calhoun County- running northeast into Pontotoc county, crossing the G.M.and N.R.R. at Gershorm, passing the old Williams place, and joining the Natchez Trace at Red Land. Piomingo's Trace also intersected the old Carmargo-Memphis road, at Red Land.

It was through our good friend,Dr Will C. Walker, of Houlka, that we definitely located Piomingo's mountain. Having been there on fishing trips and noting the isolated location and majestic surroundings, we suspected it as the habitat of the greatest and noblest of the Chickasaws. However, we could get no name for the mountain, until Dr. Walker told us that it was known in local annals as Johnnys- Main's Mountain. That sounded like a white mans corruption of an Indian name and with that idea in mind, we began to trace it up.

We know that Piomingo had a son whom the old chief used as his messenger to his uncle "Little Turtle, " Cherokee Chieftian. Thus we found "Yanta", which means runner or messenger, and "ishali" main, superior, ect. Yanta is easily corrupted to Johnny and "main" for the Indian "ishali". Piomingo died between 1797 and 1799, so our first settlers knew the mountain only as the home of his son, and no historian has considered it important to locate the residence of Piomingo, the mountain, though he figured largely in the history of his time, not only locally but in the national history.

Little is known of Piomingo's early life and his later years are obscured by oblivion. He was of the greatest service to the white settlersin middle Tennessee, and to the history of their struggles, and not from local annals , are we chiefly indebted for all we know of him. He was a staunch and loyal friend of James Robertson, the founder of Nashville, Tenn. When the pioneer settlements of middle Tennessee and Kentucky were beset and threatened with destruction, their chief reliance for protection was Piomingo and his Chickasaw warriors.

Again, it was in a great measure through his influence that the spaniards were forced in 1797 to abandon Fort San Fernando, which Gov. Gayoso had caused to be built where Memphis now stands and eventually the forts and Walnut Hills and Natchez, which cleared the Spaniards from the east side of the Mississippi.River, immediately resulting in the creation of Mississippi Territory. The present states of Mississippi and Alabama now stand as a memorial to the diplomacy and prowess of the "mountain leader."at a crucial period in history.

An interesting fact to our generation, relative to Piomongo, is that he was the first of our citizensto cherish the ambition to have his children educated. In a letter of William Blount to General Robertson of Sept. 10, 1795, it is stated that Piomingo, in a letter to Pres. Washington, had requested the president would take into consideration, and particularly his daughter, whom he wished to be taught to read and write. The request was granted by the "father of his Country" under the limitation that no permanent order would be made until the probable expense had b een reported.

Piomingo himself was unlettered, but his extensive correspondence with the notables of the day he had for his secretary one William Mizzell, a young North Carolinian, who had also strayed into the Indian Country at an early day and identified himself with the ~~Indians~~ Chickasaws;

At the death of his protector, it seems

After the death of his protector, it seems that Mizzell married Piomingo's daughter, and though unfortunately her name has not been given she was described as a pretty Indian girl and a niece of Chulocka- meaning calm, quiet peaceful- a noted hunter and ruler of the Chickasaws-, probably the brother and successor of Piomingo.

Though in the meantime Mizzell, his wife and Chulockahad transferred their citizenship to the Chickasaw Bluffs where our chronicle continues. "When William Mizzell walked into the Indian trading post store on Chickasaw Bluffs on the morning of February 16, 1806., annd paid $2.00 for and ax, then went back a few hundred yards to the woods and started cutting logs for a house, he laid a foundation for the city of Memphis!

Thus, Piomingo, the greatest of the Chickasaw rulers, who had a beaten path to his door made by those of the great and mighty who had sought wisdom and council from him, lived and died in the forther most depth of the mighty wilderness that sheltered his people from time immemorial, and his cherished daughter made the first civilized home in our Metropolitan city,!

We learn in Putman's "Life of General Robertson" that the wife of Piomingo was a tall Indian named Malataloa, meaning, broadly translated, the light of his life"Women of her rank wore a sack long enough to hide the strip of shroud or baige around the hips and waist, with moccasons and leggins ornamented with beads and tinkling bells. The hair was braided and hung down the back like a mandarins,. When Piomingo was honored by Pres. Washington, Genefal Robertson had instructions to equip Malataloa with clothing and ornaments.

Thus we have attempted to portray from fragmentary sources the greatest of the Chickasaws. He was valorous in war,; wise and courrageous in council; loyal and stedfast in his alliances, and devoted to

to his family, nation anfd friends. A nobler character does not appear in history. He was born in obscurity, honored in various ways while living but passed from the stage of human action abrubtly into oblivion as a personality.

Our patriotic societies and other agencies are striving to perpetuate to memory those who rendered outstanding service or merited imperishable fame in living marble and stone bronze we think of no worthier tribute of this sort than a monument to Piomingo, the "stoic of the woods", to crown the lofty mountain peaks in Skuna bottom, here he sought seclusion from the strife and turmoil; where he secured his n name as "the mountain leader"; where he communed with Nature and Natures God, in an environment which even to this day attests the majesty and grandeur of the personality that dwelt there and where he lived and loved and doubtless died.

Mrs J. W. Strickland
Supervisor, Historical Research
Chickasaw County

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Historical Research Project

Chickasaw County

August 18, 1936

Supplement on the Indian Assignment

The article that we sent to you in our last supplement on the Indian Assignment on "Chickasaw Indian Eloquence" was published in The Times Post during our Centennial Celebration. On inquiry we find that it was copied from Dunbar Rowland's Mississippi, The Heart of the South, Vol. I, Page 103.

Mrs J. W. Strickland
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Canvassers:
Mabel Calvin,
Rubye Cook.

Historical Research Project

Chickasaw County

August 17, 1936

Supplement to Assignment #9

Subject: Indians

" The warriors of the Chickasaw tribe are said by some writers to have been the most expert of all the Indians of America in woodcraft and in tracking. They were able to follow a trail when there seemed no evidence of a trail; and if they came upon footprints in the woods, they would know of what tribe the man was who made them. They exceeded all in the pursuit of the fleet deer.[1]

" When a Chickasaw Indian did a brave deed he was given a new name to do him honor. When a new name was given an Indian, it was usual for him to sit flat upon the ground to receive the title while all the others stood around him."[2]

Chickasaw, an important Muskhogean tribe, formerly occupying northern Mississippi and the adjacent part of Tennessee, and later settled in the wesrtern part of Okolahoma with an autonomous government, under the name of the"Chickasaw Nation". They are now citizens of the United States. Originally they were a restless andnwarlike people and throughout the colonial period adhered to the English side as against the French, who tried repeatedly, but without sucess, to subdue them. From the close of the Revolution they maintained friendly relations with the United States. In 1832 they sold all their remaining lands east of the Mississippi and agreed to remove to their present location. They joined with the Confederacy during the Civil War and at its close were obliged to free their slaves and admit them to equal Chickasaw citizenship. Those of pure and mixed Chickasaw blood now number forty two thousand and four.[3]

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1. From Famt's Mississippi History, Page 13
2. From Bolton's "Our State", Chapter 15, page 223
3. The New International Encyclopedia, Vol.5-&6 Page 177

Chickasaw County

The Warlike, Unconquerable Chickasaws

The Chickasaws were brave and warlike and, after the English came, were the steadfast allies of that race. The country of that tribe reached to the Ohio on the north, to the Mississippi on the west; was bounded on the east by a line drawn from the bend in the Cumberland River to the Muscles shoals of the Tennessee, and extended south into the State of Mississippi to the land of the Choctaws. Within the memory of the whites they were never a numerous people, but had an intense love for their beautiful country and fought to maintain their hold upon it with an intrepidity and skill which gained them the reputation of being the ablest warriors in the south.

Adair, the English trader, who wrote about the time of the Revolutionary War reported: "The Chickasaws are now settled between the heads of two of the most western branches of the Mobile(Tombigbee) River, and within twelve miles of the eastern main source of the Tahre Hache(Tallahatchie), which lower down is called Chocchoomer River, as that nation, the(Chocchoomas) made their first settlement there after they came on the other side of the Mississippi. Where it empties into this they call it Yahshoo(Yazoo) River. Their tradition says that they had 10,000 men fit for war when they first came from the west; and this account seems very probable, as they and the Choctaws and Chocchumas, came from the west as one family.

The Chickasaws in 1720, had four large contiguous settlements which lay nearly in the form of three parts of a square, only that the eastern side was five miles shorter than the west with the open part toward the Choctaws. One was calledYaulka, about a mile wide and six miles long, at the distance of twelve miles from their present settlements, and from one to two miles broad. The towns were called Shatara, Chook heerlfo, Hykehah Tufkawillao, and Phalacheho.

The other square was single, began three miles from their present place of residence and ran four miles in length and one mile in breadth. This was called Chookka Phahaaah, or the"long house". It was more populous than is the whole nation at present. The remains of this once formidable people make up the northernangle of that broken square. They now consist of scarcely four hundred and fifty warriors and are settled three miles westward from the deep creek in a clear tract of land about three miles square running afterward about five miles toward the northwest, where the Old Fields are usually a mile broad. The superior number of their enemies force them intothis narrow circle for social defense, and to build their towns on commanding ground at such convient distances from one another as to have their enemies when attacked, between two fires.

Even the French for whom the Chickasaws seemed to have an implacable hatred gave the tribe credit for bravery. Bossu, says: "I must say a word of the Tchicachas, or Chickasaws. This nation is not as numerous as the Choctaws, but more terrible on account of their intrepidity. All the northern and southern Indians of this tribe ride well on horseback. They the care of cultiwating and sowing their grounds to their women, who are handsome and cleanly. When a Chickasaw has killed a roe-deer he tells his about where it lies; she goes and fetches it , dresses it, and serves it up to her husband. The women never eat with the men, who seem very indifferent about them, but really love them betternthan any other nation."

Chickasaw Customs

Descent among the Chickasaw was in the female line, and property as well as cheiftainship, was hereditary in the gens. Children were not regarded as related to their father, but were closely related to their mother, they being of the same housename or clan. The husband and father were of a different clan. If aman married a woman who had several sisters he was permitted to marry them all and live with them as their husband at the same time. A man who died leaving a widow gave his brother a sort of lien on her as aprospective wife.

The marriage customs of the tribe were thus described by Cyrus Harris, a mixed breed Chickasaw: "When a man found a girl that suited his fancy he would send his mother or perhaps his sister with calico enough to make one or more dresses tied up in a shawl or hankercheif, with instructions to ask the father or mother of the girl to give their approval of the intentions of the sender. If they gave their consent the bundle was handed to the girl. If she took the bundle it was considered a bargain made. The mother or sister brought back news of the errand. The man then hunted up his clothes and dressed himself from head to foot, painting his face with vermillion and other paints, and started for the residence of his intended. On reaching the place he was invited to take a seat on a cowhide, or the hide of any varmint generally used for seats in those days. After the general topics of the day were discussed supper was announced. The visitor and the intended father-in-law, took supper unaccompanied by the intended wife or mother-in-law. Sometime after supper, a bed commonly occupied by the girlwas prepared for their accommodation, the girl getting into bed first previous to the mans entering the bedroon. The man comes in and occupied the front side of the bed. This makes them man and wife and at any time either of them got dissatisfied with the other, by jealousy or otherwise they separatedmutually. This sir, was the ancient marriage ceremony among the Chickasaws."

According to Chickasaw law, aperson who stole a horse was whipped by order of the chief, but it was rare for a Chickasaw to steal at all. One of the light horsemen who generally gave the lash went by the name of Ish-yah-kah-py, or Big legs.

The property of deceased persons went to brothers and sisters, the

husband or wife, and children, not being entitled to any part of the estate.

The punishment for murder was based upon the rule of a "life forma life". If aman or a woman killed another, he or she was killed by the relatives of the slain. If a murderer could not be found it was lawful to put to death the brother of the one who done the killing.

The Chickasaws and Choctaws, though they called themselves brothers and had many customs in common, differedmin their modes of burial. James Adair, in his Americam Indians, published in 1775, describes the burial of a Chickasaw Chief in this wise:

"They laid the corpse in his tomb in a sitting posture, with his face toward the east, his head anointed with bear's oil and his face painte red, but not streaked with black, because that is a constant emblem of war and death. He was dressed in finest apparel, having his gun and pouch and trusty hickory bow, with a young panther's skin full of arrows alongside of him, and every useful thing he had been possessed of, that when he rises again they may serve him in that tract of land which pleased him best before he went to take his long sleep. His tomb was firm and clean inside. They covered it with thick logsso as to bear several tiers of cupress bark, and such a quantity of clay as would confine the putrid smell and be on a level with the rest of the floor. They often sleep over those tombs, which, with the loud wailing of the woman at the dusk of the evening and dawn of the day on benches close by the tombs, must awake the memory of their relative very often; and if they were killed by an enemy, it helps to irritate and set on such revengeful tempers to retaliate, blood, for blood." [1]

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1 Copied from Mississippi,The Heart of The South, Dunbar Rowland, Vol. I, Pages 68-70.

The Chickasaws and the Tombigbee Valley

The Chickasaws have their own traditions as to how they came to occupy the Mississippi country at the headwaters of the Tombigbee, north of that claimed by the Choctaws. The story of the Chickasaw migration has been told by Molly Gunn, the grandmother of Cyrus Harris, who was governor of the Chickasaw nation, Indian Territory, in the late 50's, and the early '60s. Mr. Harris was born near Pontotoc, only a short distance west of the reputed settlement of the pioneer Chickasaws of Mississippi and when a mature leader of his people in their far west reservation heard t the following version of their original migration from his venerable grandmother:

"The Chickasaws started east carrying with them a long pole and at night the pole was stuck in the ground erect. Next morning the pole would be found leaning toward the east, which they considered their guide and would from day to day follow in the direction the pole leant. Each day this was continued until they reached the place which is considered the Chickasaw old fields; by some it was called Old Town(Lee County) When they reached that place at night, as usual, the pole was stuck in the ground as erect as they could put it. On the following morning the leaders of the party rose early, the Chickasaws being known as early risers in that day.On examing the pole, they found it stood as erect as it did when they placed it there. He proclaimed to the party that they had reached their future homes, and the party settled down and made that place their home.

Afterwards the Creek Indians occasionally made war against the Chickasaws, but were always repulsed and driven away. They were after this, encroached upon by the French and several battles were fought. But the Choikawas had a very large war dog that always gave them warning when the enemy was approaching, and in the heat of the battle, kept ahead of the Chickasaws making heavy attacks upon the enemy. By this assistance, the French General

got the worst of the fight. Now, sir, this is all I have ever heard my grandmother, Molly Gunn, relate in regard to our ancestors.

The Chickasaws Old Town, or Old Fields, is not far from Ripley or Tupelo. The road leading from Pontotoc to Tuscumbia, Ala. formerly ran through these old fields. Old Town, in Chickasaw, is Okloh Sepokny. Tishomingo should be spelled Tishee Minco."

Other accounts of the traditions and migrations gave the Chickasaws a wider and more circuitious course before leading them to the headwaters of the Tombigbee in Lee County, but all agree that the final footfalls of their wanderings was at the Old Fields. There they cleared a forest, built a town, and cultivated maize and made the locality the metropolis and center of their nation.

Among the stories, Nanih Waiya and its founders is the one, more interesting perhaps than the rest, though not related here on account of its length, that makes the sacred mound their birthplace from whose bosom they sprang and to whom they always referred as their Great Mother. Having sketched the history of the famous Nanih Waiya, let us consider other ancient mounuments of a semilar nature still standing on our midst.

In the upper waters of the Tombigbee and along the streams which flow into the Tennessee, in northeastern Mississippi are numerous mounds attributal to the Chickasaws and their ancestors. Lee, Pontotoc, Union, Tippah, Ittawamba and Tishomingo counties contain numerous mounds which are, as a rule, along the margins of water courses. Near New Albany and Ellistown on streams which flow into the valleys, both the Tombigbee and Tallahatchie as well as in other sections of Union County are many mounds which bear evidence that they stood when the whites had already established contact with the Chickasaws.

Farther south is Lowndes County, which is almost equally divided by the Tombigbee River. The Choctaw country was west of that waterway.

The Chickasaws dwelt to the east of the Tombigbee. There are several sites of Indian villages on both sides of the river in Lowndes County and shell mounds of fresh water mussels are not uncommon. While there is an absence of the customary mounds near these sites, there are numbers of mounds of low type in the swamp lands and generally in close proximity to never failing water.

It is said that Plymouth, on the northern border of Lowndes County, immediately west of the Tombigbee, occupies the oldest site of a village in east Mississippi. Situated on a line of high hills overlooking the river to the east, it seems now, with its gullied hillsides, cedars and pine thickets, an ideal place for a home. Apart from the evidences of prehistoric occupancy in the farm of stone mortars, grooved axes, smoothers and other relics, the place is noted as the site of the old cedar log fort and fortifications surrounding it. This antiquity has baffaled both archaeologists and historians.[1]

Mrs J. H. Strickland
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

1. From Dunbar Rowland's Heart of the South Vol. 1. Page 61-63

accepted SL Orig

Chickasaw County

Supplement to Assignment # 9 : Indians

Letter for sup. 7/27 & 8/11 SL

Indian Mounds.

There is a group of Indian Mounds at Shiloh five miles east of Houlka. These mounds along with the Ingomar Mounds are the largest group in northeast Mississippi. The largest mound in this group is about eighty feet long, seventy feet wide and eighteen feet high. They were excavated in the summer of 1935 by Mr. Morean B. Chambers, the State Archeologist. Various Indian relics such as clay pots, ovens, beads of all kinds, flint rocks, tablets of clay, tomahawks, and pieces of axes were found. In one mound a skeleton was unearthed.

There are quite a number of mounds scattered over the county but none of them have been explored. They are rather small and are of no consequence. apparently A few arrow heads, fragments of flint, etc. can be found around these mounds.

One of these mounds is about seven miles south of Houston on Highway 15. It is now small and conical in shape and is composed of soil or earth similar to that surrounding it. It has not been dug into but flint, arrowheads, etc. can be picked up in its vicinity.

2. There are no Indians now living in Chickasaw County.

Chickasaw Indian Eloquence

With the Indians as early settlers of Chickasaw County, it is not amiss to reproduce an extract from a speech delivered by Paya Mattaha, Great Leader of the Chickasaw Nation.

"My heart and the Superintendent's are as one. It is well known I never deserted the British interest, and I never will. Though I am a Red Man, my heart is white from my connection with and the benefits I have received from the white people. I almost look upon myself as one of them.

"I cannot have much to say to my white brethren; my inclination and

sentiments are well known to them. I never shut my ears to their talks. I have always followed their direction.

"MY mind has always been unchanged; I can therefore have little to say to you, the Governor and Superintendent, but I will speak to my younger brethren in the Choctawa and you will hear me.

"While the French were in this land, division and discord reigned in your country; you fought and killed each other; but now look around and see peace and plenty. You are all children of one family, and have but one Father, who admonishes and orders you to live in unity and love each other. Let us now return to our village hand in hand rejoicing and carrying with us the presents of our elder brothers."

Mrs J. W. Strickland
Supervisor, Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Canvassers
Miss Mabel Calvin
Mrs. Elma Holloway

Historical Research Project
February-19-1937

Supervisor
Mrs. J.C. Hightower

SUBJECT:

Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, Antiques and Relics.

Assignment # 15

1. INTRODUCTORY:

The beautiful land of Chisca is submerged in a wealth of history, and in the very heart of this land is Chickasaw County; the pioneers settled here because it is a captivating country.

From cultured and aristocratic old South Carolina, came most of the distinguished families, who settled in Chickasaw County and built the delightful and beautiful old ante-bellum homes which are described in this manuscript. They were loyal Southerners to the core and all these Colonial homes have a distinctive and typical Southern air.

Some of the homes are truly beautiful and are described from a standpoint of beauty, others are both beautiful and historic, while some are described and mentioned from the standpoint of age alone. Yet there are others that cover all of these points. All in all, it seemed necessary to cover each of the homes named. The dates, owners, and history that have been given, are to the best of the knowledge of Interviewers, correct. Some are definite, some are approximately so, and it is hoped that the people who read this history will have a picture of these old homes, mellow with touch of the fingers of time, which seemed to whisper of beautiful and hallowed yesterdays.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Canvassers
Miss Mabel Calvin
Mrs. Elma Holloway

Historical Research Project
February-19-1937

Supervisor
Mrs. J.C. Hightower

SUBJECT:

OLD HOMES

Assignment #15

11. THE OLD HOME:

The old Moore Home, built by Mr. Lewis Moore, who was born in Georgia, in 1803, and became a resident of Chickasaw County in 1840, buying three sections of land, was built in 1845.

It is a two-story structure, and since the original porch and columns have been replaced by a new one, it doesn't resemble a Colonial home very much.

This house is located about eight miles north of Houston on Highway fifteen, and is about two hundred yards off the Highway on the right hand side of the road.

The date, 1845 and the name of the owner is written in the plaster, in one of the rooms.

Downstairs there are four rooms, twenty feet square, and a large hall about forty feet long and fourteen feet wide runs through the middle of the house, while upstairs there are two rooms and a hall of the same dimentions except the hall is only twenty feet long.

The house is built of Poplar and nailed with square nails. The ceilings are plastered to within thirty inches of the floor, where the walls are finished with a paneled base. This base is stained with Mahogany varnish but badly worn.

The original Venetian blinds are still in use on the front windows.

The dining room and kitchen was built nearly one hundred yards behind the house, they are forty feet long, twenty feet wide and nicely plastered. Re-

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment #15

11. THE OLD HOME: (continued)

cently this has been moved to the house and attached as an ell.

A wash pan made of beaten lead has recently been plowed up in a field behind the house. It is a rather crude, hand made article, and it was filled with bones. It is thought that it is a relic of an Indian Mound and buried there many, many years ago.

Here, Colonel J.H. Moore who commanded Company H, Eleventh Mississippi Infantry, and was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg, and G.C. Moore, first Lieutenant of Company D., Fourth Confederate regiment, were born and reared, they, being the sons of Lewis Moore.

The Moore Cemetery and also a cemetery for the slaves, are located not far from the back yard.

The present condition of the home is good, but badly worn and in need of paint. Some of the plaster has fallen from the ceiling.

Rush H. Knox of Jackson, Mississippi is the present owner, and a family by the name of West, occupies the house.

The Lowry Home:

An old antebellum home built by a Mr. Staggs for Reverend Thomas Lowry, before the Civil War, is about four miles south of Houston, about one mile off Highway fifteen on a local county road.

It is a two-story structure, and bears the stamp of pre-war days. The exact date is not known by the family. A porch extending all the way across the front of the house both upstairs and downstairs adds lots to this rambling old house.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment #15

The Lowry Home: (continued)

The unusual feature of this old house is that instead of exceedingly high walls, as most of the pre-war homes had, the walls of this house were only eight feet. The main body of the house stands as originally built, upstairs and downstairs. It is made of hand hewed logs, weather boarded on the outside and ceiled on the inside, and at present papered.

Some of the material was sawed by a whip saw. There are two large rooms, two small rooms, a hall and a kitchen down stairs, and two large bed rooms upstairs. Mrs. Lowry has had the walls of the original rooms raised to nine and one half feet, and the others to eleven feet.

The sleepers of the house were hewed out of lumber in the woods near by and some of the bark is still on the sleepers.

The house has a chimney at each end of the house. It is painted white and is well preserved.

Mrs. Lowry has an old Secretary that is over a hundred years old. An old rocking chair with a horse hair back, and a plain straight chair made of hickory, both still in use, more than two hundred years old. They were made in South Carolina by some of Mrs. Lowry's people and have been handed down to her.

Mrs. Lowry until recently had a paper, belonging to John Lowry who was a great grandfather of Thomas and T.J. Lowry of Houston, and it is his commission as Lieutenant during the War of 1812. It has this date on it and the seal.

Mrs. Lizzie Lowry is the present owner and lives alone in this historical old home.

There is a beautiful box wood hedge bordering the walk on the front, eight of these are as old as the house.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment #15

The Old Johnson Home:

The home of Mrs. Betty Carter, seven miles north of Houston on Highway fifteen, was built by her father, D.S. Johnson, who came from South Carolina and bought the land from Charlie Gates.

It is a large two-story house, with all the walls plastered and also high, as was characteristic of most all ante bellum homes. The long porch is supported by six square columns, eighteen feet high and surrounded by four foot bannisters.

Opening from this porch is a long hall sixteen by thirty by eighteen feet. A long stairway in this hall leads up to two large rooms eighteen by twenty feet.

Downstairs on each side of the hall in front are large rooms with enormous fireplaces. In the back are two smaller bedrooms, and adjoining the hall in the back is a porch leading to the dining room.

All the doors and mantels in the house are hand carved and are of excellent workmanship.

The house was built from trees, cut from the immediate vicinity of the house. Th e lumber was cut with a rip-saw. This was done by slaves. The men did the sawing and the women planed the lumber with hand planes. This house was built four years before the Civil War.

Except for an additional two rooms, a new roof and occasional paintings, it stands as originally built.

Mrs. Carter relates this Civil War experience of her mother. At one time, when the Federals were raiding that part of the county, they came through and stopped at her house. After eating all they could find, and confiscating all that they wanted for themselves, they took all the dresser drawers out into the

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment #15

The Old Johnson Home: (continued)

yard and fed the horses in them. Mrs. Carter is using the dressers today and the marks of the horses' teeth can plainly be seen on the drawers.

Mrs. Carter has a lovely old piano, which was bought for a cousin of Mrs. Carters; Molly Hamilton. It was purchased from a Northern Company, and at the time the Civil War began, it was not paid for. A representative of the Company came in a wagon to reclaim it but Molly's father would not give it up. Later the Yankees tried to take it, but Major Tom Hamilton, an uncle of Molly's paid for it and they passed on. It is believed by the family that the Yankees had instructions from the piano Company to do this.

Mr. Daniel Johnson, Mrs. Carter's father was a very progressive citizen. He was a staunch supporter of schools and churches. He was a member of the Ridge School Board from the time of its organization, and was a steward in the Wesley Chapel Church for over a quarter of a century.

This Home is in a splendid state of preservation, and is surrounded by enormous oak trees, some of which are by actual measurement twenty-three feet in circumference. It is now owned by Mrs. Betty Johnson Carter.

Chandler Home:

The home of Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Chandler of Okolona, Mississippi was originally a four room log house. In 1869, Colonel James R. Mc Intosh purchased the home and had it remodeled by architects, Bodenhammer and Bolinger. It is a Colonial home and typically Southern. Originally there was a large ball room added by the Mc Intoshes, but this has been made into two rooms by the Chandlers.

This house is situated in a large oak grove and is back off the street. The front porch is supported by large columns that extend to the roof. The interior carries out the Colonial or old Southern mode, that of large rooms and

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

Chandler Home : (continued)

high ceilings. The exterior with its large windows, its roof and ante-bellum appearance makes it one of the town's most imposing dwellings. This home has been remodeled to a great extent but on the south side there are two rooms, just as they were when they were first built. They were built of logs.

The entrance to this grand old home stands hospitably open, and one enters to surrender unconditionally to the charms of the place.

Mrs. Chandler has quite a few antiques, an iron urn, used in the first drug store of Okolona to make pills in. This urn is over one hundred years old and is hand-made.

Among the other antiques is a Mahogany what-not table that is one hundred years old, two chairs, seventy-five years old, two marble top tables, seventy-five years old, a large china platter,one hundred years old. The antiques were handed down by her mother, Mrs. Knox.

The Waldrop Home:

The Waldrop Home on Highway fifteen, located two and one half miles north of Houston, was built by Mr. Adam Kerr Craig, a grandfather of Mr. Frank Waldrop who lives near this old home. He moved here from Georgia in a covered wagon, and bought a tract of land from the Indians.

Originally it was a story and a half, and there is only one room and a hall that stands as originally built. It was built in 1833. The original home was built of hand hewed logs and lumber sawed with a whip-saw. The frame was morticed together, and the nails used were squ are. The beams, sills etc. are of oak, the ceilings of poplar and the floors of white pine. This is still in

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Waldrop Home : (continued)

good condition. The chimneys are made of brick that were made of clay, from that farm. Some of the land was cultivated by the Indians and it is still very productive.

There is a well in the yard that was drilled before the Civil War. It is one hundred and thirty five feet deep and the water is excellent.

Mr. Frank Waldrop, a son, owns the place now, and Mr. Pascal Alexander Jr. lives in the house.

The Marion Home :

The Marion Home, located about four miles south east of Houlka, on the Houlka and Van Vleet road, was built for Judge J. Stein, by Mr. Johnnie Boyd.

It has been a lovely home. A two-story model and Colonial in appearance. The portico is hand carved and very attractive.

There are four big rooms down stairs, two on each side of a narrow hall. A straight stairway leading upstairs from the front of the hall, located just beyond the door leading into the room on the right. The upper story is of the same proportions as the lower story.

The floors are made of wide six inch lumber and the walls and ceilings are made from the same lumber. It stands as originally built in 1838.

In the yard is a box wood hedge th at was put out before the house was completed.

In this home is an old antique maple table made by Miss Carrie Marion's grandfather, Thomas J. Stein. The date is not known, but her grandfather has been dead one hundred years. The table has one large drawer and handsome hand turned legs.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Marion Home : (continued)

The house is in a good state of preservation, and is now owned by Miss Carrie Marion.

The Berry Place :

The Berry Place, located about four miles west of Houlka, has an interesting history. It was built by Mr. Mitchell Hutchins. The house is built of pine logs, gotten off the place hand hewed with an ax. Two rooms still stand as originally built. A small room has been added on the back, and a new tin roof has been put on.

The trees were hewed, notched and put together with wooden pegs, into rooms sixteen feet square. Some of the logs are eighteen inches wide. The floors are made of hand hewed logs, called punchings and are beautifully white.

Judge Almus Green was living in this house just previous to the Civil War and it was here that the recruits met and enlisted for service in the Civil War. He organized a company of Confederate soldiers in this house.

The house is as solid and substantial as ever and will no doubt weather many more years.

After the War, the place was bought by Mr. Marshall Berry, who lived there more than fifty years.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Brownlee Home:

This lovely ante-bellum home is located ten miles south east of Houston, near Sparta. It is probably the most elaborate and best preserved old home in Chickasaw county. The present owner believes it to be at least one hundred and fifty years old, though no definite date of its erection could be learned.

This lovely and elegant home was built by Milton Brownlee, one of the very oldest settlers in that part of the county. He bought and cleared several hundred acres of land.

It varies some from the typical ante-bellum style as it is a one story building and is a box like structure. It might be classed semi-colonial but typically Southern with a southern atmosphere.

This home is a wooden building, painted white, with a small potico on the front supported by four immense pillars in groups of two, giving an outward appearance from a distance, of one huge pillar on each side. The front steps are of concrete.

On entering this home, one is immediately impressed with the huge collumns on the front. The portico is about eight feet wide.

Immediately beyond, there is another porch, screened, and furnished with comfortable chairs and an old fashioned lounge. Entering into the living room from this sun-porch and then into the bed rooms, one is still more amazed at the extraordinarily high ceilings, doors and windows. The walls are sixteen feet high, and the doors and windows are eight feet high. The doors are four feet wide, the first impression would be that they were doubled.

The walls are plastered and painted snowy white, with a thirty inch paneled base at the bottom and at the top, of dark oak.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Brownlee Home: (continued)

The high, mirrored, paneled mantels are also of dark oak. The ceiling is white and is made of regular four inch wide ceiling. Thus a brown and white color scheme stands out prominently, giving the whole house a delightful air.

There are nine rooms, some of them being eighteen by twenty feet, while the others are some smaller. The inside of the house has been remodeled and redecorated, but stands as it was originally built. It is made of heart pine lumber, band-sawed with a pit saw.

There is a fancy woodwork border which extends completely around the house just below the shingle roof. The portico is gabled. There is a concrete walk leading from the gate to the steps. The house is situated off the road about half a mile and there are about a dozen stately oaks that surround the premises. In the back yard there are many immense Crepe Myrtle and China berry trees.

Behind the house, there still stands the smoke house used by the Confederate Government during the Civil War. In the front yard are many Spireas nestled against the house, and a Juniper tree which stands out conspicuously in the center of the yard on the right hand side gives it an air of distinction.

Immense bed of Jonquils abound every where outside the yard in the grove, which is not too shaded for them to thrive.

Just east of the house also ran an old stage coach route. Part of the old road bed is still there.

A unique feature of this house is a small oblong room with each end gabled. This room is six by eight by five feet, walled up completely and covered with a shingle roof with the same decoration as the main part of the house.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Brownlee Home: (continued)

It is placed directly on top of the house and at one time there was a six by eight foot fish pond up on the top of the house, and this little gabled room was built over this cavity in the roof. It is very unusual looking.

Tradition has it that this house was at one time haunted. Every night after the occupants retired, it would enter the front door, come on through the house and into a closet at the back. It could not be seen or heard, only felt, and it never opened a door.

Across the hill from the Brownlee house there was a house to which this same ghost went from the Brownlee home, and it always left the doors open in this home.

The condition of the Brownlee home is remarkable. It is a beautiful home. Mr. John T. Brogan who is seventy-five years old owns the home. He has owned the home with eight hundred acres of land for forty years. At his death it will go to his son, Henry T. Brogan.

The Crosthwait Home:

The old Crosthwaite home, located seven miles south of Houston on Highway number fifteen was built a short time before the Civil War by a man named Wesley Norman.

The two large rooms with an open hall between, and an ell at the back of one room are made of hand hewed Sycamore logs. The rooms are unusually large, being about eighteen by twenty feet, and have floors and ceilings made of six inch planks as is usual in houses of this age and type.

The two chimneys are at the end of each of the large rooms and have huge fire places.

In front of the house there was once a large Indian Mound, but time and

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Crosthwait Home: (continued)

rain have gradually worn it down until the mound is hardly noticeable. In 1884, this place was bought by Mr. J.M. Crosthwait who planted shrubbery on the mound with the idea that he and his family would be buried there. However he changed his mind about this before he died and was not buried there. According to Mrs. J.C. Beasley, County Superintendent of Education and granddaughter of Mr. Crosthwait, this mound constituted a playground for the children of the community. Many Indian relics, jewelry, arrow-heads, pieces of pottery, etc. were found here.

A grandson of Mr. Crosthwait is a noted surgeon and brain and nerve specialist in Waco, Texas. He is W.L. Crosthwait and is author of several books on surgery.

Mr. J.P. Crosthwait of Woodland, Mississippi, grandson of the late Mr. J.M. Crosthwait, has two old corded beds that were used in this home. They are the four poster type and are hand-made of walnut.

Mrs. Beasley has a Bible that was brought from England by her Grandfather's family in 1828.

This house is still in a good state of preservation and is now owned by Mr. A.M. Harley, a banker of Houston, Mississippi.

Isbell Home:

Th e Isbell Home is about four miles north of Houlka. It was built in the earliest days of the county, by the County Line Methodist denomination, as

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

Isbell Home: (continued)

it was originally the Old County Line Methodist Church. Nothing definite could be obtained as to its age except that it is one of the oldest buildings in the county. This was a central point for worship among the pioneers of Chickasaw county, and some of the ablest ministers have served as pastors of this church. Among them were; R.G. Porter, Amos Kendall, and T.Y. Ramsey.

After this building was abandoned as a church, it was bought by Mrs. Sara Isbell, and converted into a home. Fou r large rooms were made with an open hall between. These rooms are ceiled with six inch lumber and the walls are papered and based with a two foot panel base.

This is just an ordinary farm house now, but due to the fact that it is so old, it deserves to be mentioned among the ante-bellum homes.

It is still in a good state of preservation and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Holliday.

The Carlysle Home:

The Carlysle Home was built by Mr. Newt Gates, son of Charlie Gates, who was a pioneer settler of the county, and one of its richest men as well.

This lovely home is located one half mile west of Egypt. It was originally a one-story home, but in 1897 it was bought by Adam Carlysle, who added an elaborate upper story, consequently the description will be of the house as a whole, and as it appears now.

One approaches the house from the south side, and the first thought is " Look at the Gables ". There are four gabled or dormer windows. Then coming

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

Carlysle Home: (continued)

to the front of the house there are four dormer windows across the front, and a double door with a small gabled balcony in the center. The other side and back of the house are composed of seven dormer windows. A large chimney is at the end of the south side, and two chimneys are at the end on the north side.

The outer wall of the upper story is built of shingles cut in a fancy and unusual shape, and put on to form a diamond. Thus the wall is completely made of diamonds.

A large porch extends across the front downstairs and half around the south side of the house. The house and porch has a shingle roof. There is a fancy border around the porch in spool effect, and the columns are small with triangular pieces of lacy wood-work inserted on each side at the top.

Upon entering through the large double, front doors, one is impressed with the immense hall. It is about twenty five feet long and sixteen feet wide. There is a partition in the hall made of beautiful oak grill work, from which hangs heavy green damask curtains. The back hall is now used for a dining room. The walls of both halls are plastered and in excellent condition.

Leading upstairs from the front hall on the left hand side is a beautiful oak winding stairway. It is very elaborate, and the only one that has been located in this county.

Going into the parlor, the first thing one notices is the enormous folding doors, opening into a bedroom. Each door is at least five feet wide, and ten feet high making a big square. They are of oak, all the woodwork is of highly polished oak. The windows are also ten feet high and have eighteen panes to the window. The walls are sixteen feet high and the rooms are twenty feet

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Carlysle Home: (continued)

square. All the walls are plastered but most of them have been Kalsomined some delicate shade, most of them being a delicate pink and some of them ivory. As is usual each wall is based with a thirty inch paneled base.

This house is built of pine, morticed and pegged together. An unusual feature of the house originally was the fish pond on top of the house. It was concreted, and was twenty feet square. An interview with old uncle Kale Gates, who was a slave in the Gates family says that only the girls in the home and their visitors used this. Uncle Kale also said that Mr. Gates was a very rich man, owning near a thousand slaves and had extremely luxurious habits and tastes, and that each member of the family had their individual maids and valets.

Mrs. George Pilgrene who owns some of the Gates property says that one could travel from Buena Vista to Aberdeen in those days and still be on the Gates property.

They owned a large general store where everything was sold from drygoods to wagons and farm implements.

Dr. Tom Gates was the doctor for the whole countryside.

During the Civil War the Yankees destroyed most every thing Mr. Gates had and after the War, the family had to start life all over again.

Mr. Newt Gates lived luxuriously and Uncle Kale says that he would get drunk and ride his horse home and into the parlor. In 1897 he lost the beautiful home and Mr. Adam Carlysle bought it and lived there until his death several years ago.

The condition of the home is splendid. It is well taken care of by Mr. Jim Thompson and family who now occupy the house. This home is located in a

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Carlysle Home: (continued)

large grove of cedar trees, oaks and one large pine which was planted by the original owner and stands in the front yard.

The Wyne Buchanan Home:

The Wyne Buchanan Home was built about 1838, by David Griffin, who came to the county in 1836. Mr. Griffin was a man of means and took an active part in the political and religious affairs of the county.

The house is located three miles north east of Houston, on what was known as the old Umberson road. It is a one and one half story house. There are two large rooms eighteen by twenty feet, and a hall downstairs. Two unfinished rooms upstairs, as originally built. But another large room and two side rooms have been added since the h ouse was built in 1838. The original rooms have huge fireplaces, and unlike most of the ante-bellum houses it has low walls, only eight feet high. They are built of hand hewed pine logs, pegged and morticed together.

This place was once used as a convict farm. At that time it was owned by Wyne Buchanan. The prison camps were near the house, but none of the buildings are standing now. It is said that Mr. Buchanan was very cruel to the convicts, he, having killed two or three negroes.

About three hundred yards in front of this house is a small pond and it is exceedingly low and wet around the place. Will'o- the - Wisps or ignes fatui, at one time were commonly seen in this hollow, and the old negroes believed it to be a ghost, coming back to haunt Mr. Buchanan for his cruel treatment of the negroes. This light is rarely seen now and the superstition has almost been forgotten.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Wyne Buchanan Home: (continued)

The unusual feature about this house is, that the foundation is made of logs eighty feet long.

During the Civil War, some wounded Yankee soldiers took refuge in this house and the bloodstains are still visible upstairs.

Mr. R.M. Peden, a grandson of David Griffin, the man who built the home, owned it for years, but now it is owned by Mr. Roy Woodruff.

The Reuben Davis Home:

The home of Mr. Reuben Davis, who is the oldest man in Chickasaw County, is located in Houston, and was built nearly one hundred years ago, by a Mr. Johnson. Mr. Davis does not know anything about the history of his home, and remembers having been told this by Captain J.M. Griffin, who until his death one year ago, was a citizen of Houston.

The house has changed hands several times. At one time it belonged to the Tabb family, who have always been prominent people of Chickasaw County. Then Mr. B.M. Smith's father, Captain J.D. Smith who served in the Civil War bought it, and then it passed into the hands of Mr. Reuben Davis.

The home has been remodeled and one would hardly believe it to have stood for a century. The house is built of pine, hand sawed with a whip-saw, pegged and morticed together and is a story and a half, painted white and is styled as a Colonial home, it is built very much like all the old Southern homes of that period.

Downstairs, there are two large rooms and a hall standing as originally built. In the ceilings can be seen the square nail heads. These rooms are about

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Reuben Davis Home: (continued)

eighteen by twenty feet and ceiled and floored with six inch lumber. The rooms upstairs are of the same type and dimensions. Four rooms and a back porch have been added to the house downstairs.

On one of the highest hills in Houston, this home stands perfectly preserved, and is surrounded by beautiful big oaks, cedar trees and an abundance of shrubbery, box hedge and crepe myrtle.

The Delashment Home:

The old Delashment place is located about two miles north of Old Houlka, or abou t twelve miles north of Houston.

This old ante-bellum home was built about 1840. It is a one and one half story box like building, made of heart pine. It was hand-sawed, planed, and sawed with a whip-saw, mortised and pegged together.

There are two rooms twenty feet square on the front, separated by a closed hall, thirty by sixteen feet. In these two rooms there is an enormous fireplace six feet wide, with carved mahogany mantels. Directly behind these rooms, there are two rooms twenty by ten feet. Each of these rooms had fireplaces of the same dimensions as the large rooms. There are two stack chimneys made of brick and these brick were made from the clay on the place and the chimneys are four feet wide. Very unusual, in fact the largest that were found in this county.

There are two large rooms upstairs of the same dimension as those down stairs, twenty feet square, and a hall twenty by sixteen feet. All the walls are plastered, however some of the plastering has fallen. Around each room there is a paneled and much worn mahogany base thirty inches wide.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Delashment Home: (continued)

This house is supported by immense brick pillars three feet square. There is a front porch that extends all the way across the front, it is plastered overhead and is supported by six huge solid wooden columns.

The old Delashment family cemetery is located a short distance from the house on the south side in the garden of the present owner. On some of the tombs are the following dates; 1876, 1897, 1898, and 1889.

The present condition of the home is fairly good, and the present owners are Dewey Gordon and his sister a Mrs. Johnson.

The Gilliam Hobson Home:

The old Gilliam Hobson Home was built before the Civil War, the exact date is not known. It was built by Gilliam Hobson and is located on Highway fifteen, about one mile north of Old Houlka, or eleven miles north of Houston.

It is a Colonial one story and a half. The lumber was hand-sawed and hand-planed. Downstairs there are four rooms, one of which is plastered, the others ceiled with wide ceiling. The floors are all made from the same six inch lumber, some of it wider. It is eight inch flooring. There are two large rooms upstairs. The rooms are sixteen by eighteen feet, there is no hall between, there are two entrances from the porch. There is a porch across the entire front, and an unusual feature is that it is plastered instead of being ceiled. The six huge columns which support the porch are solid and were hand-sawed and hand-planed. The house is painted white, with unusually large windows and doors.

Four Confederate soldiers, sons of Gilliam Hobson, went out from this home to fight for the lost cause; two were with the Chickasaw Guards, and two were with the Forrest Cavalry.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Gilliam Hobson Home: (continued)

A relative of this family relates an interesting incident happening in this home during the Civil War. A Yankee Garrison stopped at the Hobson home and asked Mrs. Hobson for some milk. She went into the spring house to get it, and suddenly one of the soldiers stepped up and began to drink out of the pan, this made Mrs. Hobson angry, she threw the milk from the pan onto the ground and remarked, " Lap it up as dogs should do."

This house is in a good state of preservation and is now owned by Mr. Firman Harris.

Dr. Hal Green Home:

This ante-bellum home is located on Prairie Street in Okolona, Mississippi. It was built by Mr. W.G. Mabry, Sr., of Okolona, for Mr. Neal Bartee of Columbus, Mississippi, who in turn presented it to Dr. Hal Green and Frances Wade Bartee Green as a wedding present. It was built in 1850. Originally it was a one story structure. It was in this home that Mrs. Mary Green Abbott of Okolona was born.

Dr. Green sold his home to Mr. Pinkney Herndon of Okolona for four thousand dollars and Mr. Herndon paid for it in Confederate money. Of course Dr. Green did not realize a cent from this sale as Confederate money was worthless.

Thomas J. Buchanan, Sr. bought the house in 1868 and added the second story, its unusual features being the mansard roof and dormer windows. The second story was made of lumber, and Mr. W.G. Mabry, Sr., of Okolona, built it.

Years later Mr. Julius Rubel bought this home and changed the second story to brick. The house consists of six rooms downstairs with two parlors, a hall and a dining room connected with grilled archways between. The library

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

Dr. Hal Green Home: (continued)

is back of the north parlor, but there is an entry to the library from the hall. Upstairs there are five bed rooms and a bath. The house is steam heated and is beautifully furnished.

Mr. Julius Rubel, willed this home to his daughter, Mrs. Lotta Kahn, who now owns the place.

The J.M. Griffin Home:

The home of the late Captain J.M. Griffin is located in Houston. It is not known who built this home, but it was built before the Civil War, and has been owned by Captain Steele and General W.F. Tucker who fought in the Civil War.

The type of this home is different from the usual type of ante-bellum days. It is a large two-story framed building of pleasant proportions and has a typical Southern air. On both the lower and upper floor a wide hall extends the lenfth of the house. The lower floor on the north side contains the parlor, dining room and kitchen. On the south side there are two large bed rooms. The upper floor has the same floor plan. There are three brick chimneys with two large fireplaces upstairs and three downstairs. Most of the walls of this home are papered, however some of them are ceiled with six inch lumber, and floored with the same width of lumber.

There is a long porch extending the full width of the house across the front, upstairs and downstairs. The posts are small. A new roof has been put on and it has been slightly remodeled.

This home is surrounded by large oak trees and a beautiful grove of oaks stand in front of the house, and are enclosed with an eight inch plank fence

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

(continued)

The J.M. Griffin Home:

which is painted white and is characteristic of the big farm and plantation houses in the South. The trees in this grove were planted by a Confederate soldier during the War between the states and the Griffin home is one of the show places of Houston.

Captain Griffin served the entire four years in the Civil War and had an illustrious record. He was wounded and lost a leg in the Battle of Gettysburg during the war. He was with the Chickasaw Guards under General W.F. Tucker. He enlisted in Company H. 11th, Mississippi Regiment in 1861. Captain Griffin died in November of 1935, but was a citizen of Houston eighty seven years, dying at the age of ninety three years.

The home is in an excellent state of preservation and is now owned by Captain Griffin's widow, Mrs. Emma Griffin.

The Old Elliott Home:

The Elliott home is located in Okolona, on Church Street. Its architecture is typically ante-bellum. The construction of the house was started by Judge Ivy and finished by a Mr. Sheppard before the Civil War.

The framework is of solid oak. The logs were hand-hewed, mortised and pinned together. It consists of five large rooms and a closed hall downstairs. The kitchen sits off from the main part of the house. There are three large rooms and a hall upstairs. All the walls are plastered and are very high. The wood work being of oak.

There is a portico on the front supported by four immense columns that extend to the gabled roof. In front of the hall door upstairs there is a small suspended banistered balcony.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Old Elliott Home: (continued)

The house is unusual looking, due to the fact that it is built solidly from the ground. It is not bricked up, neither do the pillars show. The porch and floors practically rest on the ground.

During the Civil War General Forrest was brought to this home when he was wounded in battle, and nursed back to health. General Forrest visited in this home shortly after the War between the states. As he had charge of building a rail road from Okolona to Aberdeen, and Colonel Dobbs had charge of the work and lived in the Elliott home, so when General Forrest came to Okolona to inspect the work, he stopped with Colonel Dobbs.

About 1863, in front of this house, Miss Henrietta Morton overheard a negro giving the Yankee soldiers the direction in which the Confederates went. She had her pistol with her and shot the negro. Miss Morton married Captain Edgar S. Elliott after the war.

The condition of the home is good but looks old and weather beaten from the outside. It is now owned by the widow of Doctor J.F. Donaldson.

The Old Taft Home:

About two miles north of Buena Vista there stands the ruins of a house that once knew the voice of some of the most prominent people throughout the county.

It was built by Tom Buchanan, about 1850. Several years previous, Tom Buchanan's father, Joe Buchanan, had emigrated from South Carolina and settled about four miles east of Houston. Tom Buchanan came to Chickasaw county after his father, Joe Buchanan had settled here.

Chickasaw County

Assignment # 15

The Old Taft Home: (continued)

One day, Joe Buchanan heard a horn blowing in a far distance, and remarked to those about him, " Thats Tommie." Consequently he sent a negro runner out in that direction, the negro and Tom Buchanan met near Old Houlka, at least twelve miles distant on a straight line, and the way the road runs now it is at least eighteen miles.

A short time later, Tom Buchanan began the erection of his house, which was an exact replica of his father's home. It was located eight miles east of his father's place.

It is a one and one half story house, Colonial style. Originally there were two rooms and a wide hall between downstairs, and the same floor plan upstairs. These rooms are eighteen by twenty feet, with a fourteen foot wall, and ten foot windows and doors. Only remanants of the once handsome plastering remains.

The old stairway is too dangerous to ascend now. The kitchen, which stood nearly a hundred feet behind the house, according to some of the old negroes who live nearby, has been torn away and a three room ell which replaced it, is now there. A side room, added at the time the ell was built has been torn away. There are six large fireplaces in this old home.

All the lumber in this home was hand-hewed and hand-planed by the Buchanan slaves from poplar logs. A front porch, having huge box-like columns, which are solid, extends across the entire front of the house.

At one time, there was a large oak grove in front of this house, but only half a dozen of these fine old oaks have survived.

Mr. Buchanan was well educated and was a lawyer, he finall y moved to Okolona, in order to more firmly establish his practice.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Old Taft Home:- (continued)

A Mr. Taft from the north, bought this old home and he and his wife moved South. Although he was reputedly a very wealthy man, he and his wife lived in seclusion, until they both died.

The home is almost beyond repair now, and is occupied by negroes. Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr. recently bought this place from the State of Mississippi, as it had gone back to the state for its taxes.

General Tucker Home:

On the outskirts of Okolona, on Highway forty one, will be seen the ruins of the old ante-bellum home of General W.F. Tucker. It has decayed and fallen down, until there are only three rooms left and they are badly dilapidated.

The date of its erection was not learned but it is thought a Mr. Thompson built it as General Tucker bought it from a Mr. Thompson. Originally, this was a Colonial type home. There were six rooms, (extra large ones) with plastered walls and a large front porch extending across the front of the house, with huge columns.

Behind the house, there is a brick walled cistern, which is as old as the house.

The room in which General Tucker was shot is still there, it being a south east corner room. The window through which the shot went is facing the east. The bullet hole is still there. There is also an old framed daguerreotype of some member of the Tucker family still hanging over the mantel.

Nine cedar trees, the remains of the cedar grove that stood in front of the house, still stand.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

General Tucker Home: (continued)

This once fine old home is in ruins now. It is owned by a negro, Mannie Logan. Judging from the rambling conversation that was had with this Mannie Logan , he has inherited the place. Although he could not tell so very much about it, but evidently he is a descendant from some family of slaves that used to live on the place before or about the time of the Civil War.

The Old Tucker Home:

The old Tucker home, located one mile north of Okolona on Highway twenty three, was built in 1870, and christened " Twin Oaks ", because there were two large oaks in front of the house. The house standing on this lot before the Civil War was burned by the Federals, because they found some Confederate uniforms while pilfering the house. This house belonged to Col. Henry Lee Shackleford, but in the property division at his death, it fell to his daughter, Mrs. W.F. Tucker. Consequently, after the war, General Tucker replaced the house with a beautiful two-story frame building, whose style of architecture is Gothic.

The unique feature of the house is the fifteen gabled roof. On the front there are four gables containing one window each, and one gable containing two windows. The windows are pointed at the top and contain pointed panes. A small portico with four huge square columns is now decayed beyond repair, but one can imagine that it at one time greatly enhanced the beauty of the house. Several old cedars lend it a spookish air. On the two sides there are four gables, containing a window each, and two at the back.

Downstairs there are five large rooms, about sixteen by eighteen feet, with plastered walls. The plastering in the parlor is pink and was considered very fine at that time. Two stairways lead to the upper story, one from the

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Old Tucker Home: (continued)

back porch which led to the boys' quarters, and the other from the mother's room which led to the daughters' rooms. A descendant of this family says the stairs must have been arranged in this manner so that the parents could tell at what time the daughters came in at night.

Upstairs there are five rooms and two halls. The two rooms which the girls used are plastered, while the others are not finished inside. One room has six windows.

A brick structure which was used for the kitchen, still stands in the back yard about fifty feet from the house.

This old home is now in a rather dilapidated condition. When General Tucker ran for Congress he had to mortgage it, and it fell into the hands of people who either were not interested in keeping it repaired or have not had the money with which to do it.

Henry and Annie Dahmer own the place now.

The Ward Home:

The home of Mr. Lucian Ward and his sister, Miss Cora Ward, is said to be one of the oldest in Houston, though the date of its erection cannot be definitely established. It seems that no one in Houston knows very much about this house. Some say that it was built by C.C. Moore, while others say that Mr. Moore owned it before the Civil War, but that he did not have it built.

It is a large two-story Colonial house built of heart pine. Upstairs there are four rooms, seventeen feet square, and a hall twelve feet wide. And extending the length of two rooms, downstairs the floor plan is the same.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Ward Home: (continued)

In addition to this an eighteen by twenty foot ell, which is the bath and the kitchenette. Then there is a back and front porch. Originally there was a small portico on the front with balcony upstairs but this has been replaced by a larger porch but it does not extend all the way across the front of the house.

The rooms are ceiled and papered, and some of the floors are made of six inch flooring. One room has a cypress floor.

A beautiful hedge, which is allowed to grow about five feet high and kept nicely trimmed partially surrounds this house and gives it a very pretty setting.

Miss Cora Ward has an old lounge that belonged to her grandfather and is thought to be over one hundred years old.

The house is in good condition except some of the weather-boarding outside, and the owners plan to have it re-weatherboarded soon.

The Old Gordon Home:

The old Gordon home is located about four miles south east of Houston. It was built before the Civil War by Eli Gordon. This old home has the distinction of being the first frame house built in that part of the county. All of the others were made of logs.

This home is a plain, one and one half story Colonial Type house, having eight rooms. It is situated off the road about two hundred yards in an oak grove. Some of these old oaks are twenty feet in circumference. At le ast fifteen or twenty of these immense oaks still stand, and one imagines that there were at one time fifty or more.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Old Gordon Home: (continued)

An old-fashioned brick walk leads up to the door, bordered on each side by large box-wood hedges. They have been allowed to grow and they almost meet over the center of the walk.

A porch extends across the front of the house, supported by six medium size square columns. Upstairs there are four windows on the front, and then two windows and two doors on the front downstairs.

It is the second house of this type that has been found in Chickasaw county to be built without a hall. There are two rooms upstairs and six downstairs. The rooms are extremely large, being twenty feet square, and they have very wide fire places. There are two end chimneys of immense size. The rooms are papered and ceiled. The flooring is wide so is the ceiling. The windows and doors are of the wide and high type.

Mr. Gordon came from South Carolina and settled here. It was his intention to build a home like that of his father in South Carolina, which had three stories, but due to the fact that several high winds and small storms visited that community before the house was finished he only built it a story and a half .

Mrs. Pallium, a daughter of Mr. Eli Gordon, remembers that during the Civil War, her father, upon hearing that the Federal Soldiers were coming, loaded up his furniture, fine quilts, etc., also gathered up six or eight of his finest horses, and his wagons, buggies, surry etc. and started with them to the old Kilgore place, about seven miles south of there, for protection from the Federals. However, they overtook Mr. Gordon, and his negroes, and took everything they had. They captured Mr. Gordon and the negroes, but there was one

The Old Gordon Home: (continued)

that came back and informed the family what had taken place. Tom Gordon, a son of Eli Gordon served the whole time during the Civil War. Tom Gordon died in 1932 at the age of ninety one years.

All the furniture in this home was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Eli Gordon and some of it would be considered rare antiques.

There is an old carry-all in the barn lot, that was used by Mr. Gordon when he was in the saw mill bu siness. It looks like a two-wheeled wagon. The wheels are immense and are about five feet in diameter.

Mrs. Pulliam has a soild silver breast pin and a pair of solid silver ear-rings that her mother wore when she was married to Mr. Eli Gordon back in South Carolina.

This old home is in a fairly good state of preservation and is now owned by Mrs. Benjamin Pulliam and her brother, Mr. Quit Gordon.

The Old Bramlett Home:

About six miles north east of Okolona, on the Okolona and Pontotoc road stands a lovely old Colonial home with one hundred acres of land known as the Bramlett Place. It was built for the Bramletts, probably one hundred years ago. The exact date could not be obtained.

A tall two-story Colonial type, typical of ante-bellum days. There are five rooms down stairs with a short wide hall extending half way back. There are two rooms and a hall upstairs. The rooms are about eighteen feet square, except the parlor, it being about twenty by twenty five feet. The walls are twelve feet high. Windows and doors eight feet high. The back part of the house is of poplar and stands as originally built. The front is of oak, however new floors have been

The Old Bramlett Home: (continued)

put in. The walls were originally of plaster but have been covered with beaver-board. The walls wood-work and stairs have been stained a rose, making it very colorful.

Old-fashioned hanging lamps are suspended from the ceilings and we were informed that they were as old as the house.

The chimneys are at each end of the house and a stack chimney on the back. There are four huge fireplaces with exquisitely carved mantels in the two front rooms.

Th e extremely large window facings and casings are made of real walnut, as are the large double doors at the front entrance. A large portico extending to the roof and supported by huge hand-carved, solid, round wooden columns. These are considered very fine.

The house is about one hundred yards from the road. Leading to the house from the gate, is a shaded woodland path, planted directly in the center of an avenue of nineteen cedar trees. These trees are unusually large and fine. For about fifteen feet near the house, the cedars are alternated with box-wood hedge, from there to the gate they are alternated with forsythia. On each side of the grove, the lovely jonquils hold court, succeeding themselves each year. The jonquils are not set in any definite way. The ground is solidly covered almost to the gate on each side. At this time of the year, it is one solid mass of billoway, swaying, yellow blossoms from the forsythia and a solid yellow carpet with the blossoms of the jonquils, closely hugging the ground.

This lovely old home is in the Prairie Mount community, and is near the famous Littleberry Gilliam place. Littleberry Gilliam was the first settler anywhere around Okolona and played an important part in the early history of

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Old Bramlett Home: (continued)

Chickasaw County. During the Civil War he had breastworks thrown up around his farm, part of which is still there and can be seen from the Bramlett home. It was near the Bramlett home that the battle of Prairie Mount was fought, during the Civil War.

Mr. Bramlett lived in this lovely old home for many years, then moved with his family to Florida, selling his home to Mr. Henry Williams. Mr. Williams lived there for eighteen years and lost the place. It was then bought by a negro, Queenie Wheeler, who was a nursemaid in the Bramlett family, they having reared her from the time she was one year old. Queenie owns the place now, and takes great deal of pride in the old place.

There are hundreds of dollars worth of old farm machinery not usuable, left, decaying and rusting away.

An old farm bell is hanging in the back yard, Queenie did not know its age. There are things that cannot be described accurately and one must see this old home to appreciate its now fading beauty.

Aaron Turman Home:

The Turman home was originally the first private school building in the town of Houston. The date of its erection is not exactly known, but it is known to have existed before 1842.

Mrs. Aaron Turman of Houston had it built and conducted a private school there. There were very few pupils able to attend this school as tuition was so high.

To this house has been added several rooms, but the original room still stands and has been made into two rooms with a hall between. The original fire-

Chickasaw County

Assignment # 15

Aaron Turman Home: (continued)

place still is used. The house is hand-hewed, planed, pegged and mortised together. The walls were ceiled, but over-head was not.

Miss Hulda Lipsey who came to Houston from South Carolina with her parents in 1843 attended school in this building and her daughter, Miss Minnie Hall, now owns the place.

The late Captain J.M. Griffin, of Civil War fame and a noted Chickasaw countian, attended his first school in this building. He died in November, of 1935 at ninety three years of age.

The condition of these rooms is perfect, they are exactly as originally built, except that they have been ceiled and papered.

The Warren Harrill Home:

The Warren Harrill home was the first permanent home built at Old Houlka. It was built in 1837, of lumber cut by a whip-saw, by Oliver Williams, father of Dr. J. Rice Williams, of Houston, Mississippi.

Warren Harrill and his brother William Harrill bought three thousand acres of Indian land from Tun-hie-pa-ah under a government patent on January 25, 1836, where the present old and new town of Houlka stands.

This is a two-story, box-shaped house and originally had a small banistered portico with four square columns. A porch all across the front has replaced this portico, however.

Downstairs there is a hall and three rooms on the south side and two rooms with a hall between on the north side. The rooms are about sixteen feet and were at one time plastered. Now, however, they are papered. A plain stairway, with a closet under it, leads to one immense attic room upstairs.

(continued)

The Warren Harrill Home :

There are two unusual features about this home, a concrete cellar underneath and a fish pond in the roof. The fish pond has been covered up with a new roof, however.

The first store in this section of the county was operated in the front yard of this home, by the Harrill brothers.

This house is in an excellent state of preservation for its age and is now owned and inhabited by Mrs. J. Byars.

The Simpson Home:

This home is located on Church Street, Okolona, Mississippi. It was formerly owned by a Mr. Arnold. This old home is a one-story frame building, painted white with green trimming and stands as originally built.

A wide front porch extends across the width of the house. The floor plan provides a large hall, running the entire length of the house, a parlor, dining room, three bed rooms, kitchen and bath.

The house is built of heart pine and put together with wooden pegs. All the windows and door facings are handsomely hand-carved. The ceilings are high and the walls are papered.

Arborvitae and spirea outline the front porch in a stately and unbroken line. On the north side of the house is a long row of yellow jonquils.

In the first place the grounds as a whole, have been arranged in an informal style. A few of the original plantings of long ago have weathered conditions extremely well, and they give that desirable look of age, to this home. There are trees and shrubs that were planted later, while not so massive, tend to soften the lines, and their shadows lend a charming enchantment to the place, as they fall across the lawn.

The Simpson Home: (continued)

When we think of home as a haven, a shelter, a place of quiet rest and contentment, we immediately think of this old home.

Annie Marable Babbitt Home:

The Babbitt home is located on Church Street, Okolona, Mississippi. Mr. Pink Herndon was the builder. The house is a one-story frame building, built of heart pine lumber and is painted a light brown trimmed with a darker shade of brown.

There is a large gabled portico that extends probably twenty feet on the front. The posts are small and decorated with fancy design at the top on each side of posts.

A hall extends through the house, and divides the bed rooms from the parlor. dining room and kitchen. There are six rooms. The walls are twelve feet, high windows and doors, with mahogany wood-work throughout the house. Walls are papered.

This house was built in 1866. Forrest Cavalry drove the Federal Army down this street, north across this lot. A Federal officer was killed and his body placed under the large oak tree just off the drive way on the adjoining lot.

There is a beautiful garden surrounding this interesting old home. There are many old and stately trees on the lawn, and the foundation plantings have been growing just as they are for more than half a century.

Mrs. Annie Marable Babbitt, who is eighty six years of age is the present owner, she moved there January 1st, 1885, fifty two years ago.

The Old Captain Griffin Home:

This old ante-bellum home was built by Lon Taylor in 1842. Built of oak throughout. The lumber being hand hewed and hand-planed with the corners mortised

The Old Captain Griffin Home: (continued)

and pegged together. Mr. Taylor sold this house to Harry Smith, Mr. Smith sold it to Mr. S.T. Hall in 1874, and Mr. Hall in turn sold it to Captain J.M. Griffin several years later. Mr. Griffin lived here for a number of years and this is probably the reason for its being called the Griffin Home.

Originally, the house had four rooms and a hall downstairs, and two rooms and a hall upstairs. One room and the hall downstairs, have been converted into a living room in recent years, however, and a side room has been added.

The rooms are twenty foot rooms with huge fireplaces, and the ceilings are very high, as is typical of the majority of the old Colonial homes.

A small portico once adorned the front, but now there is a full-length porch across the house, both upstairs and downstairs.

This home is now owned and occupied by Mr. John Jensen and family. They are from Denmark, having come to Houston about twenty years ago.

Wes Pulliam Home:

The Wes Pulliam Home is located in Egypt, Chickasaw County. It is a frame building, one-story, and was built before the Civil War. The exact date was not obtainable. The front part of the house, that is, four rooms and a wide closed hall, stand as originally built, Mr. Pulliam was the owner. The flooring is made of wide six inch lumber, also the ceilings and walls, however the two front rooms are papered. Mahogany wood work is used in the original rooms, and though badly worn, it is still well preserved. The walls are twelve feet. The rooms are eighteen or twenty feet. A wide hall is between the rooms and runs the length of the house. Three rooms were added in later years.

Also a wide porch extends all the way across the front of the house and on

Wes Pulliam Home: (continued)

one side. The posts are small and a cut-work spool-like band effect borders the porch all around. The house is of heart pine and is painted white.

During the Civil War, a battle was fought at Egypt Station, in a field across the railroad from this old home, and it was used as a hospital. Even to this day, numerous minie balls are still found in this field and around near the field.

Mr. Whit Parchman from near Buena Vista, got both eyes shot out during this skirmish at Egypt Station.

Mr. Jim King, a prominent planter, and merchant now owns the home, and while not living there himself, it is well preserved. Mr. Earl Freeman and family occupy it.

The immense oaks that stand in front of the house are thought to be as old as the house.

The Griffin Brown Place:

In the western part of Chickasaw County, near Thorn, is the Griffin Brown place, which has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fed Saxon for fifty years, and is the oldest home in that part of the county. There isn't much one can say for the house but it does deserve mentioning.

It is about eighty years old, and was built of huge logs. The house has since been weather boarded outside, and ceiled inside, it does not have the appearance of an old, old house.

There are four rooms and an open hall, and is in a good state of preservation as it has been re-worked.

The Jim Wooldridge Old Home:

One mile northeast of Thorn stands the old Wooldridge place, which is about seventy years old. The house is bu ilt of poplar logs and stands as originally built even to the board roof except, that a one-room ell has been added.

Mr. Jim Wooldridge built the house. Two large rooms, an open hall and side room stand as originally built.

Mr. Wooldridge and his brother came here together from Lee County. Jim Wooldridge settling here, and his brother nearby. The brother's house has been torn away.

Mrs. Ida Wooldridge, who still lives here, remembers that there were several large Indian Mounds in front of their house when she and her husband settled here, but they have worn down, until they are hardly noticeable at all.

The Arch Houston Old Home:

The old Houston home, located just outside of the limits of the town of Houston on the east side, was built before the Civil War by W.M. Moffat.

It is an old one and one half story house, consisting of two large rooms and closed hall between with a side room behind the east room and a three room ell behind the west room. A long back porch extends across these three rooms; At the end of it is an old-fashioned cistern, which is so far as any one knows, as old as the house. The rooms are about eighteen by twenty feet with high ceilings, doors and windows. In each end of the house there are two chimneys with huge fireplaces.

Leading from the house there is an old-fashioned brick walk on either side of which are several old cedar trees, and also immense beds of white, pink, and blue hyacinths and yellow jonquils.

Several Yankee raids visited this house during the Civil War, and its

The Arch Houston Old Home: (continued)

walls have echoed with the cannons of Forrest's Cavalry as it passed on its way to Aberdeen and other points eastward. However, no serious damage was ever done here by the Federals.

Dr. J.W. Walker, of Houlka, Mississippi, age seventy eight and one of the oldest doctors in Chickasaw County was born in this home in 1859.

For many years this place was owned and occupied by Mr. Arch Houston and family and is now owned by his daughter Mrs. O.A. Alexander.

This home is in a good state of preservation considering its age.

The J.L.S. Hill Old Home:

This old, old home is located about five miles north of Houston just off Highway number fifteen. It was built for Mr. J.L.S. Hill, who came to Mississippi from South Carolina in 1840.

It is an old frame two-story building and has been a very palatial home. There are four large rooms down stairs about twenty by twenty-two, feet, with an unusually wide closed hall extending the length of the house. The stairs are on the right side of the hall and extend from the front entrance. It is a long stairway as the walls are sixteen feet high and the stairs are not at all straight. The top of the stairway extends almost to the back of the long hall.

The walls are plastered but great patches of plastering have fallen. The floors are made of six inch flooring. The windows are forty-five inches wide and ten feet high. So are the doors ten feet high. The front and back doors are double doors. The front porch has been torn away, as has the kitchen which stood out in the back yard at least one hundred yards from the house.

Nothing remains to show that there was once a beautiful Carriage House, which was as handsome as this palatial home, nor the fine barn which housed the

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The J.L.S. Hill Old Home: (continued)

many fine carriage and riding horses of this wealthy family.

The sills of this house are twelve inches square, hand-hewed, and made out of oak timber. The studs and grooving are mortised and pinned together.

Mr. Hill came to Mississippi in 1840 from South Carolina and at first built him a good three room log house, and lived there as a bachelor for awhile and then went back to South Carolina and married. Tradition has it that when he and his bride arrived in a stately carriage, she was so disappointed in her home (as she had come from a very wealthy family) she refused to get out of the carriage until he promised to build her a palatial home such as she had been accustomed to, as a result of this promise, this home was finished in 1858.

The Hills were very religiously inclined and it is said that their home was the home of the Methodist Preachers.

J.L.S. Hill was elected sheriff of Chickasaw County in 1875. Mr. Hill was also in business in Houston at one time, and the firm was known as Shell, Hill and Shell.

In 1892, Mr. Alexander, the father of Houston's efficient city clerk, moved into the Hill Home, with his large family of boys and girls, and for the next twenty years, this house and grounds was a gathering place for all young people far and near. During the summer it was one continued round of gaiety and past time for the young people.

The Hills, willed this home to a niece, Mrs. M.H. Chappman, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, with the understanding that it would never pass out of the family. Mrs. Chappman still owns it, but it is now occupied by negroes and is badly in need of repairs.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Abbott Old Home:

The Abbott home is located on Monroe Street, in Okolona, Mississippi, facing the east, with two entrances. It was built just at the close of the Civil War, for Doctor J.H. Green. Mr. Rodenhammer being the architect.

This home was built of heart pine, mortised and pegged together with wooden pegs. Originally, there were only six rooms, the second story having been added several years later.

Ceilings, windows and doors are of the high type, as was typical in those days. The walls are papered and the wood-work is of highly polished mahogany.

Downstairs we find a long hall extends through the house with the parlor, library, dinning room, breakfast room, and kitchen extending along on side of the hall. On the opposite side we find guest room, bedroom and bath, while upstairs are five bedrooms, sleeping porch and bath.

Five generations have lived in the Abbott home, and this home and grounds now comprises four acres. The type of this home is strictly Southern and the grounds are arranged to make it more so, the lawn is dotted with many large trees, and an outline of box-wood hedge is used; many shrubs of forsythia, flowering quince and japonicas set off the grounds to a good advantage.

This is the only home that maintains a service yard, it is well kept and very attractive with shrubs and flowers.

Mrs. Abbott has among her collection of antiques, a dinner gong that her father, Dr. Green, used during his life time.

Mrs. B.J. Abbott, now owns this home and it is one of the nicest homes in Okolona.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

Doctor Purky Old Home:

This old, old home is located on north Jackson Street, Houston, and is one of the very oldest houses in Houston. It was built by Dr. J.A. Purkey, who was an early settler and physician of Houston, before 1850.

The house probably stands just as it was built except papering and an occasional new roof. At any rate, as far back as people in Houston can remember, it has stood as it is.

It is Colonial Architecture, one and one half story type. The upper story has gabled banistered portico, while there is a front porch extending across the front downstairs with large white columns.

The house is painted white and faces the west. As one enters the house, there is a long hall extending through the house, with three rooms on each side of the hall. While there are two rooms and a short hall upstairs. The rooms are about fourteen by sixteen feet with a pretty sixteen inch base. These rooms are papered.

In the hall there is a pretty paneled wall effect in dark oak the height of the walls, just at the back of the stairs. The stairway is on the left side of the front entrance and the posts are handsomely carved.

The home has recently been partially destroyed by fire and has not been repaired. It is not occupied and is owned by Mrs. R.B. Wright, of Big Creek, Mississippi.

The Will David Parker Old Home:

In 1839, there came from South Carolina, three Buchanan Brothers, Joe, George, and Bill, who settled east of Houston, buying hundreds of acres of land from the Indians at twelve and one half cents per acre.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Will David Parker Old Home: (continued)

The house erected by Joe Buchanan was much more pretentious and more durably constructed than that of his brothers and is still standing, quietly, dignified and aloof from any other house in the community. It is located about five miles east of Houston and nearly half a mile off the local road, and is of the one and one half story Colonial type.

There are several large cedar and maple trees in the yard and numerous smaller cedars and various other trees outside. Looking toward the south, or from the si de of the house there is a very pretty view, there being a large fish pond, which is in an extremely low place, and a densely wooded hill-side leading upward from this pond. This must be a very pretty scene, indeed, in the early spring, with dogwood, redbud, and pussy willows blooming in profusion and the other trees just begining to burst forth with new leaves.

A large front porch, ten feet wide an extending the width of the house has taken the place of the pretty portico which the builder built to the house more for adornment than any thing else. However, this is the only change that has been made in the ninety six years that the house has been standing.

Downstairs there is a large hall, five rooms, and back porch. Two of these rooms are extremely large, being at least twenty by twenty two feet and have huge fireplaces and twenty four pane windows. The walls are about twelve feet high and ceiled with six inch lumber and painted. There is about a thirty inch paneled base. The plain walnut stairway has two landings and leads up to, two more huge, airy rooms. They are of the same dimensions, style, etc. as the rooms downstairs, except that the fireplaces are not as large. There is a hall between these spacious rooms.

The Will David Parker Old Home: (continued)

Under the house there is a dug cellar. Huge brick pillars support the house, which is made of heart pine. The timber was cut off the place and sawed with a whip-saw, drawn by a mule. There are still some large rocks, which were used in sawing the lumber, just north of the house where the lumber was made. The original roof was made of pine shingles but now there is a modern composition roof.

The original owner of this place seems to have been a wealthy man and a great sportsman. Mr. Reubin Davis, oldest citizen of the county remembers that he had a park, consisting of two or three hu ndred acres of land, fenced in and stocked with deer. The fence was built so that the tamed deer, inside, could not get out, but so that wild deer outside could get in. In this way when he killed a deer, hunting, others replaced it. Deer hunts and log rollings were his hobbies.

This house was once said to be haunted,but the present owner has lived there thirty years and said she has never seen or heard anything that she could not account for.

Miss Clara Parker, daughter of the late W.D. Parker, owns and occupies this place alone. She has a silver watch which her father, her father's brother, and their father used when each was married. She thinks it is about eighty years old. She also, has an old hand made safe which belonged to her great grandmother, Mrs. Martha Gibbs. It is believed to be near one hundred years old.

The Bill Buchanan Old Home:

The third Buchanan brother, Bill, settled nearer Houston than did his two brothers, and his house is still standing also. It is located about three miles east of Houston on Highway number eight on a high bluff, which is called

The Bill Buchanan Old Home: (continued)

the Buchanan hill, after him. This is an old log house, weatherboarded outside and ceiled inside. There are two large rooms about twenty feet square with high walls and enormous fireplaces, one of them being nearly eight feet wide. The floors and ceilings are of six inch planks. Behind these two rooms there are three smaller rooms.

Mr. Buchanan established a toll pike across Houlka Creek bottom, which is just below this house. The pike was built like a railroad trestle and was operated for a long time. Houlka Creek overflowed more often and much worse in those days than it does now, and for that reason the pike was built like a trestle.

During the Civil War the Yankees burned an old Gin House near this old home and also a huge old oak tree. Mrs. Leona Smith, age seventy nine, remembers that the old charred stump stood there for years afterwards.

Mr. Buchanan, had the misfortune of getting one of his lower limbs shot off above the knee in the Civil War.

This place is in a very good state of preservation considering its age and is now owned by Miss Clara Parker.

The William S. Bates Home:

The home of Mr. Bates Tabb was built in 1845 to 1850, by a contractor, named Keeney, though it is not known who the original owners were; Judge William S. Bates bought the place in 1861. It is a large and handsome Colonial home, with a large gabled portico and balcony on the front, supported by four huge carved columns, extending from the ground to the roof. Large bay windows also adorn the front. The house is painted white, and contains nine large rooms. The walls are very high and plastered. In one of these rooms is a built-in Cherry-wood clo-

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Judge William S. Bates Home: (continued)

set and two built-in bookcases of walnut.

This house is made of split lathes with real horse hair as a filler, which is much more durable than a fibrous filler. The lumber was sawed with a whip-saw and was hand-planed. The doors are of heart pine and are hand-made. Originally the house was covered with hand-made cypress shingles, but composition roofing has replaced that. There are three chimneys, which originally had huge fireplaces, but in recent years have been converted into grates.

This lovely old home was used as a camp and hospital by Grierson's Soldiers during his raid. (It was during this raid the Federals burned the Chickasaw County Records.) Some of the soldiers who were sick were left in this home. For many years meat stains could be seen on the floors, it having been done by these soldiers; Now however, the floors have been redone, and there is no trace of these spots.

The old servants' home and the kitchen are intact with a large fireplace and pot hooks, also some cooking vessels that were used in Slavery Times. Some of the vessels were stolen. The milk and well-house is nearby but are not in use any more. The house has been boarded up for protection.

Mr. Tabb relates the following story of his Grandfather's encounter with a squad of Federal Soldiers. The husband, William S. Bates, was with the Confederate Army at Mobile, Alabama, and Mrs. Bates, having heard that the Federals were coming sent all her treasures to the flatwoods (which lie west of Houston) by a negro, (this negro turned traitor and gave these treasures to the Yankees) and when the soldiers came, they rode into the yard without dismounting and tore the fence to the ground. One swarthy faced individual dismounted and went into

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

The Judge William S. Bates Home: (continued)

the house, Mrs. Bates met him at the door and told him that she and her twin babies were alone, and that if he had any respect for her he would leave her alone. He then spied an old flint musket and barked to one of his men, " Get that Gun." Mrs. Bates remarked that it was a family treasure, and was no good, she begged him not to take it, but he remarked that it might come in handy and carried it on with him.

He then looked in a wardrobe and found some of Mr. Bates' clothes. He took them out and placed them under his saddle. A few insignificent things were taken and then he asked, " Where is your husband?", Mrs. Bates replied that he was in Mobile, in the Confederate Army. He replied, " I hope to meet the Gentleman." At which Mrs. Bates retorted, " Yes, and when you meet him, I hope he kills you."

Mr. Bates really did meet this same detachment of the Federal Army, and was wounded by them. They saw him fall from his horse, and thinking him dead, they left him, but took his horse. With the horse went two small china dolls that he was bringing to his twin babies, and a bolt of domestic for his wife.

The lovely old magnolia trees which stand in the yard were brought from Mobile and planted by Judge Bates himself. The home has been well preserved and is now owned and occupied by a grandson of Judge Bates, Mr. W.B. Tabb, a prominent druggist of Houston, Mississippi.

The Porter Paden Home :

The Porter Paden home is an ante-bellum home, but it cannot be learned who built it nor when. In 1864 this house was used as a school house. Mr. B.M. Smith attended his first school here at that time. It is supposed that the house was several years old at that time.

This house is built of heart pine and there are six rooms a narrow hall and front porch. The rooms vary from those of most of the ante-bellum homes in that they are not extra large, being only about fourteen by sixteen. The walls are about twelve feet high. Worn places in the paper show that the ceiling is made of twelve inch plank which is unusually thick.

Under the back part of this house there is an old brick cellar. Tradition has it that it was used for living quarters for slaves by whoever lived here during slavery time, but this is not authentic.

A Mrs. Scott lived here when the house was used for a school, both living and teaching here. A man named Tom Lyon lived here at one time but it is not known whether it was before or after Mrs. Scott. In about 1870, Mr. Dick Thomas bought this place and lived here for a number of years.

This home is in a fair condition considering its age and is now owned by Mr. D.I. Neal, but is occupied by Mr. Porter Paden and family. This home is located just north of the O.H. & C.C. railroad tracks in Houston.

111. ANTIQUES AND RELICS: (Not listed with Homes) :

Mrs. W.A. Harrington is the owner of a silver goblet won by her uncle, Mr. Will Alexander, who was a great lover and rider of horses. This goblet was won in a Tournament, and has this engraving, " Batesville, Arkansas, October twenty fifth, 1868", inscribed upon it.

She also has a large hand-painted picture of her grandfather's brother, but does not know the date of its painting. His name was Jeff Moss and he was twenty years of age. The picture cost fifty dollars.

The most valued of her antiques is a genuine Stradavarius violin, which has the date 1715 carved on it. It is in fairly good condition.

An old Grandfather's clock passed into Mrs. Harrington's hands from her father, George D. Vanhorn. It is known to be more than one hundred years old. This ancient time piece is encased in genuine walnut, and stands seven feet tall. It weighs one hundred and fifty pounds. The pendulum alone weighs seventy-five pounds.

Miss Fairy Goza, Houston's beloved Primary teacher for the past thirty years, has a day book that belonged to Simeon Blair, dated 1859.

She has a picture of her mother and her two sisters, made in 1878.

She owns two bridal gifts of her maternal grandmother, who married in 1828. They are; a heavy blue bordered porcelain platter, and a heavy raised glass salt seller.

Miss Goza also has in her possession her grandfather's shoe-maker tools, square, compass, pegs, awl, ruler, gimlet, auger, and pincers

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

111. ANTIQUES AND RELICS: (Not listed with Homes) :

Mr. Harvey Pyron, Houston, Mississippi, has a clock seventy-seven years old in an oak case and still running.

He also has a sword that was used during the Civil War.

Mrs. J.W. Hollemon, Houston, owns a cream pitcher that was brought from North Carolina more than seventy-five years ago. Also a spinning wheel and a reel of her mother's, Mrs. Sarah Sanders. This wheel was used to spin thread during the Civil War.

Mrs. Curtis House, Houston, Route - 1, has a platter and a plate of heavy porcelain bought by her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Bounds Dulaney one hundred years ago. Mrs. House has a basque made and worn forty-six years ago by Mrs. R.W. Dulaney. A vest, hand-made one hundred years ago by Mrs. Jack Dulaney and worn by Jackson Dulaney. Also a musel shell brought from the coast of California by Mrs. Mary Bounds Dulaney, more than one hundred years ago. This shell had an inside shell which fit flat upon a rock and grew under this condition. It has natural holes on the side. Each hole is said to indicate one year of age. In this collection of antiques and relics is a pon-pon or tassel of red and white, worn by Jackson Dulaney during the Civil War.

Miss Nora Griffin has a piece of work, spun, woven and hand-embroidered by Mary Winn McConnell, in 1803. Mary Winn was born in 1791, and was Miss Griffin's grandmother. She also has a bed spread embroidered in 1841 by Mrs. Gilbert Ivy. Another antique that she owns is a walnut framed oblong mirror one hundred years old.

Miss Mabel Smith has a one-handed man's knife and fork made for Lieutenant Edward E. Smith, whose arm was shot away during the Civil War. She also has a Powder Horn, in use since 1850.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

111. ANTIQUES AND RELICS : (Not listed with Homes) :

Mrs. D.E. Davis has as relics a bomb tube and a minie-ball which hit her father Mr. John T. Hightower, paralyzing both arms, during the Civil War.

Mrs. Bell Calvin owns a mahogany chest of drawers, hand carved. Mrs. Calvin is eighty years of age and this chest was made for her father before she was born by a man named Judd Pelon. Mrs. Calvin also has a spinning wheel, made for her mother in 1860.

Mrs. Emma Ruff has two four-poster walnut beds, one trunk made of pure natural colored linen, and a cruddle. These possessions were her great, great grandmoth er's.

Mrs. Joe L. Davis has fine hand-made spoons that are one hundred fifty years old. They were handed down from her great grandfather who was a close friend of Andrew Jackson.

R.P. Nelson of Buena Vista, has a " Digest " of South Carolina Laws, published in 1814, bought in 1818, cost five dollars. He also owns a pistol over one hundred years old.

Mrs. Hugh Hamblin who lives three and one half miles west of Houlka has a gourd which was used as a powder horn during the Revolutionary War. It was handed down to Mrs. Hamblin from her great, great uncle, Mr. Johnnie Johnson. He was carrying powder in this gourd when General Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown. The date 1750 is carved on the

III. ANTIQUES AND RELICS: (Not listed with Homes) :

handle. It has never been polished yet it looks as if it had a coat of varnish. Mrs. Hamblin also has a rare old pepper shaker made of pottery with designs made on it that closely resembles patterns that the Indians used on their pottery. She doesn't know its age but it had been handed down along with the powder gourd.

Mrs. Cooper Thompson of Houlka has in her possession these antiques; A swinging lamp used when the house was built in 1880. An old corded bed made of walnut, a cradle used for Mr. Thompson when a baby. A candle mould that was used to make tallow candles before coal-oil lamps were invented. A muzzle-loading shot gun used during the Civil War. A vi olin used by Mr. Thompson, also played by Dick Rocket before the town of New Houlka was built. It was the lead violin in the String Band of the community for parties in such ante-bellum homes as the Warren Harrill Reed Home.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS :

In the discussion of ante-bellum characters, it will be well to go back to the establishment of Chickasaw County, which was February 9th, 1836. There is an interesting account of ante-bellum characters connected with this history as written by the Historian McCardle and Lowry. This article is taken from The Times-Post of 1935.

Chickasaw County was established February 9th, 1836, and so named in memory of the Chickasaw Indians, one of the most powerful, warlike, implacable, and cruel of the aboriginal tribes that ever inhabited the soil of Mississippi.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS : (continued)

The Commissioners appointed to organize the county were, John Dalashment, Richard Elliott, Thos, Ivy, Mr. Gates and Benjamin Andersen.

Among the early settlers were Lewis Isbell, Thomas Lewis, Charles Gates, Thomas Reed, Warren Harrill, Lewis Moore, John W. Donaldson, John May, Headin Harris, John McIntosh, who in an early day was Surveyor of the County, and the father of that excellent lawyer and genial gentleman, Hon. J.R. McIntosh, who served the county most acceptably as member of the Legislature, and later a member of one of the leading law firms of East Mississippi, located in the city of Meridian; Judge T.N. Martin, who was a member of the State Senate for four years, the father-in-law of Hon. W.S. Bates, who was Probate Judge of Pontotoc County and later an honored member of the Houston Bar; Christopher Orr, father of Hon. James L. Orr, of South Carolina, and Hon. J.A. Orr of the city of Columbus, the former was Governor of his native State, member of Congress and Minister to Russia; the latter was the first Colonel of the thirty-first Mississippi Regiment, member of the Confederate Congress, and for some years Judge of the Judicial District in which he resided; Robert Pulliam, Benjamin S. Pulliam, father of Major Thomas Pulliam, of the thirty-first Mississippi Regiment; Dr. N.S. Williams, a prominent and leading physician, the father of R.P. Williams, a lawyer of high character, of the city of Meridian; Richard Farr, the father-in-law of Rev. Thos. J. Lowery and Eli Gordon; Benjamin Kilgore, who represented the county fifty years ago, the Grandfather of Gen. J.H. Brinker, of the National Guard, at West Point; Ezekiel Fuller, who was a soldier at the battle of New Orleans; Jos. Buchanan, the father of Thos. J. Buchanan, Sr., who was the father of Judge J.W. Buchanan, for two terms a member of the Legislature, Circuit Judge of his Judicial District for several years, when he resigned to resume his law practice and

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

1 V. MISCELLANEOUS: (continued)

accept the attorney-ship for the Kansas City, Memphis and Birmingham Railroad, and the father of Dr. J.M. Buchanan, an accomplished physician, and one time Superintendent of the East Mississippi Insane Asylum at Meridian, and Thos. J Buchanan, who was a prominent lawyer of Okolona; John Bell, who was a member of the Senate from the county for one term; Benjamin Bagg, Henry R. Carter, T.J. Griffin, who was a member of both branches of the Legislature; Major J.W. Wheeler, Colonel Henry Shakelford, who was the father-in-law of General W.F. Tucker; Adam Lagrone, Captain George Bowen, Anderson Keene, C.C. Marable, Samuel R. Evans, father of Major J.S. Evans, of the eleventh Mississippi, Regiment and father-in-law of Hon. W.M. Inge, who was Speaker of the House of Representives; Henry R. Carter, who was the first lawyer to locate in Houston, the County site, and was very soon followed by George Freeman, the father of General G.Y. Freeman, of Jackson ; later Cyruss D. Baldwin, and a few years later Gen. W.S. Featherston, who was prominent in the state from early manhood. When quite a young man, he was elected twice to Congress; during the war a gallant soldier with the rank of Brigadier General; after the cessation of hostilities, he represented his county (Marshall) two terms in the Legislature, and was subsequently Circuit Judge for six years, retired from the bench and resumed the practice of his profession and served most acceptably as delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1890.

Afterwards, came the late General W.F. Tucker, who first engaged in teaching school, devoting his leisure hours to reading law; he served as probate Judge of the county. Soon after his admission to the bar, he took high rank as a lawyer; during the war, he was Colonel of the Forty first Mississippi Regiment and promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. In 1876, and 1878 he rep-

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

1V. MISCELLANEOUS : (continued)

resented the county in the Legislature and was a prominent figure in the politics of northeast Mississippi. He was the father of the accomplished State Librarian, Miss Rosa Lee Tucker. He was a man of great purity of character and a thorough Christian Gentleman. Littleberry Gilliam was one of the earliest settlers of Chickasaw County, settling on the old stage route six miles northwest of the present Okolona in 1836. He opened his home as an inn to the public and became the founder of the villiage of Prairie Mount. He served as postmaster there from 1844 to 1850. A member of the first Board of Police 1836. Member of the Legislature 1843 to 1846. He did much toward the advancement of Chickasaw county. Judge Thomas N. Martin, was an outstanding citizen of Chickasaw county, whose judgement and foresight helped to lay the foundation for Houston and Chickasaw County, and later to lend valuable service toward restoring an exhausted State to some degree of peace and well being. He was born in 1807 and died 1886. N.B. Crawford was a man of vision and ability, who played an important part in the history of Chickasaw County and Houston. He represented the county several years in the State Senate. Mr. Crawford and Mr. A.M. Harley organized the first bank and erected several business houses around the square. He engaged extensively in farming throughout the county. Dr. James Larkin Evans was a pioneer physician of Chickasaw, who administered to the sick, day and night during saddle-bag days, when good roads were unheard of. After his death the women of the county asked for the priviledge of erecting a monument over his grave in the Houston Cemetery. His sons', Dr. Sidney Evans and the late Dr. Gus Evans, took up his work after his death. Dr. Evans gave to Houston the lot on which the High School building stands. Judge William Stout Bates, born 1830, a citizen of Houston and Chickasaw County for sixty-one years, he was an example of the

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment #15

IV. MISCELLANEOUS:

type of citizen whose good influence really carries on. He enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private, preferring to be commanded than to be in command. He died at the age of eighty-seven, in 1928, beloved and esteemed for the service he had rendered the community.

Mrs. Ann Smith, lovingly called Aunt Ann, until her death in January of 1937, was the oldest woman in the town of Houston. She was born at Sparta, in 1845, coming to Houston as a bride. She was the mother of fourteen children, only three of whom survive. It is said of her that she grew old gracefully and until her death, had a very clear mind in spite of her sorrows. She was ninety-one years of age.

Mr. Reuben Davis, ninety-two years of age, is the oldest man in Chickasaw county, and the only surviving Confederate Veteran in Houston.

The late Captain J.M. Griffin, who died in 1935, was the last member of the Chickasaw Guards, Company H, 11th Mississippi Regiment. At the time of his death he was ninety-three years of age, eighty-seven of which he had lived in Houston. He was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg, losing a leg, thereby being crippled for the remainder of his life, after the Civil War.

Mr. W.R. Davis, born at Sparta, in 1849, after fifty consecutive years in the grocery business, and nearly fifty years in the same store building in Houston, he retired two years ago, turning the business over to his son, C.A. Davis. He was one of several men who assisted in moving Professor and Mrs. H.B. Abernathy to Houston to open the old Mississippi Normal College.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

IV. MISCELLANEOUS: (Continued)

T.W. Scott, born February 12th. 1851, in Houston and was a grandson of the late Judge T.N. Martin. For twenty five years Mr. Scott was a merchant of Houston, a trustee of the school, and one of a committee, who secured Professor and Mrs. H.B. Abernathy, founder of the Mississippi Normal College. Giving up hope of Houston's ever securing a railroad, a cause for which he fought for many years, he moved to Cleburne Texas, in 1894. He was one of the builders of the Houston Presbyterian Church, and served as elder.

Colonel James Gordon was born in 1833. He served as United States Senator from Mississippi, and was a Confederate Cavalry officer. Colonel Gordon located in Okolona in 1859. During the Civil War he organized a Cavalry unit and later was sent in 1864 as a special commissioner of the Confederacy to European Countries. He was captured in the harbor at Wilmington N.C. on his return in 1865, but he escaped to Canada. Later he surrendered and was disfranchised for ten years. Colonel Gordon served several terms in the State Legislature, and in 1909 was appointed to the United States Senate to fill the term of A.J. McLaurin. After two years of following Agricultural pursuits, he died in Okolona in 1913.

Mr. John Doss, was born in 1801, was one of Chickasaw's earliest settlers and the first treasurer after the Civil War. He married Malinda Laughridge, June 19th. 1834. His son, Wilford L. Doss, born in 1839, died 1912, served in the Civil War. Three of his grandchildren are residents of Chickasaw County at the present time

William Feimster Tucker was born in Iredell county North Carolina in 1827. He moved to Mississippi in 1849, settled and taught school in Houston, Chickasaw

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

IV. MISCELLANEOUS: (Continued)

County. In 1851 he married Miss Martha Shakelford, and three years later was elected Probate Judge of Chickasaw County; was reelected 1856. He was admitted to the Bar in 1858, and practiced his profession. He was one of the first men to answer the call to arms as the Civil War opened and organized the " Chickasaw Guards " of which he was elected Captain; organized the 41st. Mississippi Regiment and was elected Colonel; and in 1863 he was commissioned Brigadier General. He was twice wounded, and his withered arm attested his devotion to the cause; member of State Legislature 1876 to 1878. On the night of September 14th, 1881 General Tucker was called to his library window, shot and killed by an assassin. He was fifty-four years of age. The Bar of Chickasaw County had a potrait of General Tucker painted and hung in the Court House at Okolona, which was burned, when the Court House was destroyed by fire in 1924. The Methodist Episcopal Church in Okolona has a memorial window to the memory of General Tucker.

Captain Frank Barkitt was born January 5th, 1843 in Tennessee. He was educated in Virginia before the Civil War, and ran away from school to enlist in the war. He was disinherited by his father, who later repented and gave him a slave for the duration of the war. During the war Captain Barkitt came through our Prairie section and was so impressed, he induced his father to move to Chickasaw County, Mississippi, at the close of the war. He married Miss Mattie Schrimpeer in 1867, and in 1878 he moved to Houston, where he taught school and studied law. He became a contributor to The Chickasaw Messenger, a paper owned by Hill and Mitchell, and in 1875, he and T.R. Schrimpeer bought out The Messenger and moved it to Okolona about 1875, renaming it The Okolona Messenger. Captain Barkitt was apower in those days and for many years he very largely moulded the political opinions of his section and was a strong factor in State and National politics.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment #15

IV. MISCELLANEOUS : (Continued)

The late Rev. T.J. Lowry was one of the young pioneer Methodist preachers of the county. He not only was a leading figure in church work, but played an important part in the settlement of the county. Rev. Lowry was a prosperous farmer also, owning about eleven hundred acres of land in Chickasaw and Calhoun counties. The ante-bellum home built about three miles south of Houston by the Rev. Lowry is now occupied by Mrs. Alfred Lowry. Rev. Lowry died in 1891.

The bell that hangs in the belfry of the Episcopal Church at Okolona, Mississippi is the bell that was on the first and only steam boat that traveled on the Tombigbee River when this river was navigable long before the Civil War, running from Aberdeen Mississippi to Mobile,,Alabama. This boat was used for shipping cotton to Mobile and bringing wholesale supplies to large plantation owners of cotton and slaves to Monroe and Chickasaw Counties. This boat was called " Bell Gates." Belle Gates was quite a Southern Belle at that time, very beautiful and wealthy. She rode in closed carriages drawn by eight white horses, whose harness was inlaid with jewels, she always used a footman. In those days all wealthy people rode in carriages. Belle Gates, better known in her young life as Isabell Ann Gates, was the daughter of Charles Gates and Rosa Reid Gates, who before the Civil War gave the Episcopals all their property in Okolona. A hospital and a school for girls and boys, known as " The Rose Gates College." It was a hospital for both armies in 1863. It was burned later. Belle Gates was a sister to Col. S.P. Gates who owned Pikeville, and an aunt of Mrs. Mariah Louiser Gates Marable of Okolona. After the Civil War, negroes were freed, the South lost her wealth and navigation on the Tombigbee was no more, this ship was docked on the

IV. MISCELLANEOUS: (Continued)

wharf of Mobile Bay. The bell was placed in the Mobile Museum. In later days, Col. James Gordon of Chickasaw County was in the Mobile Museum and saw this bell, with Belle Gates' name engraved on it; knowing the family and the history of the bell, he asked for it to be given the little chapel of the Episcopalians, which had just been completed. Belle Gates was reared in Chickasaw County and was reared an Episcopalian. She was married to Joe Eckford of Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi and in later years they moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where they reared a family. Belle Gates Eckford died in 1925, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Okolona, Mississippi was incorporated in 1848, with H.L. Hill as the first Mayor. It had its beginning six miles northwest of its present location, when Littleberry Gilliam settled on an old stage coach route in 1836, and so became the founder of Prairie Mount, which was incorporated in 1852. About this time the permanent location of the survey of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad began to be talked about, and two homes and a saloon sprang up near the proposed artery of commerce, and so in 1845, Okolona was really started. The town was named by Josial N. Walton, Aberdeen Postmaster, in honor of a young Indian Brave. With the building of the railroad, the promising town of Prairie Mount began its march back into the wilderness as its residents moved out to greater advantages of transportation facilities.

Houston was incorporated in 1841, when it elected John D. Jennings Mayor. In 1840, the town had become so thickly populated that to meet the demands and conveniences of this section, small merchants, doctors, wagon makers, and blacksmiths, gave rise to the growing up of Prairie Mount, north of Okolona, Okolona on the northeast, Pikeville and Buena Vista on the east, Palo Alto in the southeast,

IV. MISCELLANEOUS: (Continued)

Sparta in the south, Atlanta and Benela in the southwest, Hopewell and Oldtown in the northwest. Houston was named by Judge Joel Pinson, and he being an ardent admirer of General Sam Houston, gave the town the name it now bears.

The first Circuit Court held in Chickasaw County was held in Houston, by Judge Jas. F. Trotter in October of 1836. The first Civil Suit entered, was between Henry W. Norton, Plaintiff, a citizen of no little worth and merit and whose name will ever be highly honored, and Kelle Kello and Marcha Tubba, defendants; these parties were Indians of the Chickasaw Tribe.

General W.S. Featherston, was admitted to the bar in 1840 before he was twenty one years of age. Seven years after he was admitted to the bar, he was nominated and elected by the Democratic party of this district for its congressman, and when he entered Congress Halls, he was the youngest member of Congress of the United States. He was a General in the Confederate Army.

Among others who laid the foundation of the town of Houston are; L.W. Galbraith, Jas. Mathews, Rev. Jas. Lochridge, T.S. Evans, Henry Medlin, A.R. Moore, C.B. Baldwin, Thos. N. Martin, S.H. Medlin, and Gen. J.T. Griffin. These are a few who have contributed in a big way to the upbuilding of the town of Houston.

Those who were instrumental in the upbuilding of the town of Okolona are; Captain Frank Burkitt, Colonel James Gordon, General W.F. Tucker, W.G. Orr, Wm.D. Frazee, Dr. Hal Green, T.J. Buchanan, T.B. Shearer, J.J. Davenport, and J.W. Buchanan.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

IV. MISCELLANEOUS: (Continued)

The schools in ante-bellum days were presided over by such faithful preceptors as; Rev. J.N. Carothers, Mrs. Aaron Turman, Mrs. Fannie Brownlee, T.L. Carothers, John W. Barlow, A.N. Conkey, J.C. Miller and D.W. Hamiter. A few years later as educational facilities increased, the services of such notable educators as Professors Hawk and Carroll, then Houston's much beloved Professor Abernathy and faculty.

Mindful of the fact that religion should be combined with business and pleasure. Some of the early and beloved devines in ante-bellum days were; Rev. Jas. Lochridge, G.W. Murray, Rev. T.C. Stewart, Rev. J.N. Carothers and Rev. E. Smith as the churches began to be organized about 1838 to 1847.

Warren D. Reid, father of Superintendent L.B. Reid (who has been Supt. of Houston City Schools for thirty or more years) escaped from a Federal prison during the Civil War. Only an extract of his experiences is given; In July of 1863, in the memorable charge on Gettysburg, when serving as orderly sergeant, Mr. Reid was captured, together with several others, in command of A.P. Hill of the 11th. Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers, Company H. Those of the number who were able to march (1500) had already " Corralled," were marched that night and the next day to Westminster, Maryland, where they were put on a train and run into Baltimore, marching from the depot to Fort Mc Henry where they stood all night, rain-soaked and half starved, huddled in open slush before being sent to Fort Delaware, situated on a large island in the upper Delaware Bay. Here, the prisoners, were put in barracks and barely fed enough to keep them alive. The

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

IV. MISCELLANEOUS: (Continued)

gates were kept open in daytime but heavily guarded. After days of hopeless waiting to be exch anged, several of the Confederate soldiers conceived ways of escape. Mr. Reid and his cousin, Joseph Marable, decided to try their hand. By a slick piece of work they slipped by the guards on the New Jersey side of the barracks. Before doing so, however, they boiled th eir clothes to get rid of the lice, realizing they, would be " eaten alive," in their long journey. After slipping out, they remained under cover until dark, when they slipped a ladder they had taken from an officer's barn and slipped it over the levee. Another guard had to be slipped by as he was making his beat. When the guard would turn from them, they slipped a little further, lying down flat when the guard turned toward them. Finally, they slipped past his sight. By means of the ladder they slipped down into the bay, then useing the ladder for a raft. It would not however, hold them both up, so Marable paddled as young Reid held on to the last round. By morning they reached land and put the ladder to drift, only to find later that they were on another island. On the fifth day, after tramping, they came to a farm house where some children, in the absence of their parents, gave the two half starved soldiers all the milk and bread they could consume..From time to time on their tramp they were given food; were insulted once by being called " Johnnies," Finally they crossed the Chesapeake Bay on a coal boat. There they tried boarding a train but were discovered and ordered off. Once or twice they were aided by negroes from whom they learned all about the " Secesh." They were in grave danger in Baltimore, but slipped through by careful maneuvering. Even after reaching Southern soil they had to be ever on careful guard as " Blue Coats," were often in possession. Charleston was occupied by the United States Cavalry. It was at Lurray Valley Court House near Culpepper road, that

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

IV. MISCELLANEOUS: (Continued)

they finally ran into the first Confederate Cavalry, and at Orange Court House they found the " noble old Eleventh Mississippi" with a few remaining of Company H. This same Warren D. Reid, when a little boy, played marbles with little Indian boys. His home at that time was six miles, north of Houston. His parents with many other pioneer settlers, blazed the way for the sons and daughters who are today trying to carry on for younger generations.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED:

1. Mrs. Charlie Neal...Houston, Mississippi, Route
2. Mrs. Betty Carter...Houston, Mississippi, Route
3. Mr. W.T. Johnson...Houston, Mississippi
4. Mr. Frank Waldrop...Houston, Mississippi, Route
5. Miss Carrie Marion...Houston, Mississippi, Route
6. Dr. J.W. Walker, MD...Houlka, Mississippi
7. Mr. John T. Brogan & Son Mr. Henry T. Brogan...Woodland, Mississippi, Route
8. Mrs. J.C. Beasley, County Superintendent of Education,...Houston, Mississippi.
9. Mr. Charles Evans...Egypt, Mississippi
10. Kale Gates (old negro slave)...Egypt, Mississippi
11. Mrs. Jim Thompson...Egypt, Mississippi
12. Mr. Reuben Davis...Houston, Mississippi
13. Miss Mattie Lee Buchanan...Okolona, Mississippi
14. Mannie Logan (negro)...Okolona, Mississippi, Route
15. Miss Cora Ward...Houston, Mississippi
16. Mrs. Ben Pulliam...Buena Vista, Mississippi
17. Queen Wheeler (negro)...Okolona, Mississippi
18. Miss Minnie Hall...Houston, Mississippi
19. Mrs. Fannie Vaulk...Houston, Mississippi
20. Mr. B.M. Smith, (Circuit Clerk)...Houston, Mississippi
21. Mr. S.M. Hall, (Merchant)...Houston, Mississippi
22. Mr. Ed. Woolridge...Thorn, Mississippi
23. Mr. C.K. Alexander, (City Clerk)...Houston, Mississippi
24. Mrs. John Holliday...Houlka, Mississippi, Route

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 15

LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED: (Continued)

25. Mr. Elliott Parker...Houston, Mississippi, Route
26. Mr. W.B. Tabb, (Druggist)...Houston, Mississippi
27. Mr. R.M. Paden...Houston, Mississippi, Route
28. Mrs. Leona Smith...Houston, Mississippi, Route
29. Miss Clara Parker...Houston, Mississippi,Route
30. Mr. Joe L. Davis, (Chancery Clerk)...Houston, Mississippi
31. Mrs. Minnie Kimball, (County Welfare Worker)...Houston, Mississippi
32. Mr. W.G. Mabry...Okolona, Mississippi
33. Miss Dahmer...Okolona, Mississippi
34. Mrs. Chandler Lagrone...Okolona, Mississippi
35. Mr. R.A. Hawkins...Okolona, Mississippi
36. Mrs. Walter Simpson,..Okolona, Mississippi
37. Mr. J.C. Whiteside...Okolona, Mississippi
38. Mrs. Mollie Abbott...Okolona, Mississippi
39. Mrs. W.C. Chandler,...Okolona, Mississippi
40. Mrs. R.W. Chandler,...Okolona, Mississippi
41. Mrs. Luther West...Houston, Mississippi, Route

Mrs. J.C. Hightower

Mrs. J.C. Hightower, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Canvassers:
Mabel Calvin,
Abye Cook

Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Supervisor:
Mrs. J. W. Strickland

September 21, 1936

Subject: Old Homes

Assignment: Pilgrimage

Mrs. Betty Johnson Carter lives in one of Chickasaw County's best constructed and best preserved ante-bellum homes. It's dignity and stability are characteristic of the sturdy pioneers who constructed these homes. It has weathered the many winters since 1856, the year of it's construction, looking apparently none the worse for the wear. Aside from a new roof, screening and a coat of paint as needed, there has never been any repairs made and no change in the original building constructed.

The view when approaching the home is inspiring, as it is surrounded by enormous oaks some by actual measurement being twenty-three feet in circumference. This house was built from trees cut from the immediate vicinity of the house. The trees were felled and the lumber cut with a ip-saw. This was done by slaves. The men did the sawing and the women did the planing with hand planes.

The long porch is supported by six square columns eighteen feet high and surrounded by four foot banisters. Opening from this is a long hall sixteen by thirty by eighteen feet in which is a long staircase of twenty-three steps leading directly to a large upstairs of two eighteen by twenty rooms. On either side of the hall in front are large rooms with enormous fireplaces. Back of these are two somewhat smaller bedrooms, and adjoining the hall in the back is a porch which leads to the dining room and kitchen. All of the doors and mantles are hand carved and of excellent workmanship.

Mrs. Carter said she remembered quite well hearing her mother relate experiences of the war. At one time, when the federals were making a

a raid on that part of the county, they came through and stopped at her home and after eating and confiscating all they could find for themselves, they took all the dresser drawers out into the yard and fed the horses in them. She is using the dressers now and they show plainly the marks of the horses teeth. She, also, has other pieses of old furniture, among which is a a lovely piano.

Mrs Carter's father, Mr Daniel Johnson, was a very progressive and substantial citizen, ever on the alert for building of schools and churches. He was a member of the Ridge School Board from the time of its organization and was a steward in Wesley Chapel Church for over a quarter of a century.

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of the vessels were stolen. The milk and well-house is nearby but,of course, are not in use anymore. The house has been boarded up for protection.

This house is historically interesting as it was used as a camp and hospital by Grierson's soldiers during his raid.(It was at this time that all Chickasaw County records were burned)When he had passed on some sick soldiers were left in the Tabb home. For many years there were meat stains left there by the soldiers, but these have been painted o over and all thaces of grease have been covered up.

Mr Tabb relates an interesting story of his grandmother's encounter with some Federal soldiers in this house. His grandfather, Wm.S. Bates was with the Confederate army at Mobile and his grandmother, Mrs Bates, upon hearing that the Yankees were coming, sent all her treasures to the flatwoods by a negro(and this negro, by the way, turned traitor and gave them all to the Yankees). When the soldiers came, they rode into the yard without dismounting and tore the fence to the ground. One swarthy faced looking individual dismounted and went into the house. Mrs. Bates met him at the door and told him there was no one at home but her and the twin babies and that if he had any respect for her he would leave her alone. Upon looking around, he spied an old flint musket and barked to one of his subordinates,"Get that gun!" Mrs. Bates told him it was a family treasure and was no good and asked him not to take it, but he remarked"It might come in handy! and took it and wrapped it around a tree.

He then looked in a wardrobe and found some of Mr. Bates' clothes and took them out and put them under his saddle. A few other things of insignificance were taken and then he asked, "where is your husband?"Upon being told that he was in Mobile in the Confederate Army he said, "Ihope to meet the gentleman! At which Mrs Bates retorted, "Yes, and when you meet him, I hope he kills you".

Strange as it may seem Mr. Bates met the same army on his way back home and was wounded by them. They saw him fall off his horse and thinking he was dead, they left him but took his horse. And with the horse went two small china dolls that he was carrying to his twin babies, and a bolt of domestic that he had tied to his saddle as a present to his wife.

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One of the best architectural types of colonial homes is situated a few miles north of Okolona, known as the Bramlett place, but now owned by and old negro who was once a house maid in the same dwelling. It is situated about a hundred feet from the Okolona-Pottotoc road. An evenue of immense cedars extends from the highway to the front door. The residence contains about ten rooms proper, the large rooms downstairs being more than twenty feet square. The parlors are connected by massive folding doors of walnut. The wainscoting which is about four feet high through the house is of paneled walnut. The bed rooms are all up stairs and are of the same type as those below. All the stairways are of walnut, carved. The large front porch is flanked with immense, walnut columns, hand carved, about two feet in diameter and extending to the second floor. Some of the original shrubbery is still in the yard, box-wood and other shrubbery typical of the ante-bellum period.

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Mr Reubin Davis owns one of the oldest homes in Houston. It was built by Captain Smith before the war, and was well constructed, being morticed together. It was originally a one and a half story building with a hall and ell for the kitchen. It has changed hands several times having belonged to Mr Bates Tabb's grandfather Tabb, Mr B. M.Smith and then to Mr Davis. It has been remodeled and is

a two-story colonial type home of eight rooms. It is located on one of the highest hills in Houston and is surrounded by stately oak and cedar threes and had a great deal of shrubbery, box hedge and crepe myrtle.

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The home of the late Captain J.M.Griffin is located in Houston. it is not known who built the home ar who the architect was but it was built before the war. It has been owned by Captain Steele and General W.F.Tucker, who was said th have had the stately oaks that now surround the house, which add greatly to the beauty of the place.

It is a large, frame structure of pleasant proportions and a style suited to the Southern climate . It is a two-story structure with a hall extending through the house. The first floor on the north side contains the parlor or living room, dining room and kitchen, there are tow bed rooms on the south side. The second floor is built on the sa same floor plan. It has three brick chimneys with two fireplaces upstairs and three downstairs. There is a longe porch extending the length of the house across the front upstairs and downstairs.

The house has been slightly remodeled and is in an excellent state of repair.

Captain Griffin served the entire four years in the warand had an illustrious record. He was wounded and was a cripple in after life. He wasswith the Chickasaw Guards under General Wm.F.Tucker. He enlistwd in Company H.11th Mississippi Regiment in 1861. His wounds were received at the battle of Gettysburg.

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The Carlysle home, just west of Egypt, is very beautiful and imposing in appearance. Part of it was built about seventy-five years ago by Charlie Gates. Later it went to his son, New Gates and about 1897 passed into the hands of Adam Carlysle.

On the front there are four gables with one window each and in the center a double gable with two windows. The boards which make up the gables are cut into a design which makes the gables very attractive. On the south there are four gables and in the back three. A wide porch extends all around the house. Extending about one foot downward on the porch is a spool effect decoration , while carved decorations adorn each side of the posts. Old time lightning rods are placed at intervals along the roof.

This house has five large rooms downstairs which have high plastered ceilings. A winding stairway leads up from the wide hallway to another large hall and four large rooms. All are nicely ceiled and painted overhead and papered on the sides. Another set of stairs lead down to the porch at the back.

The house is located in a large grove of hickory and oak trees. a large pine planted by the original owner still stands in the front yard.

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An old home now owned by Henry and Annie Dahmer, is located one mile north of Okolona on highway 23. It was built by Gen. W. F. Tucker, in 1870. The house belonging to Col Henry Lee Shackelford which stood on this same lot was burned by the Yankee soldiers because they found some confederate uniforms while pilfering the house. After the war Gen. Tucker replaced the house with a beautiful two story frame building. It is Gothic style of architecture. There are fifteen gables. The windows are oval shaped and contain oval shaped panes. This makes it resemble a church at a distance.

The house has the same number of rooms upstairs as it does down-

stairs. Two stairways lead up to the rooms above. One from the back porch led to the boy's quarters and one from the mother's room led up to the girl's room. (A descendent of this family says the stairs must have been arranged in this manner so that the parents could tell at what time the girls came in at night.)

The old parlor is unique in that it is plastered in a bright pink. The old kitchen was built out in the yard about fifty feet from the house which is a typical southern style.

This old home is now in a dilapidated state. When Gen. Tucker ran for Congress he had to mortgage his home and it fell into hands of people who were not interested in keeping it repaired and in good condition.

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The home now owned by Mrs. Lottie Rubel Kahn is an ante-bellum structure and is one of the most beautiful homes in the city of Okolona. The original house was a one story building built in 1850 by Mr. Neal Bartee of Columbus, and given as a bridal present to Dr. Hal Green and Frances Wade Bartee, who were the parents of Mrs. Mollie Green Abbott. During the war Mr. Green sold the home to Pinkney Herndon for $4000.00. which , of course, was valueless after the war. Thomas J. Buchanan bought the house in 1868 and added a second story with a mansard roof and dormer windows- this second story was made of lumber while the first was of brick. The architect who built the second story for Mr. Buchanan was named W. G.Mabry, Sr.

Years later Mr. Julius Rubel bought this house and changed the second floor to brick. The house now consists of six beautiful rooms downstairs-two parlors, hall, and dining room all open together with archways between;the library is back of the north parlor. Upstairs there are five bed rooms and a bath. The home is steam heated and is beautifully furnished.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Chandler, Okolona, Mississippi was originally a four room log house. In about 1869 Col. James R. McIntosh purchased the home and had it remodeled by architects named Bodenhammer and Bolinger. The architectural style of the home is Colonial. It is Typically southern. There was a large ball room added by the McIntoshes but this was made into two rooms by the Chandlers.

The house sets back from the street and the lawn is very beautiful. There are several stately shade trees near the house and the shubbery is very artistically arranged.

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About two miles south of Buena Vista the e stands the ruins of a house that once knew the voices of the most prominent people throughout the country.

It was built for Tom Buchanan, grandfather of Miss Mattie Lee Buchaman of Okolona, nearly a hundred years ago. The lumber was hand hewn and planed by the Buchaman slaves. It originally consisted of two rooms and a wide hall sownstairs and the same upstairs, each room having a huge fireplace. Large windows reached nearly to the top of the rooms. Only remnants of the handsome plastering remain. It is dangerous to ascend the beautiful stairway now.

This is a colonial type home with huge box like columns. It was situated in a large oak grove but only about a half dozen of the fine old oaks have survived.

This place was sold by the Buchanans to a man from the north, a very rich man who lived there in seclusion with his wife until they both died. Just recently the old home with two thousand, two hundred acres af land has beam purchased by Joe L. Davis, Jr.

An ante-bellum home is located on Church Street in Okolona. It consists of a small front porch, seven rooms and a large hall. Esquire A. Buford built this house sometime before the War. It was down this street that Gen. Forrest drove a group of Yankee soldiers and quite a skirmish took place just below this house. Several Yankee soldiers were killed.

Mrs. Annie M. Babbit bought this home in 1885 and had made her home in it ever since- for fifty-one years.

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The Donaldson home on Church Street in Okolona was started by Judge Ivy and finished by Mr. Sheppard. It consists of five rooms, hall and front porch downstairs and three rooms and a hall upstairs. Gen. Bedford Forrest visited in this home when Col. Dobbs lived there shortly after the war between the Sates. Gen. Forrest had charge of building a railroad from Okolona to Aberdeen, and Col. Dobbs had charge of the work, so when the General came to Okolona to inspect thework he stopped with Col. Dobbs.

About 1863 in front of this home Miss Henretta Morton overheard a negro giving the Yankee soldiers the direction in which the Confederate soldiers went. She happened to have her pistol with her and shot this negro. Miss Morton married Capt. Edgar S. Elliott after the war and they owned this house.

Mrs J. W. Strickland
Supervisor, Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Canvassers:
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CHICKASAW COUNTY

Historical Research Project

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Supplement to War Assignment

THE CIVIL WAR

I. Battles and Skirmishes in the County: These were all covered in the first assignment on War.

II. Names of Fighting Units in the County: To quote Judge T. N. Martin in his History of Chickasaw County: "As a test of the loyalty of our citizenship in support of the newly Confederated States Government of 1860, our county gave to its army fifteen companies of infantry and cavalry, with an average membership of a hundred and twenty-five, aggregating 1875 enlistments. These companies were raised, organized and mustered into service under the commands of Captains Wm. F. Tucker, J. R. Williams, William Wellerd, Joseph W. Buchanan, Andrew J. Pulliam, John D. Smith, Geo. L. Jennings, William L. Wallerk, James L. S. Hill, D. F. Coopwood, L. E. Hill, William Duke, W. S. Harrington, John L. Standifer, and Welth Mallox."

The Chickasaw County Men enlisted in he foblowing Companies: 1. Chickasaw Gaurds, Co. H. 11th Infantry, mustered into State Service at Houston, March 9, 1861. Captain--William F. Tucker, 1st. Lt. L. W. Galbraith, 2nd. Lt. J. P. Lockhart. This company was transferred to the Army of Tenn, after the battle of First Manassas. Captain Tucker organized the 41st Regiment and was promoted to the office of Brigadier-General. These Chickasaw men were regiment officers: T. Sidney Evans, Major, killed at Sharpsburg, Jamison H. Moore, Adjutant--General.

The Position to which the Missippi troops were assigned was about one mile east of the Navy yard and 600 yards from the beach, fronting Fory Pickens. This Fort was then occupied by a garrison of about eighty men under Lieutenant Slemmer, and was distant about two and three fourths miles.

A day or two was spent by the soldiers, mostly in arranging their quarters and in preparing ball cartridges, under orders to be ready with fifty rounds of ammunition and upon the alert for a call to arms at any moment.

On the 17th day of January the companies were organized into regiments of which Captain Charles A. Abert was elected Colonel.

The companies were industrially drilled upon the deep sand of the fish and oysters. They, also, assisted in the erection of sand batteries upon the shore fronting Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa Island.

There were regimental parades in the evenings, Guard mountings, in the morning; and revellie became a familiar early morning sound to the unwilling ears of the drowsy soldiers, who quickly conformed, however, to the unaccustomed routine. In a few days the soldiers of each side settled into a state of watching and waiting, after which little of interest occurred.

On the 31st of January General Charles Clark came down from Mississippi to look over the situation. In the condition of affairs at that time it was deemed unadvisable to precipitate hostilities by an attack upon Fort Pickens, especially with new troops, destitute of artillery and supplies, and it was evident that no early effort would be made by the Federal troops to recover the forts in possession of the Southern soldiers. Neither side was quite ready to take the initiative in hostilities. Both were energetically pushing preparations for the great conflict and both acted wary circumspection in the pause before the storm broke.

There being no necessity for the Mississippi troops to remain longer at that point, and the limited fund for their maintenance having been exhausted, General Charles Clark, on the first of February, 1861, "mustered out" the companies from this state, and the 4th of February the "Chickasaw Guards,"the Lauderdale Rifles," and the "Quitman Light Infantry" embarked upon the steamer Dick Keyes for Mobile, proceeding thence by rail to their respective homes.

This Military episode-sudden and brief-was regarded at the time as of significant importance, aroused great interest and enthusiasm, and was the subject of wide and excited comment at home and abroad. It strengthened the determination

and increased the confidense of the people all over the South and was everywhere regarded as a test of the spirit, devotion, and purpose of her people.

It was the first aggressive movement in which the Southern States acted in Concert, and dispelled all doubt as to their future cooperation. The Moral affect greatly exceeded in value and importance all other resulting physical disadvantages. It is, therefore, perhaps impossible for any to measure its full influence except those who felt and observed it. Until Sumpter, it was the most formidadle of the opperations in which separate States acted together. Knowledge of this intended military movement in aid of Florida doubtless hastened the abandonment of several other forts and arsenals in the State, as well as others along the coast in other States, and quickened movements to Capture all the boats in the borders of the South. Very soon Fort Pickens and Sumpter were all that held out.

The young Mississippians of that expedition were nearly all scions of the best families of the South, and the highest type of Southern Gentlemen, and in the mighty conflict that soon followed displayed a contancy and valor rarely equaled and never surpassed, freely shedding their blood, many of them yeilding their lives, in defance of a cause they believed as right.

A number of them rose to military commands of importance, Capt. William F. Tucker, after serving in Virginia one year at the head of tis company, the Chickasaw Grards, Company H. in the 11th Mississippi Regiment, raided the Forty-first Mississippi Regiment, of which he at once became Colonel and later was made Brigadier-General. He was twice severely wounded, first in one, then in the other arm, and after having passed through the perils of the war was foully assassinated at his home a few years after its close. Agallant soldier, a splendid officer, impetuously brave, he was a man of heroic mold. The writer severed intimate relations with him through most of the war and cannot forbear, in passing this brief tribute to the character and worth of a dead comrade. He was a patriot, a noble gentleman and a good man.

Major Sam F. Butler became lieutenant-colonel of the Eleventyh Mississippi regiment as gallant a commander as ever met a foe and alodg with the gallant lamanted Frank Liddall, its knightly colonel and the brave T. Sidney Evans, fell as became soldiers, at Sharpaburg.

In the first day's battle at Gettysburg, The Eleventh Mississippi was left at Cashtown guarding the trains and did not participate in the battle.

Mississippians justly prided themselves on markmanship. The bear hunters of the Mississippi-Yazoo delta, the deer hunters of the pine woods, and the small game hunters of the East--Mississippi were ready marksman and invincible except against great odds.

When Brigaded with the Fourth Alabama, Sixth North Carolina, and Second Mississippi, under General Whiting, Colonel Pender stated that he heard a report of a gun inside their lines and heard a hog squel. "I am satisfied that you are mistaken, Colonal," replied General Whiting "When the Eleventh Mississippian shoots an hog hit doesn't squeal."[1]

2. Company C. Prairie Rifles, mustered into State Army at Okolona on March 2, 1861.

Captains: J. Burd Williams, to reorganization, then to colonel of 41st. Regiment; Geo. W. Shannon

1st. Lieut: A. D. Gatlin, to reorganization, then Captain in 41st. Regiment; Geo. W. Shannon.

2nd Lt. John Richardson, resigned January 1862, then Captain in 41st Regiment., Geo W. Shannon, Promoted; George M. Lusher.

3rd Lieut. John D. Brandon, to April 25, Joe P. Williams, promoted, George M. Lusher, promoted; James T. Penny, resigned; George F. Cole. Statement, Feb. 1865: Total strength 110; died of disease, 10; killed and died of wounds, 38; discharged, 26; deserted, 12; transferred, 19; remainder, 15.

Roll of honor at Wilderness Battle: Sergt. W. D. Reid, John W. Jennings, Color bearer. At Spottsylvania Courthouse: J. Beckett Gladney. at Weldon Road:

1. Publications of Miss. Historical Society. Vol IX Written by Judge Baxter McJorland.

T. B. Reid and A. L. McJunkin.

Captains: Wesley Millard, resigned; W. H. Worthington, to reorganization; J. L. Clark, killed at Fredericksburg; Z. R. Mixon, died at Camp Chase, Ohio; R. R. Hooker. Second Leiut: A. B. May, to reorganization; R. J. Lyles, resigned, W. H. Davis, promoted. First Lieut: J. L. Clark, elected captain at reorganization; R. Mixon; R. R. Hooker, promoted; W. H. Davis. Third Lieut: E. J. Windham; W. G. Baker, resigned.

4. Co. A., Buena Vista Rifles, mustered into service, April 22, 1861 at Buena Vista, Mississippi. Captains: Timothy L. Rogers, disabled; Andrew J. Pulliam, elected Captain August 1861; Lucian Bean.

Second Lieut: Richard M. King, dird of wounds, May 1863; Robert T. Burks.

Third Lieut: William J. Mitchell, disabled; Henry Carlisle, to reorganization; Patrick H. Haughton, disabled; Robert T. Burks, Promoted, L. R. Gunn.

Total enrolled 172; killed and died of wounds, 33; died of disease, 22; captured 23.

A. J. Pulliam was a Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Colonel, in the regiment, He received honorable mention at the battle of Fredricksburg.

5 Company B. Chickasaw Rangers, of Chickasaw County, organized Feb. 7, 1861.

Captain--James Gordon, Promoted to Colonel Second Cavalry.

1st Lt.--David Hubbard

2nd Lt.--John R. Lyle

3rd Lt.--Wm. G. Henderson

Capt. Henderson and Pvt. G. W. Seals distinguished themselves at Gettysburg. Seals was killed at Upperville.

6. Company G. Barry Guards of Chickasaw and Choctaw Counties, mustered into State Service at Enterprise, Aug. 31, 1861.

Captains--MarkS. Womack, J. H. Morgan, killed at Murfreesboro.

1st Lt.--Daniel B. Lattimore, R. D. A. Adrian, diedin Kentucky.

2nd. Lt.--Owen C. Davis

3RD Lt.--David W. Adrain

Lieutenant Heckey killed at Franklin, Captain J. H. Morgan was killed at Murfreesboro and S. F. Fondren selected for the roll of honor at the same battle. M. Stringfellow on roll of honor in battle of Chickamauga. Captain Lattimore lost a leg and one other person was wounded at Atlanta.

7. Company C--Dowd Rebels of Chickasaw County, mustered into State Service September 1, 1861 at Houston Mississippi.

Captain--J. D. Smith--wounded, and resigned in 1864, Captain in Forrest's Cavalry.

1st. Lt.--W. L. Walder, Captain in Forrest' s Cavalry; W. W. Jennings captures at Lookout Mountain.

2nd Lt.--W. W. Jennings, J. C. Berry, F. G. Holliday, killed at Missionary Ridge.

3rd Lt.--F. C. Berry, Wm. Griffith, killed at Missionary Ridge; T. Railey died in 1862. Lieuts. N. J. Egger, W. H. Griffis, John S. Wilson, died in service.

Honorable mentions at Lookout Mountain--Captain J. D. Smith.

In 31st. Regiment--Co. C.--Captain J. L. S. Hill, Lieutenants-- James F. Pulliam wounded, Lieut, W. D. Carmadine, killed at Peachtree Creek.

Co. H.--Captains--G. W. Jennings, and N. B. Crawford.

Captain G. W. Naron, Lieut. W. M. Foster of Co. H. wounded.

8. Company K. Invincible Warriors of Oktibbeha, Choctaw, and Chickasaws Counties-

Captain--Reubin H. Shotwell

1st Lt.--Henry A. McCright

2nd Lt.--S. Henry

3rd Lt.--Livingston and Sam L. Dubose, captured at Blakely, Ala . April 9, 1865 after nine days siege.

The following in Co. K. received honorable mention at Franklin, Tenn.-

Privates : A.M. Page, George Dockery, J.F. Green, G.W. Davis, Issac Carroll, J.D. Harrington, Monroe Watson (wounded three times), J.W. Sanders, R. Calvert.

9. Co. L, : Okolona Guards, enlisted at Okolona, March 1, 1862 for three years by Captain Richardson under commission from War Department.

Captains : ...John Richardson, A.D. Catlin.

1st. Lt....Jerry Seale, J.L. Robertson.

2nd Lt. F.M. Betts, resigned 1862;6W.C. Richardson.

3rd Lt....J.L. Robertson.

Wm. F. Tucker raised the Chickasaw Guards and was with his company at Pensacola in January 1861, afterwards joining the 11th Regiment. He took part in the battle of Manassas in Virginia, afterwards returning to Mississippi and organizing a battalion which was filled to a regiment,the forty first. In May,1862 he was made Colonel of this regiment, in March 1864 was promoted to the office of Brigadier General.
J. Byrd Williams was major, Lieut. Colonel, and Colonel of the Forty first Regiment also, W.M. Baker was selected for the Roll of Honor from Company L. at Murfreesboro The Forty first under Colonel Williams was particularly distinguished in the battle fought on July 28, near Atlanta.

10. Company F....Palo Alto Confederates, Chickasaw County, mustered into State Service at Palo Alto (now in Clay County) July 27, 1861.

Captain....D.F.Cooperwood.

Lst.Lieut....W.P. Malone, promoted to Captain.

2nd. Lieut....Samuel R. Cooperwood.

3rd. Lieut....R.B. Moore.

11. Chickasaw Rough and Readies, organized Nov 28, 1861. (Fifth Regiment) (Davis Brigade).

Captain....J.L.S. Hill.

Lieuts.....B.F. Pulliam, B.J.Pulliam, A.A. Park. Enrolled fifty two.

12. Company H....Chickasaw Rangers, July 4, 1863.

Captain...W.L. Walker.

1st. Lieut....J.M. Brownlee.

2nd. Lieut....G.W. Tittle.

3rd. Lieut....J.M. Woodall.

13. Company F....Enlisted for the war September 1, 1863, in Loundes, Marshall, Ittawamba, Monroe, Chickasaw and Pontotoc Counties.

Captain...Alexander Moore.

1st. Lieut...C.C. Carroll.

2nd. Lieut...C.W. Fulton.

3rd. Lieut...W.B. Fulton.

Enrolled sixty, February 1865 at Greenwood, Alabama.

14. Company F. of Chickasaw County (3rd. Battalion Minute Men) enlisted at Houston, August 9, 1862.

Captain....W.S. Harrington.

Lieuts.....J.F. Crockett, James Kennedy, J.M. Paden.

Enrolled seventy nine. Above officers, Five Sergeants, Four Corporals, and forty five privates were captured at Vicksburg.

15. Second Regiment Cavalry Company B. Johnson Partisans, enlisted in Chickasaw County, December 26, 1862 ; Re-enlisted 1864.

Captain....W.K. Posey, J.R. Watkins.

1st. Lieut. R.B. Moore, J.R. Watkins, G.T. Baber.

2nd. Lieut. John K. Allen, John White, G.T. Baber, M.E. Spraggins.

3rd. Lieut. T. Otlerson, J.L. Watkins

Enrolled one hundred and twenty.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

16. Company H...J.V. Harris Guards,enlisted at Athens by Captain Gillelyn Novvember 12, 1862 and at Okolona by Captain Park, July 30,1863.
Re-enlisted in 1864.
Captains...D.C. Gillelyn, B. Gillelyn, M.B. Park, O.H. Pollard at reorganization.
1st. Lieut...B. Hilliard, W.P. Boggan, J.R. Lyle.
2nd. Lieut...W.P. Boggan, Thomas Chisolm, W.J. Smith.
3rd. Lieut..Thomas Chisolm, J.R. Lyle, G.H. Robards.
Enrolled in 1863, with one hundred and fourteen in number.
This Company was on duty with General Ruggles, headquarters Columbus, in January 1863.

17. CompanyI...Enlisted in Chickasaw County, February 13, 1864.
Captain...W.T. Clarke.
1st. Lieut. W.D. Carr.
2nd. Lieut. Richard Thomas.
3rd. Lieut T.W. McNamee
" All captured, consisting of one Lieutenant about first June, balance having deserted while being transferred to C.S. Army.

18. Saunder's Battalion
Company A. of Chickasaw County.
Captain ...L. Hill, killed at Thompson's Station in Tenn.
Lieut....John Brown, Saddler

19. Company H...Buena Vista Hornets, organized September 16, 1861
Captain...J.U. Buchanan, wounded at Jonesboro.
1st. Lieut....W.S. Pate.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

2nd. Lieut.....J.S. Wilson.
3rd. Lieut....J.R. McIntosh, promoted Second and to Adjutant, in 1864.

20. Company F....Captain W.S. Harrington
1st. Lieut. B.G. Underwood.
2nd. Lieut. James Kennedy.
3rd. Lieut. Joseph H. Byars.
First Sergeant...W.S. Quinn. (Total roll about one hundred and fifteen)

Gordon's Battalion...Lieutenant Colonel...James Gordon, Major J.L. Harris.
Organized May 1862, merged in Second Regiment Cavalry.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT:

The following letters were written by G.P. Tucker, an uncle of W.T. Johnson, Houston, Mississippi. They were written to his sister and are interesting as well as informative as to conditions during the Civil War and it gives very clearly the attitude of at least one soldier.

Camp Near Richmond, Virginia.
July 25th, 1862.

My Dear Sister Martha:

Your kind letter of a late date came safe to hand, and in a few days I received a letter from Pa. They were both read with pleasure and interest. I was as ever glad to hear from you and to hear of the general good health of the family and the promise of a plentiful harvest. I am sorry to hear of the deaths of so many of our neighbors, who have fallen in the defende of our country. But they could never fall in a nobler cause. I had not learned of the death of so many of them until I received yours. We have been so much

separated from the South Carolina Regiments that we are not able to learn anything of them scarcely except through the home correspondence. I understand that nearly all of the troops are being taken away from the coast of South Carolina and are coming here, and that the men who remain at home are to come into the field and take their places on the coast. So I expect that will call into action all, or quite all, the men left at home. I am glad to see that our government is taking active measures for the prosecution of the war. Unless the war is closed by foreign intervention I anticipate a great deal of trouble yet. The defeat of McClellan and the lack of unamity in the north renders this a favorable time for intervention to take place, and I am yet inclined to think that perhaps France and England and possibly Russia, may soon take measures for an early cessation of hostilities. If they should fail to interfere, I hope the divisions and dissensions in the north may ultimately cause a general rebellion there, and becoming divided we can soon end the strife. Truly I would be glad for peace to be concluded, and return to the peaceful enjoyment of home and friends, indeed I would like to get a furlough and spend some time at home even now. But I would not by any means have Pa to take my place for any period, it matters not how short. Though home is very dear to me, and I have much attachment for it, yet with my present notions, though I should remain in the Army for ten years without seeing home, I should not consent for Pa to take my place as you suggest. My health is still rather feeble at this time. Being anxious to get into the cavalry on account of it being so much easier than the infantry, I have written to Mr. Sims to learn wheather there is any member of Captain' Taylor's Company who would make an exchange with me. I am inclined to think I may be able to get an exchange. If I can not I shall endeavor to remain satisfied.

Brother is expecting a Proffessorship in Hillsboro Military Academy. I hope he will get it. His health is too delicate to justify him to remain a private in ranks, especially in the infantry.

You mentioned in your last letter that you suppose that Sister Mary blames you with the misunderstanding that recently existed. If she ever intimated such a thing, I have no recollection of it. I hope the matter may be peacefully and amicably settled. I doubt whether a difficulty has ever been settled unless one or the other made concessions.

I have seen Augustus Sims several times recently. He is looking well. He is a member of the Eleventh Mississippi Regiment. His camp is just in sight of ours. Brother and I will go to see him soon. Gus is very good company, very agreeable. I am glad to meet up with him. I have not seen cousin Judge since the fights, but have heard from him, he is safe. His Brig. General (Griffith) got killed. While taking a walk this morning Brother and I met Thomas Glenn. He is well and looks well. He seemed glad to see us.

The weather in Virginia is now very pleasant. There has been plenty of rain. Provisions are extremely high. Butter from $1.00 to $1.25 per pound, eggs $1.00 per dozen, chickens of good size to fry, $1.50.

I expect to be deprived of the pleasure of visiting Rogers Church or any other place of worship in our country for a great while, but I am pleased to see that a spirit of Christianity still prompts our citizens to keep up religious devotions. I am glad to learn that Pa had several appointments, and hope that he in name of the Gracious Master can do great good. Remember me kindly to all my friends. Brother joins me in love to the family, believe me to be, my dear Sister.

Your
Affectionate
Brother,
G.P. Tucker.

To Miss Martha Tucker
Goshen Hill
Union District.

Via Santuck

P.S. Direct your letters to (Mr.) instead of Corporal G.P. Tucker. I am now a sergeant of the Company, but I prefer to have my letters directed to (Mr.) instead of Sergeant.

These are the words composed by G.T. Tucker to his sister and dictated to the doctor. He lay on his death bed, then, having been wounded on the 30th, of August 1862. He died on the 9th, of September 1862.

Harenson, Virginia
September 4th, 1862

Dear Sister Martha :

I avail myself of the opportunity to inform you of the condition of my wound. I was wounded on Saturday the 30th of August. Dr. Taylor, after putting me under the influmnce of chloroform, decided that I could not stand the operation of amputation. He said it would only hasten my death, for I was oblidged to die.

Tell my relations, father, mother, sister and brother, that I trust I am prepared to meet my God. I hope you will have my remains taken back to South Carolina, and there decently buried.

Farewell one and all, I bid you a long farewell. I hope to meet you all in Heaven. Tell Mr. Sims to come immediately after my remains. I am my loving sister,

Your most affectionate brother,
G.F. Tucker.

The following is a letter which was published in The Times Post in March 1913. This paper was published weekly in Houston, by G.W. Williams, editor and proprietor. The letter is only signed "(A High Private in the Rear Ranks)", but is an authentic account of the experience of a Chickasaw County soldier who fought in the Civil War.

(Prison Life during the Civil War)

As the years lengthen into months, and months into years, and we pass down life's pathway our thoughts dwell more frequently in the scenes and

recollections of the past, with its pleasures not unmixed with pain.

I have been thinking of late that some of my experiences and a few details of my prison life would interest some of my comrades, who would chance to read these lines. Tho fifty years have passed and many have been forgotten, yet memory still brings back the past, with its vivid pictures of the war as we saw them then. I was wounded and captured at Knoxville, Tennessee in November of 1863. We were carried to the field Hospital, which was an old unoccupied house. There we were placed around the room with our heads to the wall real close together. Next morning the man next to me was dead. I think so often how the circumstances would affect us now, but at the time we were so accustomed to the sights which naturally prevailed after every battle, that we were not moved by them. We remained at the field hospital until we were able to be to Knoxville. When we got there we were comfortably housed in an old church, with nice clean cots. We were treated kindly by the Federal surgeons and every thing was carried on with much precision. I was wounded in the foot and could have easily attended to my own wound but they insisted that it was their duty to do all that, so I contented myself to be waited on, just enjoyed myself by eating and sleeping and trying to adjust myself to crutches. I got one fall when I first began to try to walk. The weather turned exceedingly cold, the ground was frozen to a depth of many inches and the branches of the trees snapped like whip cords. I thought I had never seen it so cold before.

A General of the Yankee Army came in frequently to see us. He was jovial and had a great deal of fun about him. He had lost an arm and I was anxious to know when and where. He told me he was wounded at Seven Pines. I remembered the place very distinctly, we passed through the quarters after they had left there, and every thing was as he described it. They had driven rail road spikes in the tall pines so they could climb up and look toward Richmond. They left their tents

standing, I asked him why they didnt carry them with them and he said, " We had no time for swopping knives". I found it very interesting to talk to him.

As our wounds healed they got us ready to be sent to prison at Camp Chase Ohio. When we started on our journey our first stop was Nashville. We arrived there late one evening. We got off the train and were marched down the middle of the streets. Each side of the street was lined with prisoners. We were badly crippled up, some hobbling, others on crutches. One big robust Yankee lifted his voice to be heard above the others and said, " Now you are getting your Southern Rights ". One of our cripples asked him if he was a Union man to which he answered, "I am" our soldier replied, "then shoulder your gun and go to the front". We were marched on down to the penitentiary and locked up with a herd of deserters and criminals of every kind. Fortunately we had only one night to stay there. Our next stop was in the beautiful city of Louisville, Kentucky, where we were kindly treated. Then we arrived at Camp Chase prison and very soon we all were assigned places. We had the good fortune of meeting some of our comrades which we all enjoyed.

We found the prison inclosure to be large and well kept. Every room was inspected daily. We found the prisoners actively engaged in different pursuits, but of course they found very little to do with. They made jewelry out of guttapercha. and when they could get a silver dime to work with they prized it highly. The work they did then looked beautiful to us, but now it would look very poor besides such jewels made today. They sold their jewels and would buy rations, or send the money home.

Many amusing incidents happened during our prison life, the half can not be told, although many have been forgotten. Men felt the restraint and were like mules fenced in, always trying to get out, but few succeeded in doing so. Rations were scarce and hard to get but the prisoners were allowed to go out under guard and get rations with the money they were paid for the work they did.

One morning the officers came in and wanted volunteers to go and cut sod to put around the officer's quarters, among the number who went out was a little Alabamian. It was a hot July day and I think hot weather up north is more severe than in the south. This little fellow and his guard became separated from the others a little, the boy became thirsty and asked if there was water near. The guard led him to a cool clear spring, he laid down and drank long and much and asked the guard to drink which he did, laying down his gun. The boy got the gun , bent the bayonet over the muzzle, threw it away and ran. He succeeded in getting away from the guard and hiding until night. He then went to a house which proved to be a Copper Head's Hoe, (Southern Sympathizer). This man hid him until the next night, then sent him on horse back to another friend and so on until he finally reached home. He wrote back to his comrades of his safe arrival.

There was another instance of a little Frenchman working out a plan by which he and twenty others might make their escape. The garbage wagon came in every morning to carry out the slop and refuse. They had planned to rush out the gate which they succeeded in doing, rushing out across an open field with all the vim they had, but the guards on the parapet soon saw what was done and began firing at them like they were rabbits. A Cavalry company which was preparing for a big fourth of July dinner was ordered to bring them back, which they did. One man was wounded on each side, but none escaped.

We remained there at Camp Chase for sometime, I dont remember how long. One day an order came for one hundred men to be taken out for what purpose we did not know. It was generally surmised we were to be exchanged, but our joy was of short duration, for we were only to change from our prison to another. We landed in prison on Johnson's Island in due course of time. There I met my brother who had been captured at Gettysburg, he also had been wounded. We had many experiences to relate to one another.

We liked our new prison home better than the one at Camp Chase. It was kept very clean and the prisoners were inspected as to keeping their person clean. I suppose that every one knows that all prisons are enclosed by a high wall with a parapet on which sentinels keep watch. There was a dead line which we could not pass. Between it and the prison there was a small stretch of ground, on this some of the prisoners raised a few vegetables. Rations were so scarce at times that the prisoners would resort to most anything to get something to eat. My brother with some other men went out and gathered a half bushel of parsley, which they boiled and ate, and for a wonder it did not hurt them. Rats were eaten with relish and I heard of our men eating a cat but can not vouch for that. But there is no telling what men will eat when they get real hungry. Some would draw their day's rations and sit right down and eat it all at once and have nothing until the next day.

In prison we burned wood. We would go to the wood pile and get sticks of wood and hew them down. One man had gotten a turning lathe somewhere and we made chairs. Soon we had all made us one each. We made the bottoms out of old boot legs or plank or just anything we could get. The men were skilled in making jewelry as they were at Camp Chase.

We organized a Gentleman's Club. We were to use no language we would not use in the presence of ladies, the penalty for breaking the rules was to cut wood, draw water, or pay a postage stamp. There was one man who could be seen nearly every morning cutting wood. We knew at once that he had violated a rule and was so true to his promise he didnt shun the penalty.

We were often amused at some prisoners trying to escape, in which they most always failed. But they showed great daring qualities in some of the a attempts they made. One time I remember that two or three men had planned to escape. They made a ladder which was concealed in their room. Then they watched for a freeze which would make it possible for them to cross the river which was just beyond the prison. So one cold night when the river was frozen hard, everything was fixed and they watched for a chance to get by the guards on the parapet.

When they saw a chance they ran out with the ladder and placed it against the wall. The first man that ran up was shot and fell back but the others succeeded in getting away. The alarm was given of the escaped prisoners and everything was soon in a stir, but the men succeeded in getting across the river and hid in an old barn, but the weather was so cold they saw they would soon freeze, so they gave themselves up. They were brought back. Some of the men got so desperate in the thought of getting away that they would risk their lives in an attempt.

These are only a few of the happenings during our prison life. While we were there we had preaching occasionly and several joined the church and wanted to be baptised. They hardly knew how to manage, as there was no pool or running stream inside the enclosure, so several men made a large box and filled it with water from the well and they were baptised in it.

My brother was exchanged about five months before the surrender. He and the others who left were accompanied to Richmond by a guard. On their return one of the men came in and told that my brother had arrived safely. His thoughtfulness of me, I appreciated very much. No more prisoners after that were exchanged. I was with the number who remained until the war closed. There were many light hearts when we were put on the train at Landusky, Ohio. We took a first class car on the train, soon the conductor came in and told us we were in a first class car and must move back to the second. One tall determined looking man rose up and told him we were first class gentlemen and would ride in the first class car. The conductor made a hasty exit and was seen no more. We made our first stop at Cincinnati, arriving there with no money or friends. My comrade and I strolled down the street, a gentleman stepped out of a store and told us to follow him and he would show us where we could get lodging for the night. When we came to a crossing he gave us a number which we readily found. He walked with haste and never looked around for he informed us he could not let it be known that he was helping us.

The next morning we all met on the public square and ladies came in with great baskets full of eatibles, such as boiled ham and bread. They insisted on packing our haver-sacks with enough to last us until we got home. On looking around I saw ladies with large buckets of lemonade which was indeed refreshing for the weather was hot. We were sent on a boat to Louisville and all along the way we were treated so kindly by ladies at every stop. They had lemons and oranges for the sick. One lady came into our car and asked if any sick were on. I told her none but myself, that I was dreadfully homesick. She laughingly said she had no lemons for my kind of sickness. And here I must give three cheers for our noble women.

My next stop was in Okolona, Mississippi, just twelve miles from home sweet home. I arrived safely on the fourth of July, having been absent four years. Very unexpected was my arrival and the news spread rapidly. After embracing the family I was soon shaking hands with the colored people from the oldest to the youngest who had been so faithful to my loved ones during my absence. I found my father here to welcome me but my mother had died while I was in prison.

I went out in April 1861, in the Buena Vista Rifles Company, A 17th Mississippi Regiment, Col. Featherston's Regiment, Barksdale Brigade.

Signed,

A High Private in the Rear Ranks.

INTERVIEW WITH VETRANS :

James Madison Kirby was born in Batesville, South Carolina, which is ten miles southeast of Spartansburg. He was one of a family of nine children and with his brother, William Edward Monroe, and father served the entire four years in the War between the States. He enlisted at the age of fifteen and one half years with the consent of his father who realizing that there would be a

demand for fighting forces stated to the recruiting officer that he had rather his sons went together. They enlisted in Company B. Infantry, with Captain Sloan as first commanding officer.

Mr. Kirby served the first year in the State of South Carloina, then re-enlisted for the duration of the war in the general army. He was then sent to Virgina where he fought under General Lee. He was wounded at the battle of Manassas in 1863, in the left leg and foot, and was sent back to South Carolina on a furlough as soon as he was able to go. He only stayed home a short while going back to Kingston, South Carolina where he was wounded in the arm. He was only disabled a short while and went back into service until the close of the war.

He said at one time the captain detailed a group of ten men, one from each company, to do scout duty on an island off the coast of South Carolina where the Federals were camped. They were discovered by the enemy and their retreat cut off. The Lieutenant was fired upon and wounded and said " We will have to give up, boys" but I did not have a notion of giving up so I said lets get out boys or die trying, so we took the Lieutenant and went through the slush and mud nearly to our waists, while the tide was out. Then when nearing our destination we were accosted by three Yankees and two negroes in a scouting party who demanded that we surrender. Surrender, no, so we began shooting so quickly that we overpowered them and took them into camp. When we arrived, wet, cold and tired but triumphant the Captain was surprised and said " I knew my sixteen year olds could fight."

Mr. Kirby said that he fought in the battle of Petersburg and several others. And said when they crossed the Potomac into Pennsylvania they had strict orders not to molest or destroy any property. The Confederate soldiers did not pillage in the enemy's territory nor molest their homes.

After the war Mr. Kirby went back to his home in South Carolina. His mother, who was a semi-invalid, with the smaller children had farmed the land, making good crops. None of the cotton had been ginned but was stored in the house and only that which his mother and the children had hand-picked the lint

from, for use in making clothing had been used. The cotton was then ginned and sold for as much as fifty cents per pound. The farm was too near the northern border to have been raided.

Mr. Kirby was married in 1867 to Mary Jane Green, in South Carolina and came to Chickasaw County where he has made his home since. They came to Mississippi in covered wagons with the usual amount of adventure and hardships but with that pioneering spirit which has made civilization where all was once a wilderness. Mr. Kirby has been an active member of the Baptist Church for sixty one years and has reared a family of seven children of his own and three orphan children. He is still active at the advanced age of ninety one years.

INTERVIEW WITH RELATIVES OF VETERANS :

Mrs. Mollie Abbot, Okolona, relates the following information about one of her relatives.

Benjamin J. Abbot ran away from college to join the Confederate Army in 1861, when he was only sixteen years of age. He enlisted in the Prarie Guards and was assigned as Color Guard. This company was in the 11th Mississippi Regiment under Jackson's Brigade, which was made up of young college boys.

Mr. Abbot was wounded seven times, three major wounds and four minor wounds. He lost an eye at the Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia, and received one wound at Brice's Cross Roads, near Tupelo. After this he joined General Forrest's Cavalry and when at Athens Alabama, General Forrest called for volunteers to go see if there were any Yankees in a Block House and he volunteered. He was shot in the leg as he stepped from the porch of the Block House and was left for dead, but after the battle some of his comrades found him and carried him to the hospital. It was said that the hole was so large that an egg might easily have been dropped through it.

When he first entered the service the commanding officer called for volunteers to go on a very dangerous mission.

Mr. Abbot volunteered but the officer thought him too young, his Colonel, however said he could be trusted anywhere.

He was very active during the Carpet Baggers rule and helped materially to rid the country of these.

After the war Mr. Abbot married and reared a family in Okolona, Mississippi. His record for good citizenship is one that his children are justly proud.

STORIES OF RAIDS UPON HOMES DURING THE CIVIL WAR :

From an interview with Mr. W.G. Mabry, of Okolona Mississippi.

Mr. Mabry said that he remembered about a time when the soldiers came to his home, when he was a very small boy. His mother was weaving some cloth to make his father a suit of clothes, and one of the slaves ran in and gave the alarm that the Yankee Soldiers were in the yard. His mother very hastily cut the material from the loom, ran upstairs, put the cloth around her body and pulled her hoop skirt down over it. She was sitting calmly in a chair when the soldiers came upstairs to pilfer. In looking through the dresser drawers a soldier came across a Masonic emblem. He asked Mrs. Mabry whose it was and she told him that it belonged to her husband who was away in the Confederate Army. He closed the drawer without taking a thing and called his men out of the house. He then put a guard at the door to keep the other soldiers out. Mrs. Mabry had hidden all of her silver and valuable jewelry in the dresser drawers for this raid was expected. They generally got word by the grape vine route about the time that the Yankees were coming and each plantation passed the news on. When they got the word they would hide their valuables. Some were buried or put under the sitting hens.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. BELL GALVIN?, age seventy eight, Houston, Mississippi.

I can remember when the Yankees made a raid upon many of the homes in and around Houston. I saw the soldiers with my own eyes, and it was said at the time that there were five hundred of them, but of course I dont know how many there were. I was visiting at my Uncle Bill Lyon's home, who lived then near where the County Home is located now. My cousin, Lydia Lyons and I were at Dr. Evans home when he came running in giving the alarm that the Yankees were coming. We ran back to Uncle Bill's house as fast as we could go. I was scared to death and would have given a hundred dollars to be at home with my mother. I ran and "scrooched" down in a corner and peeped through a crack at the soldiers in the yard. They were all dressed in blue. They took their swords and cut the legs off of every chicken Aunt Lou had and then carried the chickens with them. Two of the soldiers came in the house and one filled his pockets with biscuits and the other one got an old accordion off the mantle and walked out playing it. They started in the smoke house but Aunt Lou begged the Captain not to take her meat and he stopped the soldiers from doing so. Then tey went to the corn crib that was built in the edge of the woods, and threw the corn out on the ground and then set fire to the woods. I guess they thought that the crib and corn would burn too, but they didnt catch fire. After they were gone we picked up all the corn and put it back in the crib. I was ready to go home the next day and when I arrived there I learned that only two soldiers had been to our house and they did no harm.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. W.S. SAVELY? HOULKA? MISSISSIPPI.

Mrs. Savely, now living on part of the original Savely place, near Houlka, is approaching her seventy ninth birthday, but has an active mind and a vivid recollection of the War between the States. She was only four years old at the beginning of the war. She said her father had gone to war and only her mother and the children were at home. They kept their valuables hidden away from the house. Once when one of the neighbor boys came over to borrow a gun, her mother went out to get the gun from the place where she had it hidden and when she returned the house and yard was full of Yankee Soldiers, so she threw the gun under the house but forgot that she had the powder pouch. The soldiers ate all the cooked food, confiscated all the other food they could find, then began ransaking the place for valuables. One of the soldiers noticed the powder pouch and asked her what it was and she told him,it was a bag her husband used in hunting. She then went to the commanding officer and asked that he protect her home from further depradation. The officer had the soldiers to withdraw. On another occasion she said the "Yankees" were sighted by one of the negro slaves who was plowing in a field. He unhitched his mule and came running to the house to give the alarm. Her mother kept all the negro babies at the "big house" on pallets while the negro women were at work as they were considered valuable property. She also kept her money in a pouch next to her body in the daytime and under her pillow at night. By the time the slave reached the house the soldiers were riding up in the yard. She remembered having left her money under her pillow, so she rushed and got it and put it between the quilts of the pallet. when the soldiers had eaten all they could find they asked her for what money she had. She turned the pocket of her dress wrong side out to show that she had no money, but one of them started toward her to search her anyway. Then she reached for the shovel and said, "if you lay your hand on me I will brain you with this shovel." So he let her alone. They must have gotten the mule that the negro slave was plowing with as it disappeared and was never heard of again.

Mrs. Savely said she remembered the guns shooting all night on one occasion, and the next morning her mother and a neighbor went to the Battlefield and were horrified at the sight of the mangled and dead bodies they saw.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. SID EVANS, HOUSTON, MISSISSIPPI.

"Although I was only a small boy, I well remember the raid the Yankees made on our home. We were living one mile south of Houston and when the Yankees were sighted, there was no one home except my mother and I and some negro slaves. The silverware and money had been sewn up in the feather bed on which my mother slept.

She was an invalid and was confined to her bed for years before her death. The soldiers ransacked the place and ate all the food that was cooked, took all the meat from the smoke house, all the dishes, cooking utensils and even the well bucket from the well. We had seven barrels of molasses and after taking all they wanted they poured what was left on the ground. Then they came to the bed where my mother was and asked her for the money and other valuables she had. She begged them to leave her alone, but one big burly German soldier grabbed hold of the bed and began turning the mattress back and cursing my mother. I had taken all I could so I drew my foot back and kicked him as hard as I could right in the stomach. This made him furious and he slapped me so hard that I went spinning to the door. Of course this frightened my mother but the soldier left us alone and went away cursing. Then they started to set fire to the house but an old faithful slave begged them not to. We had to go to town and buy cooking utensils and dishes before we could have another meal. I have often wished that I might see that soldier who molested my mother again. Do you blame me for not loving the Yankees.

INTERVIEW WITH MISS MATTIE LEE BUCHANAN, OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI.

My Grandmother Tucker said that one night during the war the family was sitting by the fire, when a there was a knock heard at the door. One of the servants opened the door and there stood three or four Yankee soldiers. The servant invited them in and they immediately began pilfering ; but the women were so badly frightened that they would not have said a word if the soldiers had taken all the valuables, just so they were left alone. But one of my aunts who was then only four years old, was looking on when one of the soldiers opened the dresser drawer, she ordered him to " Just come right out of there." The Yankee turned to her and asked if it was her doll things and she said yes so he left them alone. About that time my grandmother hearing a knock opened the door and there was an Officer standing just outside the door. He asked if any of his men were in the house, and on being answered in the affirmative he said tell them to come out.

When they came out looking like sheep killing dogs, he abused them and called them every thing but a gentleman, and told them they would go to the Guard house for this, so there must have been one decent Yankee Officer.

INTERVIEW WITH MISS NORA GRIFFIN, HOUSTON , MISSISSIPPI.

I had two brothers, an uncle and several cousins who fought in the Civil War. Although I was too small to remember much about the war, I have heard the older people tell of raids the Yankees made on the Southern homes. At one time they made a raid on our home. And just as they had ridden up to our front gate, mother saw father coming up the road. My father was a member of the Legislature and was too old to serve as a soldier. My older sister was standing by the window trying to attract the attention of father and the soldiers spied him so they wheeled their horses and started toward him. He turned and looked back as though there was some one behind him and yelled " come on boys", waving his arm. And when he did that the Yankees thought he had a bunch of soldiers with him, so they took to their heels. At another time I was at my aunts, Mrs. Abner Medlin's, in Houston, when a crowd of negro soldiers came and raided the kitchen and pantry. Then they began pilfering in the bedrooms. My Aunt went to the commanding officer and asked him to protect her as she was alone with only small children. So he called the soldiers out and made them leave my aunts home.

HOME CONDITIONS DURING THE CIVIL WAR :

All wars have been severe on women and children in the invaded countries, and truly, the South can well be said to have been invaded during the Civil War. There was hardly a family that was not represented at the front by a father, son, brother or husband. The suspense and anxiety alone was a terrific hardship, but the noble women and helpless children left at home did not spend their time bewailing their lot but fought as gallantly as the soldiers at the front. The dedi-

cation of the manpower to the cause was complete, and by the end of the year of 1861 there was scarcely a home that had not known the loss of a loved one. As the war progressed each day was one of increased danger, privation and sorrow. The diaries and letters of the women reflect the danger and disquitude of the times, but these also, contain evidence of courage, fortitude and devotion.

The dangers and hardships increased as the war progressed ; pilage, arson and even murder was endured. Innocent children and helpless women had to stand by and watch while marauding soldiers, who ate and destroyed the food so much needed by them, pillaged their homes for valuables and often burned the food that could not be carried with them. The time came when there was not sufficient food to supply the needs. Due to this destruction and the blockade around the Confederacy, many makeshifts for food and clothing had to be resorted to. There was practically nothing except that produced on the farms, and this was necessarily reduced because of shortage of labor and equipment.

Some of the substitutes that residents, who were small children at that time, remember were very crude. Corn and Okra seed were parched and used for coffee, in addition to meal, bran, rye and sweet potatoes. Soda was obtained from burnt corn cobs. And dye was made from the bark of sweet gum, oak and walnut bark and poke berries. Kerosene was not obtainable, and candles were made from tallow and beeswax. Possibly one of the greatest hardships was the scarcity of salt. In numbers of instances the soil from the smokehouses was boiled and filtered for salt. There were no matches, and fire had to be kept during the entire year by piling green bark and ashes over the coals. If fire happened to go out it was rekindled with flint rocks and pine splinters.

Wheat was raised, threshed and ground into flour. The shorts and middlings were eaten first and then the flour. It,of course was extremely dark, as the bleaching process was not possible with the machinery available. No sugar was obtainable, but molasses was used instead. Soap was made by using lye obtained from wood ashes to which grease was added.

Clothing was very much homemade, being spun, woven, dyed and frequently hand sewn, as sewing machines were scarce. But no one minded wearing them, as they seemed to signify loyalty and patriotism.

It would not be right to not mention the part the negro played in the South during the war. The loyalty and faithfulness lessened the worry and anxiety of many of the farm women, for in many instances they did their part in tilling the soil and conserving the food produced. Many of them took great pride in caring for " Old Miss and de children" while " Massa", was away, and some considered it a duty.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION :

Mississippi Official and Statistical Register, of 1908.

Fants Mississippi History.

Dr. J.S. Evans.

Mr. Reubin Davis.

Mrs. J. W. Strickland

Mrs. J.W. Strickland
Supervisor of Historical Research
Chickasaw County.

Chickasaw County

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List of Members of Chickasaw Guards, Company H, 11th Miss. Reg.

List of Company H, 11th Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers, C.S.A. musteredinto Confederate serviceat Lynchburg, Va., May 13th, 1861, (into State service Maech ,19th, 1861.)

Captain - Wm. F. Tucker, promoted colonel 41st Miss. Reg., 1862, brigadier general, May 1, 1861, twice wounded. Jamison H. Moore, killed at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863.

First Lieutenant - L.W. Galbraith, resigned 1861; Jamison H. Moore acting Lieutenant, promoted. Evans R. Reed, killed at Seven Pines. Thos. W. Hill, killed at Gettysburg. R. A. McDowell entitled to be captain after Gettysburg.

Second Lieutenant - J.H. Moore promoted; E.R. Reed Ried, promoted; T.W. Hill promoted; Baxter McFarland, desperately wounded. Gaines Mills, promoted (May 1863) adjutant 41st Miss., Regiment, and (June 1864) A.A. General; CSA., rank of Mayor; R.A. McDowellpromoted Jo.G. Marable.

Third Lieutenant - Thaddens P. Lockhart, promoted (1862) captain, ACS 41st Miss., Baxter McFarland, elected May 1862, vice Lockhart; Jos. G. Marable (elected, vice McFarland), promoted.

First Sergeants - Frank M James, discharged, sick, 1861; Thomas D. Hamilton, promoted captain and major. A Q M; Baxter McFarland (1861), promoted; R.A. McDowell, promoted; Warren D Reid; Sam R. Carothers captured 2nd Manassas; died in Fort Delaware.

Second Sergeants - T.D. Hamilton, promoted; Baxter McFarland, promoted; Sam R. Carothers, promoted; Warren D. Reid, promoted; Thos. R. Hobson, R.N. Lyon, killed at Gettysburg.

Third Sergeants - Evans R. Reid, promoted; Thos. W. Hill, promoted; Thos. R. Hobson, Warren D. Reid, promoted.

Fourth Sergeants - W.R. Hobson, died 1861; T.R. Hobson; A.E. Robertson killed at Gettysburg.

Chickasaw County

Corporals - R.G.Steele, elected captain, 8th Miss., calvary; S.R. Carothers, promoted; P.H. Sims, killed, at Gaines' Mill; T.R. Wilson, lost finger; Farr Stribling, killed at Sharpsburg; R.N. Lyon, killed at Gettysburg. Geo. T. Shaw, killed at Gettysburg.

Privates.

Ed.,Akin, discharged under age after battles around Richmond, survived, J.K. Allen, killed at Wilderness, H.J.Applewhite, killed at Wilderness. Wm. Arnold, joined at fifteen years old, in the spring of 1863, captured at Gettysburg, survived. S.J.Ashby, discharged, sick, survived. Whitfield Baker, transferred and killed in another command. Wm. A. Barton, killed at Gettysburg. T.J. Boatner, severely wounded at Gettysburg. Survived. J.M. Brownlee Jr. discharged, sick, Winchester Va. survived. J.S. Buckhanan died 1861, Winchester Va. Jos.W. Buckhanan, discharged, sick, 1861, captain Co. H. 24th Miss., J.C. Carothers, wounded at Seven Pines; discharged, survived. J.M. Carothers, killed at 2nd Manassas. Wm. D. Carr, transferred to another command, survived. Calvin Carter, transferred to 9th Alabama Regiment. T.F. Cockrell, killed at Gains' Mill. Wm. Cook killed at Gains' Mill. John Davis Killed, J.H. Davidson, wounded, Sharpsburg, and discharged, survived. John Davis, wounded 2nd, Manassas, survived. J.J. Dulaney, mortally wounded at Gaines' Mill. P.S. De Hay, transferred to Jeff Davis Legion,1861, survived. Abner C. Echols, wounded, survived. T.S. Evans, elected Major, 11th Miss. Regiment, April 13th 1862, killed at Gettysburg. Barney Freeman, killed at Wilderness. A.M. Garber Jr. promoted A Q M C S A 1861, survived.

Samuel C. Gates killed at Seven Pines. James M. Gillespie, transferred to Co., 2 11th Miss. Regiment, survived. T.V.Gorden, wounded at Gettysburg, captured, survived. Geo. W. Gordon, killed at Bethesda church, June 2, 1861. Ashley Gova, died Winchester Va.1861.
James M Griffin, lost leg at Gettysburg, survived. Wm. H. Griffin, wounded at 2nd Manassas, discharged and joined Co. E. 8th Miss., calv'y, survived. F.P. Hamilton, killed at Gettysburg. J.M. Harley, transferred 42nd Miss., Reg. 1862, survived. J.M. Harris, wounded Gaines' Mill and Wilderness. J.V. Harris, killed at Gettysburg. John Hellenthal, killed at Gaines' Mill. Martin Hickery, discharged, British subject.
John T. Hightower, wounded and disabled, 2nd Manassas, discharged, survived. Thos. W. Hill, promoted Sergeant; 2nd and 1st lieut., wounded 2nd Manassasand killed at Gettysburg. R.T. Hobson, Sergeant, 4th to 1st, wounded at Spotsylvania Court House. Sirvived. W.R. Holland, wounded at Gettysburg roll of honor, Tally's Mill , corporal and sergeant, survived. J.T. Holladay, survived. M. Houseman, promoted sergeant, A . Q . M . Wm. Hyatt, wounded at 2nd Manassas. Joseph Irby, died Winchester Va. 1861. Sam H. Irby, killed at Gaines' Mill. John Jackson, wounded at Seven Pines, survived. F. M. James, rejoined Co.,1862, perhaps elected 3rd lieut. elected shff., and resigned as lieutenant, survived.
R.T. Johnson, killed at Gaines' mill. Leonard Kirkpatrick, died 1861, White Post Va. Wm. Kirkpatrick, survived. Isaac Knox, severely wouhded, at Gaines' Mill, discharged, and joined Co., E, 8th Miss., Calvary. Survived. W.P. Knox, wounded at Gettysburg and lost a finger.
Asa G. Landon, transferred government works, Richmond Va. survived.

Richard A. Laughlin, killed at Sharpsburg. Andrew Lofton, sick, died, J. G. Lofton, killed at Seven Pines. J. Lawrence Lyon, lost arm at Gettysburg, survived. Robert N. Lyon, promoted Corporal and Sergeant, killed at Gettysburg. J.E. Lyon, discharged, disability, survived R.M. Lyon, died in hospital, Richmond Va. Geo. N. Lee, killed at Sharpsburg. Peter Lyon, discharged, under age. D.G. Maloney, discharged, British subject. J.G. Marable, promoted 3rd lieut. 1863, planted Reg., colors on breastworks, Gettysburg, was captured and escaped, survived. John L. Marable, wounded at Malvern Hill. W. H. Marable, ("Tip.,") killed at Gettysburg. R.B. Marion, lost an arm at Gettysburg, was captured, wounded at Gaines' Mill; survived. R.K. Marion, wounded and captured at Gettysburg, survived. Wm.P. Marion, killed at Gettysburg. Wm. Marion, wounded at Sharpsburg, captured at Gettysburg. survived. Wm. O. Martin, killed at Malvern Hill. Geo. M. Mathis, furloughed home killed following Grierson's raiders. W.M. McBee, ("Maje.") killed at Gaines' Mill. John H. McCollough, wounded, survived. R.A. McDowell, D. Leroy, in all the battles and never wounded. R.A. McDowell, promoted 3rd, 2nd,and 1st lieut., entitled to be captain after Gettysburg. survived.

W.B. McDowell, wounded at Gettysburg, and captured. Survived. James McDowell, transferred to calvary. Baxter McFarland, elected 3rd lieut., promoted 2nd lieut. of Co. promoted adjutant 41st Miss and A A Gen'l., C S A rank major, desperately wounded at Gaines' Mill. Survived.

A. L. McJunkin, wounded at 2nd Manassas and Bethsada church, roll of honor, Hanover Junction, survived. C.A. Moffat, wounded at Gettysburg, transferred Co. E. 8th Miss., cavalry, survived. Wm. P. Moffat, killed at Bethsada church. Wm. Moore, wounded at Gettysburg, survived. J.B. Moore, discharged under age. M. J. Murphy, killed at Gettysburg. Samuel Ott, died 1861. B.F. Owen, wounded at Seven Pines, promoted captain A Q M., C S A., survived. S. F. Peden, killed at Gaines' Mill. J.P. Plunkett, discharged, Britishs subject. John Porter, transferred to Va. Regiment. J.M. Pulliam, killed at Sharpsburg. Lem N. Reid, wounded at Bethsada church, and twice at Gettysburg. Survived. Geo. Reid killed at Gaines' Mill Samuel Reid, captured at Gettysburg. Survived. T.B. Reid, killed at Petersburg, roll of honor at Bethsada Church. W.D. Reid, promoted Sergeant, wounded Sharpsburg, Gettysburg and Bethsada church; roll of honor at Wilderness, captured at Gettysburg, escaped, discharged, survived. Wm. Robinson, killed 2nd Manassas.. Wm. Richardson, survived. A.E. Robertson, promoted Sergeant killed at Gettysburg. J.L.Robinson, wounded at Malvern Hill and Gettysburg. Survived. P.W. Rowland, wounded severely at Seven Pines, discharged, survived. Geo. Shaw, discharged 1861, under age. W. H. Sheffield, survived. B.M. Sims, killed. P.H. Sims, promoted Corporal, killed at Gaines' Mill. D.N. Smith, killed at Gettysburg.. Jos. M. Smith, wounded at Gettysburg, survived. Geo. H. Steen, killed at 2nd Manassas. H.A. Stevens, killed at Weldon railroad(Ream's station) J.P. Stribling, killed at Sharpsburg. was a Corporal.

Alfred Swinson, discharged sick. January, 1862, survived. George Thomas, killed at Hatcher's Run, April 1865. James T. Thompson, discharged joined Co. L. 41st Miss., survived. __ Warren, was probably killed. Oliver Williams, discharged, furnished substitute. Survived. Sam L. Wilson, wounded at Sharpsburg and Gettysburg, survived. Chas. J. Wilson, killed at Gaines' Mill. Thos. R. Wilson, promoted Corporal, wounded and lost a finger, survived. Lem Wilson, sick, died. J.M. Woodall, discharged, disability, survived. J.C. Wright, substitute for O. Williams, wounded at Gettysburg, survived. John H. Young, killed at Bethsada Church, June 2nd, 1864. __ Young, died.

Mustered into Confederate service aggregate, 137; died, 11; killed or mortally wounded, 47; discharged 25; transferred, 10; resigned 2; promoted to other commands 9; total 104; surviving numbers date of surrender,33.

Copied from " Houston Times Post " of 1915. The Times Post copied it from the Aberdeen Weekly, of Aberdeen, Miss.

Chickasaw County.

Roster of Company C. 31st Mississippi Volunteers.

Captain James L. S.Hill.,resigned; 1st Lieut. Cyrus B. Baldwyn, died at Okolona, 1862; 2nd Lieut. Thomas J. Pulliam, promoted to Captain; Rev. William Gordon, 3rd Lieut. resigned. 1st Sergeant William Bird Carodine, elected Lieutenant at Holly Springs, 1862, killed at Atlanta Ga. 2nd Sergeant John Early Huff, wounded at Big Shanty Ga., 3rd Sergeant Lycurgus Sims, wounded at Frank Tenn. died at Memphis, 1865; 4th Sergeant William T Young, 5th Sergeant P.H. Malone, wounded at Decatur, Ala. 1st Corporal, Eli M. Gordon, 2nd Corporal, Peter Sanders, appointed Ensign 31st Miss., Regiment at Saltillo, killed at Baton Rouge, La., 1862. 3rd Corporal Edward Earl Smith, lost an arm at Baton Rouge, La., 4th Corporal Robert P. Pulliam.

Privates.

Solomon Alred, captured at Atlanta Ga. and kept in prison to the close of war. Joseph M. Appling, died at Newton Station, 1863; James M. Aston,died at Holly Springs; William E. Andrews, wounded at Canton, died at Jackson, 1861; Augustus P. Babb, captured at Vicksburg, 1865; Thos. E. Bugg, captured at Vicksburg 1863, transferred to Calvary; John Boring; Isaac Boring, captured at Vicksburg 1863; Z. Taylor Boring; William B Baskins, wounded at Decatur, Alabama. Thomas J. Blackwell, Joseph W. Byars; Andrew S R Belk; E.C. Belk; Robert Box; William Bates wounded at Jackson;

Chickasaw County.

John Bates, died at Corinth, 1862. William barton, captured at Vicksburg, 1863. Died in 1872; Thomas N. Beaty, died in 1866; Dr. Joseph Brown, discharged at Tupelo, killed in Texas 1869; John R. Cappa, wounded at Franklin Tenn. John Criddle, F.M. Criddle, James Criddle, discharged; J.D. Crockett, appointed brigade forage master; S A J Clark, killed at Decatur, Alabama; in 1865. M.J. Clark, died at Tupelo 1862. James H. Chenault, appointed 2nd Corporal, lost a leg at Resaca, Ga. Frank M. Doss, Wesley Dominick, W. Thomas Davis, Benj. T. Davis, wounded at Franklin Tenn. J. Woodson Davis, died at home 1864; Reuben Davis, wounded at Baton Rouge La., Dr. William H. Dickerson, appointed surgeon, C S at Atlanta; William Dexter, discharged at Houston; John Dill captured at Bakers Creek and never heard from; A.P. Duke, discharged; Robert Easter, died at Houston; 1862. Henry Fergerson, killed at Franklin, Tenn. 1864; John Fisher, died at Grenada, 1863; William Forshea, discharged; Milton Fleming, appointed 1st Corporal at Jackson; Casper Fleming, transferred at Jackson; Benj. F. Fitzpatrick, appointed A G M 31st Miss. Reg. wounded at Baton Rouge La. William Foster, died at Holly Springs; James M. Gordon, wounded at Baton Rouge La. Thomas V. Gordon, transferred to the 11th Miss., Reg. at Jackson; Thomas Gordon, wounded at Franklin Tenn. J. Newton Gates, Cyrus Glasgo, captured at Bakers Creek; William Goins, Richard D. Griffin, killed near Houston, by Wm. Tedder 1864; Wm. P. Glover, killed at Rwsasca, Ga. 1864. Frank Gullet, Benj. F. Hargrove, Thos. Harris, died at Comit River, La.

Chickasaw County.

J.J. Harris, died at Canton, 1864; Geo. Hill, wounded at Baton-Rouge, La. died in Jackson, 1863; Wm. Hill, died at Abbeville, 1863; Sterling Hightower, appointed Lieut. in North Carolina; Gustavus Hightower, wounded at Atlanta Ga. Wm. Hightower, killed at Franklin Tenn. Joshua Hightower, died at Holly Springs, 1862; Edward House, discharged at Saltillo; A. Jack Holliday, killed at Decatur Ala.1864; Joseph Holliman, Isaac Huddleston, discharged; Wm. Hitchcock, John Jolly, wounded at Atlanta Ga. David Jean, killed himself accidentally at home. 1865. Lam Kilgore, wounded at Franklin Tenn. Geo. Dallas Loftin, discharged; Sidney Laster, captured at Bakers Creek 1863; Peter Lee Lyon, captured at Vicksburg, 1863; Thos. L. Lyon, transferred to cavalry at Houston, captured at Vicksburg, 1863; Oliver Perry Martin, died at Saltillo 1862, the first man that died in the company; Geo. Martin, Jusley Martin, died at Greenwood 1863; Thos. N. Martin Jr., killed at Franklin Tenn. 1864; John W. Massey, wounded at Resasca Ga. also at Atlanta Ga. Hamilton Morgan, transferred to Demopolis Ala. James E. Miller, transferred to Co. A. 31st Miss. Reg. J. Miller Mathis, killed at Big Shanty Ga. 1865; Geo. Mathis, Wm. McNamee, died at Houston, 1862 Moses McLemore, wounded at Franklin Tenn. Robert McMillan, discharged; William McGarr, died at Houston 1862. J.W. McCollough, discharged; John M. Neal, wounded at Kenesaw Mountain, Ga. 1864; H. Russel Neal, Stephen S F Neal, Spencer Neal, wounded and died at Franklin Tenn. 1864. Benj. F. Pulliam, elected Lieutenant at Jackson, Thomas Pulliam, died at Houston 1862; J. Terrel Pulliam, wounded at Atlanta Ga. and Flatwoods Miss. elected Lieutenant at Jackson;

Chickasaw County

John Pyron; John Porter, died at Montgomery Ala. 1864; Waitus Porter, killed at Franklin Tenn, 1864; John Rhodes, died at Franklin Tenn. 1864; James Reid, Charles B. Robinson, captured at Vicksburg. 1813; John Richards, died at Houston, 1862; J. T. Richards, George Sanders appointed 3rd Corporal, at Abbeyville, appointed Lieutenant at North Carolina; Richard Sanders, killed at Decatur Ala. 1864; Peyton C. Steger, discharged at Enterprise, died 1870; Johnathan M. Smith, J. Monroe Smith, J.R. Smith, Simon Smith, died at Grenada 1865; Thomas Smith killed by Joe Reid near Houston, 1869; James Smith died in Georgia in 1864; Wm. Tedder killed at home in 1865; David Thompson, Jack F. Thompson, lost a leg at Franklin Tenn. captured at Vicksburg in 1863; C. Perry Stribling, discharged at Greenwood; James Spence, killed at Franklin Tenn. 1864; Abraham Spence died at Tupelo 1862; William Spence died at Vaiden 1863; appointed Sergeant at Jackson; Morgan C. Shell, lost a leg at Franklin Tenn.; Simon Sparks; F.W. Stovall died at Saltillo 1862; J.S. Thomas died at Holly Springs, 1862; Edward E. Trull killed at Franklin Tenn. 1864; Richard Thomas, transferred to Cavalry at Demopolis Ala. O. Tapley, David Thurman, wounded at Big Shanty, Ga. W. Thomas Tabb, killed at Franklin Tenn. 1864; Samuel P. Vance, lost a leg at Kenesaw Mountain, Ga. Rev. George W. Towry died at home 1863; George Vance, died at Mayville, 1863; Jesse Vance, William Vance, died at Chickasaw Bogue, 1863. Samuel Williams, John Waldrop, died in 1868; Peter Wingo, Wilburn West, died in 1868; Samuel Wells, John P. Wilson, transferred to Cavalry; Hugh A. Welsh; Charles A. Weeks, appointed Sergeant at Abbeyville, killed at Franklin Tenn. 1864; James A. Young, discharg ed at Okolona;

Chickasaw County

Jep N. Young. Killed at Franklin Tenn.

Company C., 31st Regiment Volunteers, was sworn into Service at Houston Chickasaw County, Mississippi, on March 5th, 1862, by Col. J.A. Orr, for three years of the war. The Company went into camp of instruction at Saltillo, March 26th, 1862. There are only three lists of the Company. Captain T.J. Pullium has one, Judge T.N. Martin, one and Augustus P. Babb the other one.

Copied from the "Times Post" who in turn copied it from the "Chickasaw Messenger" of May 5th, 1879.

Supplement to Wars

Chickasaw County.

Life of William Feimster Tucker.

W.F. Tucker was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, the ninth day of May, 1827, and was reared in the state of his birth. He graduated at Emory and Henry College in 1848. After his graduation, he returned to his home, and shortly afterwards (July, 1849) he came to Mississippi, settled and taught school in the town of Houston, in Chickasaw County.

On March 25th, 1851, he married Miss Martha Josephine Shakelford, daughter of Colonel Shakelford, one of the most respected and wealthiest planters in the state.

In 1854, General Tucker was elected Probate Judge of Chickasaw County, and was reelected in 1856. During the four years he served in the capacity of Judge, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1858. He entered the profession as a partner of the gifted and lamented Major E.S. Evans, and early, won distinction as an able zealous, and effective advocate.

General Tucker was conservative in politics, and in the Presidential campaign of 1860, he espoused the cause of, and voted for Bell and Everett; and although opposed to secession, yet, at the call to arms, he was one of the first men to answer. He organized a company called " Chickasaw Guards ", of which he was elected Captain. H

Supplement to Wars.

Chickasaw County.

Life of William Feimster Tucker.

He was engaged in the first battle of the war at Manasses, and afterwards in every battle of the army of Tennessee, when not absent on a wounded furlough, having been shot four times in action until he received a severe wound on May 14th, 1864, at the battle of Resaca, and from which wound he was still disabled when Lee surrendered.

The Chickasaw Guards were attached to and constituted a part of the 11th Mississippi Regiment in which Tucker served as Captain until the reorganization of the Regiment at Yorktown in 1862, when he was detailed and ordered by the Confederate war department to return to Mississippi to raise a regiment to meet the new call of Lincoln for Northern men to conquer the South.
He returned to Mississippi and raised the 41st Mississippi Regiment, of which he was elected Colonel. His gallantry on many a hard-fought battle field entitled him to the stars which he wore and ere long won for him the wreath which encircled them, and in 1863, though the junior of three Colonels in the Brigade, he was commissioned to Brigadier General.

The first battle of Manassas with the 11th Regiment Perryville, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Dalton, Resaca, and a hundred other fields, attest his powers and the brave and self sacrificing men under his command bear willingly testimony to his kindness of heart as well as his knightly bearing. Tucker never ordered one of his men where he himself was unwilling to go, and never saw one sick or wounded that he did not give him his sympathy, and if possible, succor, are tributes to his courage and humanity we

Supplement to Wars.

Chickasaw County.

Life of William Feimster Tucker.

We have heard so many times. He was twice severely wounded, and the withered arm which hung by the side, attested his devotion to the cause for which he fought and manifested in part the sacrifice he made for his country.

General Tucker was a member of the State Legislature in 1876 - 1878. He rendered effective service on the Committee which drove Ames from the Gubernatorial mansion.

In 1880, General Tucker and the late brilliant John Allen opposed each other for Congress to succeed Honorable H.L. Muldrow, who was not a candidate for reelection.

At the Convention in Corinth, Tucker led the field with Allen next. It was a dead lock for several days, on the 209th ballot, Muldrow who was kept before the convention by a vote of afew delegates and nominated for Congress asa dark horse, and as a compromise candidate. Allen and Tucker were two very popular and efficient men and it was understood in the politics of the State that before the next election for Congress that the state would be redistricted and Chickasaw, the home of Tucker, and Lee, the home county of Allen, placed in separate congressional district. This was done and Allen was elected to the next congress without opposition. On the night of September 14th, 1881, General Tucker was called to his library window and was shot and killed by an assassin. He was fifty-four years of age. Though he is dead his precept and example shall live after him. In the language of the

Supplement to wars

Chickasaw County.

Life of William Feimster Tucker.

preacher. General Tucker was a good man and the world is better because of his having lived in it.

The following tribute was paid to General W.F. Tucker by George M. Moreland, in his Commercial Appeal article, published Sunday morning, April 7th, 1929.

"Chickasaw's Martial Hero"

" Every Land has its hero, Rome boasts its gallant Horatius, who held the bridge as well; Carthage has its Hannibal; Greece is proud of its Leonidas; and its Miltiades, Scotland preserves the story of its Robert Bruce, and England delights to tell of the exploits of its Richard, the Lion Hearted.

So, Chickasaw County has its hero, too. W.F. Tucker a loyal Southerner to the core.

The bar of Chickasaw County had a portrait of General Tucker painted and hung in the court house at Ooklona, which was burned, when the court house was destroyed by fire, 1924.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Okolona has a memorial window to the memory of General Tucker.

#5 accepted (letter) S.L 5,18

(C) Exploits of the Civil War:

Battle of Egypt, Mississippi:

Major John S. Pope, inspector- general with 700 infantry and King's battery under Leut.-Colonel Burke, from Maben, reached West Point enroute to Corinth December 26, 1864. Confronted by Gen. Gholson with about 200 cavalry without ammunition. Major Hope scouting with a locomotive, brought the railroad cars at Okolona to Egypt, and 270 men were sent up to Okolona and posted just south of that placeto protect the railroad bridge. This detachment and Gholson's fell back to Egypt on the 27th, before the advance of the enemy. The fight at Egypt began on the morning of the next day and resulted in severe loss to the Confederates, Gen. Gholson being feported mortally wounded and several hundred men captured. The train with the troops was also partially destroyed, though the locomotive and battery escaped. Reenforcements from Meridian during the fight with Col. W.W. Wier in command attacked the enemy who soon afterward retreated to Houston leaving 7 dead and 35 wounded at Egypt.

Another exploit of the Civil War that was fought in Chickasaw County was when Gen. Sooy Smith in route from Memphis to Meridian encountered Confederate troops under Gen. Gholson near Houston. As the enemy appreached Houston closer a determined resistance was made in the Houlka swamp and Smith turned off and marched toward Okolona. He sent a brigade to Aberdeen to threaten Columbus and two to West Point.

On Sunday February 21st. Forrest was informed of the advance of the enemy against him, whereupon he ordered Gen. Richardson to take position at the bridge across Line Creek in the rear, Col. Barteau to watch the enemy's flank and Neely with Richardson's brigade to watch Tibbee River. Gholson was at Palo Alto. Forrest's brigade was dismounted and thrown across in front of the bridge, and McCalloch's bri-

gade took position on the south bank to support. Col. Forrest threw up a breast work of rails and logs and when attacked at eight o'clock held his position during a two hour's attack repulsing the enemy with considerable loss. Smith then determined to withdraw from the woods and draw thde enemy with him in to the open country. Forrest with his escort and and a portion of Faulkner 's regiment mounted a section of Morton's battery and one of McCullough's assignments on foot immediately accepted the invitation to the open country and kept up hot pursuit until nightfall. At Okolona next morning Forrest charged with Bell's brigade and created a regular stampede, one of the enemy brigades abandoning five guns without firing a ~~xhuxdx~~ shot.

Forrest then followed, the nature of the country compeling him to dismount his men, driving the Federals from hill to hill. Five miles from Okolona a fierce engagement occurred in which the Confederates were finally successful, but with considerable loss. Col. Jefferson E. Forrest, brother of Gen. Forrest, and Leut.-Col. Barksdale commanding the 5th Miss. regiment were among those killed.[1]

In 1862 the Okolona college building known as Rose Gates College, was taken by the confeder ates as a hospital. It was a three story building with a dozen rude wards. The Presbyt erian Church was also used and a number of soldiers were cared for in private homes. While the army was operating in Tennessee and Mississippi the sick and wounded were sent to this hospital. The wounded came from the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, and Brices Cross Roads. Between 900 and1000 deaths occured in Chickasaw County and that number of bodies lie in the Confederate Soldiers Cemetery situated in the south-eastern part of the little city of Okolona,

1. Taken from

ajoining the Old Citizen's Cemetary on the south. The college building was burned by the Federals on one of their raids after it had been abandoned by the Confederates. The cemetery is enclosed and the graves have been cared for and yearly decorated with appropriate ceremonies by the Okolona Chapter of the U.D. C. A monument to the memory of the sacred dead was erected in 1905 by the U. D. C.

William Feinstein Tucker was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, May 9th, 1827. He came to Chickasaw County the year of his graduation. He was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty-five, and married Martha Josephine Shackleford, daughter of Colonel Henry Lee Shackleford, an officer in the Creek and Seminole Indian Wars under Andrew Jackson.

In 1855 he was elected to his first public office, that of Probate Judge. He was a conservative in politics, so when didsention between the north and south began to get beyond control, he stood out against any hurried action that would lead to Mississippi's secession from the Union. However at the first call to arms he volunteered his service, enlisting April 26, 1861, at Houston, Miss. and going into training at Pensacola, Florida Company H. He raised and commandedtthe celebrated Chickasaw Guards As it's captain he was assigned to the 11th Regiment which was mustered in at Lynchburg, Virginia. After taking part in the first battle of Manassas, he and his company were transferred to the 41st regiment in the Western Army. In May 1862, he was commissioned Colonel. On March thelst his gallentry in action won for him the promotion to Brigadier General. General Tucker was in every battle in Tennessee. He was wounded four times.

In his characterization of General Tucker, Chaplain Porter Zold how his outstanding trait of character, tenacity of purpose, his holding firm regardless of results caused him to be dubbed "Bull Dog Tucker". He showed the same trait when after trying to convence the doctors that there was no need of amputating his arm, he took a pistol from under his pillow and dared the doctors to come near him.

No man in Mississippi did more to expel the Carpet Bag Rule. As a member of the State Legislature in 1876-78, he was on the committee which drew the charge of impeachment against Gen. Ames.

This same fearlessness, so evident in his life as a soldier, no doubt caused his assasination on the night of September 14, 1881, in his home in Okolona. The house still stands in this place.

The late Colonel Bob McIntosh said of General Tucker in a eulogy on his life;"The whole county mourns the loss of a great and a good man who went to his grave poor in this world's goods, but rich in his good name.

His unsullied character for spotless integrity, his envious reputation for knightly bearing upon the battle field, his constant effort in public and private life for the promotion of upright, worthy, and godly conversation, his pure life of Chastity and virtue, his self sacrifices, his devotion to the right in his law office, in the court room, on the streets, in the hustling of every political campaign and in the legislative halls, and his enfluence for high social standards in the community where he lived with his idolized family- these endeared him to all. Mississippi has done honor to General Tucker by placing his picture in the Hall of Fame.

Further honor has been done him through the lives lived by his three daughters who have passed to the Great Beyond.

Mrs. Jennie Tucker Buchanan of Okolona, Mrs.Zuleida Myche, of Hereford Texas and Miss Margaret Josephine Tucker, of Okolona.

Those living and still honoring him by the fullness of their lives

are Dr. H. S. Tucker of Woodville and Mrs Rosa Lee Tucker Battle of Van Couver, British Columbia former State Librarian of Mississippi.

Interview May 6, 1936; Rubin Davis was born in Greene County Alabama May 7, 1844, His father John Davis and mother Mary Buffolo Davis moved to Alabama from Raliegh, North Carolina in 1841. His grandfather "Bob " Davis fought in the Revolutionary war but he had no record of where. His grandmother was aJJenks.

Mr. Davis enlisted in th Civil war in March 9, 1862 at the age of 18, at Houston under J. Hugh Orr. When the Regiment was completed from Chickasaw and Calhoun County. It was organized at Saltillo, in Lee County. In a popular election J. M. Orr was elected Colonel, anda Mr. Stevane from Water Valley Leiut. Colonel,. Mr. Davis was in Co C, 31st Regiment, Cavalry, under Captain J. L. S. Hill. The Regiment went to Vicksburg By train in June and stayed a short while, going from there to Tangaipoho, Louisana. Thence they marched 60 miles across country to Baton Rouge where a battle was fought July5. Mr. Davis was wounded very seriously, a part of his left hip being shot away. He lay on the battle field from early morning to after noon before he was taken to a first aid hospital in the bushes afterwhich he was carried to Greenwood Springs, a Summer resort where a temporary hospital was made in a ten pen alley. On July 8, Mr. Davis with Three otherx wounded soldiers was loaded into a mule wagon and started for the hospital at Magnolia "We had no covering except the blue sky" It took four days to make the trip, One of the solkier was Telmore Ross but Mr. Davis did not know who the others were. He stayed in the Hospital at Magnolia until Dec., When he was sent to Jackson to the City Hall Hospital Medical Board for examination. While here

he contracted diptheria, butwas not very ill and was discharged and sent home as being permanently disabled. He arrived at Egypt at 11 O'clock at night, this being the nearest railroad station to his home The mud was so deep that it was impossible to walk on my crutches, he said , so I sat down by the side of the railroad track and stayed until daylight, then I hobbled across the street on my crutches to a kind of an Inn. I had breakfast and dinner there and in the afternoon borrowed a horse and rode out to my sisters , Mrs Sallie Neals. This ended my war experience but not my experience with the Yankees. One day I was at the barn shucking corn and my father yelled, 'Run for your life there are 500 Yankees coming. Of course I tried to run as best I could on my crutches but the Yankees took a shot at me. They missed me but I was scared . There was not so many but my father was so scared he saw double, I guess,

Mr Davis has been a lifelong cripple, his left leg being considerably shorter than the right, but he has led an active life and is still very active at 93 years af age.

Okolona. Almost every locality has something of historic value. even my own little town of Okolona, of meager size in the sixties, is rich in historic and romantic lore.Scarcely a spot that knew not something, during those four years of intense emotion, violent passion or heart- rending tragedy. Here was located the hospital with its long line of sick wards, and it's"DeathChamber" from which was buried almost one thousand soldiers wrapped in their mantles of gray. It was here tht Gen. Wm Cabbell" Old Tige" as he was familiarly called lay wounded and sick almost unto death for three long months. It washere that, on Feb. 22, 1864, Gen. A.B.Forrest, that most dashing and courageous of cavalrymen with 2500 men, met 7000 men under General Smith, and, in the face of overwhelming odds, gained a victory. Twelve of the enemy

were killed within our corporation. And yet, how few know that all these things took placel For four years I lived in the house that bore the brunt of the battle. Hundreds of bullet holes were still in th the silent record of that brilliant Confederate victory. In the yard I have , frequently, found rifle, minnie and cannon balls.

It was in the pursuit, after that battle, only six miles from Okolona, at Prairie Mound, that Jesse, the brother of General Forrest was mortally wounded by the retreating Federals. I have been told by an eye witness that after his brother was killed, General Forrest knelt down by his side, kissed him, then mounted his horse , drew his sword with his left hand and killed two of the enemy.It was also after the bloody battle of Harrisburg, July 14, 1864, that Gen. Forrest was confined to his bed for a week , at the home of Maj. Sheppard, from the foot wound received in the battle.It was here that Gen. Earl Van Dorn organized a cavalry corps of 6000, and was joined by Kings Battery of 2nd Missouri Artillery, remaining in the place between two or three weeks.It was here that Col. James Gordon, raised the first company of Cavalry that went from the State. It was armed and equipped at his own expense, at a cost of $32000. After that he raised a Regiment that performed many daring and heroic feats.

The first raid took place in December, 1862, while the town was under the command of Col. C.R. Beartomau, who was wounded in the gallant discharge of his duty; the second occured in the early part of 1864, when the College Hospital was burned,also the depot containing 100,000 bushels of corn. After leaving the burning buildings the Federals fired the corn fields, with their wealth of ungathered grain, which were laid waste from Okolona to West Point. On the 22 of Feb 1864, Gen Forrest met the returning enemy at this place and had a glorious victory, as has been narrated.The third raid wasmade in the first week of

January, 1865. Gen. SamuelGholson was then in charge of Okolona and lost an arm in defende of "home and native land".

Again the enemy set fire to the town, every store being totally ddestroyed. Yet, with all these historic facts at our very doorways there are the fewest residents who are familiar with the facts. And after days of inquiry, not one from the oldest to the youngest citizen could give me a single date in regard to the foregoing facts.This shows the importance, the vital importance of collecting these local events now.

As in one place so are the majority of others in our state. Hence it is of paramount importance to begin at once the task of untangling the broken threads of history that lie so scattered and neglected in mahy of our lesser localities, and then tying together the straightened ends.[3]

3. By Josie Frazee Cappleman from the Publicatio n of the Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. 119

Canvassers: Mabel Calvin, Rubye Cook, and Blanche

Colbert. June 10, 1936

Assignment n0. 5 Wars

Revolutionary War:

From an interview with Miss Nora Griffin, Houston, Miss.

John and Joseph McConnell came over from Ireland and settled in South Carolina. John was a major in the Revolutionary War and it is believed that Joseph was a private, but the descendents have no definite proof. Joseph was a great grandfather of Miss Nora Griffin, while John was her great uncle.

Interview with Mrs. J. W. Hill, Houston, Miss.

James Laughridge, grandfather of Mrs. J. W. Hill fought in the Revolutionary War. At that time his home was in Georgia.

Interview with Mrs. Betty Carter, Houston, Miss.

John Johnson, grandfather of Mrs, Betty Carter fought in the Revolutionary War. He passed some secret plans of the American Generals which the British desired to know; so they threatened to hang him, believing he would reveal them. Three times he was strung upon a tree and the rope tightened around his neck. When it became evident to the British that he would die before telling they let him go.

The fpllowing are the ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Haman, Houston, Miss. who served in the American Revolution:

Col. Jacob Ford of Morristown, New Jersey
Arabaham Oxmsbie of Rehobath, Mass.
Daniel De Soussure of South Carolina
Robert McFaddin of South Carolina
Thomas Lenoir of South Carolina
William Blanding of Rehobath, Mass.

and

John Hammond, of Lumberton, North Carolina

Chickasaw County.

Copy of Discharge of Richard A. Roberts, veteran of Spanish- American War- To All Whom it May Concern; Know ye, that Richard A. Roberts Corporal of Company L of the Second Regiment of Mississippi Infantry Volunteers, who were enrolled on the third day of May, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, to serve two years or during the war , is hereby discharged from the servive of the United States, by reason of muster out of service of the Company, The Said Richard A. Roberts was born in Nettleton in the Stat e of Mississippi, and when enrolled was 26 years old, 5 feet 10 3/4 inches high, medium fair complexion, grey eyes,black hair and by occupation a policeman. Given at Columbia Tennessee, this twentieth day of December 1898.

John B.W. Marland commanding the Company, Captain 2nd Miss. Volunteer Company in Mississippi.

Mr Roberts was appointed Colonel in Company L, of the Second Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers.

Interview; "Our Paymaster was a negro man, John R. Lynch. He ranked as Major. Some of the boys refused to salute him, the Captain said he hated like H--- to salute him but we would have to salute the stripes and not the D---- negro so we stiffened our backs and fired away.

Co. L, Second Mississippi Infantry Volunteers:

Left Amory, Miss., May 17, 1898, landed in Jackson, Miss., May18, mustered in at Jackson with 85 men in company.

On June 19 our regiment went to Jacksonville, Fla., Panama Park. There we joined Gen Fitshugh Lee's Seventh Army Corp. of 57,000. Company L belonged to the third battalion, headed by Col. W. A. Montgomery and Major Mayo.

Chickasaw County

On account of the heat we started drilling at six A. M. and marched back to camp at nine A.M.

In a parade on July the 4th, 1898 these men marched a distance of seven miles in the severe heat. A number of men were overcome by the heat. They were reviewed and inspected by Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and his staff in preparation for the trip to Havana. Captain Baxter McFarland was captain;his brother Tom McFarland was first Lieutenant of Company L. I had never asked for leave or had not been sick. Captain McFarland came to me and wanted to know how I would like to take a trip home. He said he wanted me to take charge of the sick of our company and bring them home.

The ladies of different towns from over the State had made money and rented tourist sleepers for use in sending the sick home. We left Panama Park, Florida September 7, 1898. The train stopped at different points for nourishment for the soldiers. I left the special train with the patients at West Point, and the special train continued on to points in the Mississippi Delta. We were furnished health certificates by our doctor, showing we were free from yellow fever; but about this same time yellow fever broke out at Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi. So we left the train at West Point. The officers came and said we could not get off here but I told them that we were already off. My men were on cots and the officers did not want us to wait for the train. They wanted me to get buggies and wagons and carry them to their homes. We had quite a time trying to convence them that we did not have yellow fever. Finally we were allowed to catch the train for Aberdeen where we spent the night. At Amory, Mississippi we had the same trouble. Carol Thomas, Verona, Miss. was the last one to get off. He was sick and never got well. Others in the croud were Hasey Pace of Aberdeen, Alfred Bean, of Fulton who afterwards became a lawyer, Hugh Anderson of Tupelo, also a lawyer and J. J. Corroway of Aberdeen.

While I was on this detail, yellow fever broke out among the men in camp and our furlough was extended several times, then we had orders to meet the fragments of our company at West Point. From there we were sent to Columbia, Tennesseeon account of the climate of that locality. We were mustered out from there. Quite a number of the men were sick at that time with what was called Lagrippe but what was called Influenza during the World War.

Chickasaw County-References. War Roster

Revolutionary War

Interviews:- Miss Nora Griffin, Houston, Miss.

Mary Elizabeth Haman " "

Mrs. Betty Carter, Houston, "

John Belton O'Neall."Annals of Newberry".p.504-506

War of 1812- no Roster given

Mexican War. No Roster Given

War between the States.

Memoirs of Miss, by Goodspeed: Vol 1 and 11

Mississippi Historical Society Vol. 1X-Judge B.McMorland

Mississippi Official & Statistical Register 1908-D.Rowland

The Times Post, July 7-1916

Houston Times Post, 1915

Chickasaw Messenger, May 5,1879

Interview. Lundy Smith-McCoudy

" Mrs. D.S.Duloney.

Spanish American War

Copy of Discharge Papers

Interview:-Thomas Stuart King, Okolona

World War-

Interview with Veterans-of World War

Adjutant Generals Office, Jackson

Chickasaw County-References. War Roster

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Interviews:- Miss Nora Griffin, Houston, Miss.

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Adjutant Generals Office, Jackson

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Canvassers
Miss Mabel Calvin
Mrs. Kima Holloway

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
March-10-1937

Supervisor
Mrs. J.C. Hightower

ASSIGNMENT # 22

Subject : RECONSTRUCTION

1. RECONSTRUCTION:

At the close of the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson, successor to the assassinated President, Abraham Lincoln, appointed one of our ablest jurists, William Sharkey, late of our Supreme Court Bench, our provisional governor, and pursuant to his proclamation ordering an election for delegates to a State Convention to form a new one, conforming to the terms therein, proclaimed for the reconstruction of the seceded Confederate States.

Chickasaw County elected as its delegates, Judge Allen White, and J.M. Wallace. Following the adoption of this instrument, Dr. C.C. Marable and Benjamin Marry were elected to the Legislature, and Thomas Nelson Martin, State Senator, in 1865.

President Johnson's mode of Reconstruction, not meeting the approval of congress, it enacted a more drastic law in May 1865, providing for the reconstruction of the Confederate States, under which, they were at once placed under Department Military rule, declaring all offices elected pursuant to the Johnson proclamation, vacant.

When General E.O.C. Ord, commanding the Military Department of Mississippi and Arkansas, while governor, ordered an election in December, 1867, of delegates to form still another constitution for our State, and A. J. Jamison and E.R. Smith of Chickasaw County were chosen.

The adoption or rejection of the constitution thus formulated, being submitted to the voters of our state, being quite objectionable, the people of

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 22

1. RECONSTRUCTION: (Continued)

Chickasaw County met in convention and selected Dr. J.W. Whitmore, W.J. Lacey, and William S. Bates to canvass the county in opposition to its adoption, who, responding to the call, published appointments and made public speeches urging its rejection, which not only resulted in its triumphant defeat in Chickasaw County, but in the state as well.

Pending this period, J.W. Whitmore and W.J. Lacey were elected members of our Legislature, and J.S. Chancellor, senator, Thomas Nelson Martin was elected to a seat in congress, but the constitution being rejected, the Legislators, State Senators, and Congressmen were never inducted into office.

The rejected constitution being submitted to President Grant, he so amended it as to erase its objectionable features and again it was submitted to a vote in 1869, when adopted, and also R.G. Underwood, white, and Ambrose Henderson, colored, were elected to the Legislature, and a Mr. Abbott, State Senator.

Pending this eventful period of the so-called black and tan Legislation, the territory constituting Chickasaw County, was further reduced by the creation of the new counties of Colfax (now Clay) in May of 1871, and Sumner (now Webster) in April of 1874, through cutting from our territory the amount of quite one hundred ninety square miles.

Before the building of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad through Chickasaw County in the early eighties, all of its marketable products and purchased supplies were transported on wagons to and from the Tombigbee River at Aberdeen in Monroe County, an average distance of thirty miles. The travel of her people were either on horseback, or wheeled vehicles, or on boats, or on an old-fashioned mail stage coach as the distance the person proposed to travel might direct the choice of mode of traveling, and very few people then seemed to seek

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 22

1. RECONSTRUCTION: (Continued)

such improvements in transportation and travels as railroads could afford. However, Honorable John J. Mc Rae, later, governor of Mississippi, opened Chickasaw County's eyes to the need of railroads and the way was paved for the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in 1852.

Chickasaw County only had the one railroad (Mobile and Ohio) until about 1900 when the Mobile, Jackson and Kansas City, now known as the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad, came through the western part of Chickasaw County. It was completed in 1906 and the line complete ran from Mobile, Alabama to Middleton, Tennessee, April 16th. 1906.

Previous to the war, the majority of the planters had been taught to believe that slaves could only cultivate cotton, corn or some other characteristic product of the South. The eastern part of Chickasaw County was probably the hardest hit by the ravages of the Northern Soldiers, as all the fields were laid waste and burned, all the store houses and ware houses were destroyed and much or most all the corn was burned.

The planters had depended on the slaves to do the farming, even to the overseeing of it, and now they found that they must capitalize, their own manhood and intelligence. The county was almost stripped of live stock; bridges and fences gone, tools and farming implements gone, and no credit system was open to them.

Even the railroad presented a sad pictu re, as it was burned near Okolona, and in places destroyed all the way to West Point, Mississippi, so it remained for them to take up their life with fortitude and patience.

Large plantations in many places were abandoned, due to a complete change in labor system. It presented difficult problems to plantation manage-

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 22

1. RECONSTRUCTION : (Continued)

ment. Many of them were cut up into smaller ones and rented out. Since then, the progress of agricu lture in Chickasaw County has been along lines of thoughtful and scientific farming.

From 1817 to 1861, Mississippi was a garden for the cultivation of all that was grand in oratory, true in science, beautiful in poetry and enlightened and profound in law and statesmanship. Of all these Chickasaw had more than her share.

The social side of life was marked by gentle breeding, courtesy and hospitality. There was nothing heartless or hypocritical about the social life of the planters and their families.

The changed conditions since 1865 have led to the gradual blotting out of the old regime. The love of country life has become less strong and the movement of the white population toward town and railroad has cast a change that is very marked over rural habits and modes of living.

11. RECONSTRUCTION:

During the period of reconstruction we find President Grant as full of compassion and generosity as when the triumphant victor commanding the Union Army, as against that of General Lee, at the memorable and last battle growing out of the Civil War, when on the third day of April, 1865, General Grant the victor, and General Lee, the vanquished met and agreed on the terms of capitulation, which permitted officers to retain their side-arms, horses and baggage, and each private his horse.

Again, while yet President, and as a further manifestation of love and desire as a public official to so administer the affairs of his government, with

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 22

11. RECONSTRUCTION: (Continued)

a view of restoring forfeited rights of franchise of the people of the seceded states, outlawed because of their participation or aid in support of the army of the Confederate States. We find him again in the commendable spirit of reconciliation issuing his amnesty proclamation restoring forfeited franchise when our people were remitted to the privilege of electing our officials by vote of qualified electors conforming to the requirements of our State Constitution, which at once convened and adopted the Constitution of Mississippi, the organic law under which the machinery of our state is kept in motion today.

Thus, again being reunited in the bonds of National friendship, Chickasaw County in 1871, elected Dr. J.L. Evans and J.R. Mc Intosh members of the State Legislature.

In 1873, H.H. Harrington and George White, colored, were elected members of the State Legislature.

Chickasaw and Monroe counties having been formed into one Senatorial District, F.H. Little, of Monroe, was elected State Senator. In 1875, Colonel R.C. Reynolds, of Aberdeen was elected State Senator. In this Senatorial election, Colonel Reynolds had a sharp contestant in the person of the fearless and aggresive General Reuben Davis, and it is no vain exaggeration to write that the triumphant election of County Officials and members of our State Legislature in 1875, ended the reckless and pestiferous misrule of Carpet-Bag and Scalawag influence.

The incoming Democratic Legislature which was in session from January 4th., to April 15th., 1876 was chiefly occupied in impeachment proceedings against Governor Ames, and his satellites. The result was, the complete collapse of Carpet-bag and negro rule in Mississippi, and the preservation of the state from further political disgrace and economic bankruptcy.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 22

11. RECONSTRUCTION : (Continued)

At the close of the Civil War, practically all of Chickasaw County was made up of rural districts, consisting mainly of large plantation owners, and since the plantations could no longer be run as heretofore, it was more expensive to keep the plantations going after the war, taxes were higher and the hire for negroes was greater than just the expense of feeding and clothing them as was the case before the war; a shortage of tools and farm animals, results of the Yankees depredations, was a further handicap. So many planters lost their homes and lands because they could not pay their taxes.

Colonel James Gordon, one time owner of the finest home in Pontotoc County, Lochinvar, and of thousands of acres of land and hundreds of slaves who earned a meager livilihood by selling milk in Okolona in his declining years, is a fair example. Many others could be mentioned, however, with the restoration of the Democratic Party in the state and the return of fair and impartial government, conditions some wh at improved. The extreme taxes were reduced and many planters were enabled to bu y back at least part of their land from the State, by paying a reasonable amount of back taxes. Large plantations disappeared and the social status of the white people became more equalized.

The attitude of the negroes, too, grew steadily better. Now that their short-lived prominence and importance had fled, they were willing once more to work for their old masters. Some of the farmers who could afford to do so, hired the negroes to work on the farms for a regular wage. Others rented land to them; and in still other cases the negroes worked the land for a share in the cotton crops.

Mr. Jack Pulliam, of Buena Vista, Chicksaw County, has a negro cook whose mother, grandmother and grandfather came to Mississippi with the Pulliam

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 22

11. RECONSTRUCTION : (Continued)

family in 1840, remaining with one member or another of the Pulliam family until their death. With the exception of a few years following her marriage to a negro named McBee, this negro woman has likewise been in the Pulliam family all her life. A little grandson of hers has recently come to live with her and earns his board and keep by doing odd jobs around the house; thus we see four generations of negroes faithfully serving in the same family.

There were a number of former land holders, of course, who never recovered their lost property and these moved into town chiefly, Okolona and Houston, and took up some other occupation; the population, size and business interests were thus increased. Though, it is only fair to add that for a time (up to 1890) anyway, Okolona flourished much more rapidly than did Houston.

People who had never turned a hand in their lives, had to go to work in order to live. High living and laziness were reduced and many who had been social parasites proved to be successful business men and useful citizens.

About this time, the people realized that churches and schools would and should play an important part as to Social adjustment. People were broader and realized more that the world was out beyond. Their aspirations were higher and broader as they began to settle down once more to take up life where they left it during war days.

Common schools were regularly taught in every neighborhood from earliest history of the county, under the control and at the expense of the patrons thereof, with such as was afforded by the common school fund proper of the county. Academies of a high order were set in operation in Houston and Okolona and other towns of the county, after the war this form of education was broken down and su-

11. RECONSTRUCTION : (Continued)

preceded by the system of public instruction. Some of the instructors of these schools were W.A. Norris, Professor Hawk and Carroll. Under this management Houston began to be inspired to enlarge educational facilities, and the engaging of Professor Abernathy and his wife to teach in the town of Houston, resulted in the founding of Mississippi Normal College in 1884.

In order to have a well rounded out life or existence, religion goes hand in hand with education. From the earliest times Chickasaw has had churches. The first church was built by the Baptist denomination in 1835, and located near the southwest corner of territory carved into Chickasaw County in its formation in 1836, organized by the Reverend James Martin, as its pastor. Friendship Presbyterian Church was probably the first church of that denomination, built in Chickasaw, located about three miles north of Van Vleet. Of the Methodist denomination, Palestine Methodist Church, located near Montpelier was probably the first.

From the earliest history of Houston the people have been alive in the cause of education and religion. Also has Okolona. Both towns have ever been active, zealou s, and generous in the building of churches. Since 1838 churches have been organized and established in Houston and it now has Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Christian churches, all of them well supported and attended. Okolona boasts of more churches than Houston, they have, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Christian, Episcopalian and Catholic churches, all beautiful buildings and a source of pride to any town.

Thus from the earliest history of Chickasaw county Christianity and Education have held sway and permeated the hearts of our people, and we are thankful

11. RECONSTRUCTION : (Continued)

that to the outgrowth of these great benefactions to both church and the cause of education has caused Chickasaw County to stand united as one people in these noble missions of grace and culture.

111. & 1V. RECONSTRUCTION :

The operations of the Carpet-baggers, Scalawags and Conservatives were not as extensive in Chickasaw County as they were in other counties; neither were the agencies of Freedmen's Bureau, Loyal League, Ku Klux Klan etc., however as in all Mississippi the Republican party played a short but lively part and the discussion that follows will be as a whole.

At the close of the War, the Federal troops were stationed in Chickasaw in Garrisons. A Yankee Garrison was placed in Houston, and the county was put under Republican ru le. This Garrison appointed officers of the county and ran the town as well as county affairs in general. Chancellor Judge William D. Frazee appointed of Gov. Ames and Scalawag of the worst type, was in sympathy with the negroes and fought to carry the Republican ticket in the election of 1875, with everything in his power.

The negroes organized themselves into Freedmen's Bureau, under the supervision of Carpet-baggers; negroes were elected and appointed to fill responsible offices such as United States Senator, Secretary of State, State Senator and Representatives, however all of these did not apply to Chickasaw County. Colonel A.J. Jamison was State Senator during these days and also a Republican. Berry Underwood, white and Sam Stein (colored) were members of the Legislature and were radicals. A Mr. White was the only Republican sheriff. Misser Bean, negro was Justice of the Peace at Buena Vista, Chickasaw County.

The negroes had political clubs in each community, each one having a

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 22

III. & IV. RECONSTRUCTION: (Continued)

leader. The leaders were called " Fluence Negroes, " in Chickasaw County, probably because they influenced the other members. If a canidate wanted the negroe's vote, he went to the " Fluence Negro" in each community offering him five dollars if he would influence votes for him, consequently nearly all the negroes in the county would cast their vote for this particular party.

During Reconstruction days, John Winters of Chickasaw was running for Representative against a man named Mc Carthy, and every one predicted McCarthy would defeat him. There was a negro in Okolona who had a son that had studied medicine but did not have license to practice. However, he was practicing and was about to get into trouble about it. On the night before the election, Mr. Winter went to this doctor's father and told him if he would get him elected he would introduce a bill whereby doctors could practice medicine without license. This negro had about five grown sons, so he put them on fast horses and sent them to every " Fluence Negro " in the county before daylight of the day to go to the polls. Therefore when the votes were counted, Winters had beaten Mr. McCarthy almost three to one.

A short time before this election, there was to be a political speaking at the Baptist Church in Okolona, General W.F. Tucker was one of the speakers. Upon his leaving home that morning, his wife asked him to carry his pistol. He told her he did not like to carry it and was sure he would not need it. However, he finally consented, and took it.

After General Tucker finished speaking, Judge William D. Frazee, a Republican, and Scalawag, followed him. In the course of his speech he stated that General Tucker told a lie about a certain matter. General Tucker, who was standing nearby, remembered his pistol and reached for it, bringing it down across Frazee's head with considerable force. When he looked around, not a negro was in

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment #22

III. & IV. RECONSTRUCTION : (Continued)

sight. Those who could not get out the crowded door, had crawled out the windows.

At another time, there was a political meeting at Buena Vista, and General Tucker again spoke. However, after finishing, he got in his buggy and started home. The white men in the audience upon hearing Frazee speak, decided they would kill him (Frazee). A negro boy jumped on a horse and overtook General Tucker and begged him to come back and try to dissuade the people from killing Frazee. General Tucker returned and pleaded with them for hours to keep them from killing Frazee, and restore quiet.

Upon another occasion the people of Okolona were going to kill Frazee, and Mr. B.J. Abbott ran to him, threw his arms around him, and protected Frazee's body with his own. Mr. Abbott carried Frazee away and stayed with him until quiet returned.

Mr. Reubin Davis, oldest citizen of Houston and Chickasaw County, remembers standing in the rain at Buena Vista for two hours in order to vote on election night after the Civil War. He said there were two doors, and the negroes were lined up at one door, and the whites at the other.

Loyal leagues were organized to instruct the negro in voting. They would hold demonstrations and parades. In the elections one could see bribery, intimidations, trickery and excitement. The Carpet-baggers and Scalawags would sell honor and life for a few dollars.

The Ku Klux Klan operated rather extensively in and around Houston and Okolona. Mr. John Hill of Houston, remembers having seen the bodies of three negroes strung up, at different times by the Ku Klux Klan. He does not remember the names of the negroes, nor the crime for which they were hanged, but said that after the negroes were free, they were so independent and smart, something had to

III. & IV. RECONSTRUCTION: (Continued)

be done. He said it was thought that Mr. Lee Smith and Wynne Buchanan were two of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. W.G. Stovall, Houston and Mr. B.J. Abbott, Captain Turner, north of Okolona, and Dr. Murphy of Okolona were captains of Ku Klux troops. They worked for each other. For instance Captain Stovall would operate in Okolona and vice-versa. Things that happened on this side would be looked after by an Okolona Captain and over there it would be looked after by a Houston Captain, then each could prove to his home people that he was at home at that time and knew nothing about it.

Mrs. Stovall, a young bride during reconstruction, had a very fine cow, of which she was exceedingly proud. On one occasion her cow came home without a tail, whereupon she cried and grieved over it. Her husband, wept and mourned with her. Several years later, Mrs. Stovall remembering her husband's Ku Klux suit, stowed away in the attic, decided she would have some fun with it at the expense of her negro yard-boy. Upon investigation, she found the suit and there was her cow's tail which had posed as whiskers for the Ku Klux suit.

During the election of 1875, when the Frazee fighters saw that the election was going against them, they tried to stampede the negroes by spreading the report that the white men were going to kill them at Okolona and the voters were thus caused to disperse. This broke up the negro and Carpet-bag rule as the Democrats carried the election, Thus, the people of Chickasaw County, in the face of the sneers of the slaves and the intolerable Republican party, backed by garrisons of armed soldiers, were strong enough to hold the fort, and the Chickasaw County of today is the result of their bravery and steadfastness.

Information for this Assignment # 22, received from the following:

Mr. John W. Hill, Houston

Mr. Reubin Davis, Houston

Mrs. Mollie Abbott, Okolona

Early history of Chickasaw County by Judge W.S. Bates.

Miss Mattie Lee Buchanan, Okolona

Publications of Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XII.

Riley's School History.

Mrs. J. C. Hightower.

Mrs. J.C. Hightower, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County.

Canvassers:
Mabel Calvin
Rubye Cook.

Historical Research Project

Chickasaw County

accepted 57

Date: August 17, 1936
Assignment: #10
Subject: Races and Nationalities in Chickasaw County.

Chickasaw County is one of the few counties in the state which has only two races of people with in its bounds--the white and black. There is not an Indian, Chinese, or Japanese living in the county.

"In 1840 Chickasaw County had a population of two thousand, nine hundred and fifty-five; in 1859 it had increased to sixx thousand, three hundred and sixty-nine; in 1860 it was sixteen thousand, four hundred and twenty; in 1870 nineteen thousand, eight hundred and ninety nine; in 1880, just after the war it had decreased to seventeen thousand, nine hundred and five; in 1890, nineteen thousand, eight hundred and ninety-one. In 1860 the county had one thousand, one hundred and sixty-three voters, and eight thousand, four hundrd and forty-three taxable slaves. In 1870 the colored population was ten thousand and sixty-nine; in 1880 ten thousand, two hundred and nine, in 1890, eleven thousand, four hundred and thirty-six."[1]

At the time that the last census report was taken there were twenty thousand, eight hundred and thirty-five people in Chickasaw County. About ten thousand of that number were negroes. This was in 1930.

The negro business district in Okolona is located on the north side of Main Street opposite the Methodist Church. It consists of one block of business houses. Charlie Gilliam is perhaps the most prominent negro merchant. He has a well stocked general mercantile store that weathered the depression when many of the white merchants of Okolona were forced to close. Charlie reared a large family and gave each of them an education. He has a comfortable home well furnished and well kept. Charlie is interested in the educational advancement of his race, and gives quite a bit of his time and money for this purpose. He goes very frequently on

1 Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I. Page 254

trips over the state, organizing and lecturing in the rural districts, urging their advancement. He has been instrumental in bringing many of the boys and girls to the Industrial school for negroes located in Okolona. Charlie has a lucrative trade among the white people of his town.

Besides Charlie's store there is in this block a cafe, a shoe repairing shop, Charlie Wheeler's Medical office, and the Masonic Hall, the upper floor of which is used for dances and the lower floor for a business house. All of this block is owned and operated by negroes.

Not the least important among the Okolona negroes is Walter Stith, principal of the Tri-County Industrial Colored School near Chickasaw Swithh. He has perfected a formula for the manufacture of toilet and laundry soap. He used cotton seed oil as a base for his product which has thus far met with with the approval of all those who have seen and tried the soap. With the assistance of one helper and very crude machinery he can manufacture 1000 bars of laundry soap, 15 ounce size, per day. This he can wholesale at 40¢ per dozen and realize a very nice profit. The scope of his versatility is shown in the experiment he is now making with paint. He aspires to manufacturing on a large scale and it looks as if his dream will materialize. For four years he has worked on his paint formula, and now he has a fairly good paint which can be sold for one dollar per gallon in any color. A white paint is sold for one dollar and twenty-five cents. Material is furnished him by the Standard Oil Company of Mississippi. The white citizens of the county are very interested in this negro and hope that he can perfect a formula in which the lime rock, which is so abundant in the prairie section of the county, can be used to make a crude barn paint.

The fact that there are about fifty negro schools in the county, not including the high schools in Okolona and Houston, and the Okolona Industrial School which is equivalent to a Junior College, shows that the Chickasaw County negroes are

advancement of their children. There are seventy five negro teachers in the count,. All except three of them hold first grade teaching license. A good many of this number hold sophomore license.

One day each month during the school session an all day institute is held. This is very ably supervised by the Teacher Training Director of the Okolona Industrial Institute and College, Cleopatra Devenport. The County Superintendent of Education devotes this entire day to the negro teachers. Very few of the county superintendents hold such institutes for negro teachers, and quite a bit of improvement has been made among them as a result of it.

During the summer most of the teachers attend a normal held at Okolona. A few who have completed their Junior College work go to Holly Springs, New Albany, or other schools. All teachers seem very eager to progesss professionally.

The negro high school in Houston stands on the lot that has been used for school purposes ever since there has been a school in Houston. The first school was a dwelling house near the present school building, that was rented by Sam Stein, a trustee. Soon after this, Rev. Carothers, a white Presbyterian preacher gave the negroes the use of a church for a school and church also. It was a two teacher school taught byJohnnie Whilley and Jim Huff (white men). This was just after the Civil War, and at that time all teachers of the negroes were white people. The first negro teacher in Houston was named Polk. This was about 1870. The school has progressed here on this same site until there is now a nice, well-equipped brick building, having six teachers and ten grades.

In Okolona there is also a brick school building, while six teachers comprise the faculty of this school.

As for the other public schools of the county, they are of one, two, and three teacher type.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

But Chickasaw is extremely proud, and well she might be, of the Okolona Industrial School located in Okolona. It was founded in 1902 by Dr. Wallace A. Battle, who served as President of the Institute from its beginning until 1927. Mrs. Effie T. Battle was made Acting President and served in this capacity until May, 1933. This school is affiliated with the American Church Institute for Negroes, a corporation of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which operates nine school for colored youth in the south.

The campus contains 320 acres, while the buildings, exclusive of the President's home and six teachers' cottages, consist of two dormitories, McDougall Hall, with administrative offices, chapel, and five classrooms, Academic Building, the Rosenwald Building, a modern dairy barn, trade shop, a laundry and beauty parlor, and a potsto house.

This school has a four year high school and two year junior college department, with a faculty of thirteen, including A. B. Strange, President and graduate of Atlanta University.

In addition to the standard accredited high school and a two year course in teacher-training, instruction is given in many trades. The boys are taught agriculture, carpentry, brick masonry, plastering, painting, plumbing, and wiring. The girls are given thorough training in home science, including sewing, nursing, laundering, home management, and dietetics.

The annual entollment is about two hundred students and could be larger were there facilities on the campus to care for them.

There are about three hundred and ten negro farm owners in the county. Their farms consist of from twenty to four hundred acres. It is estimated that there are about one thousand or more negro share-croppers. This class of negroes live from hand to mouth, beerly making enough to feed their large families.

There are quite a few prosperous farmers among the negroes. Sambo Neal and Shack Bailey at Buena Vista own large farms and have nice homes. Sanders May has several hundred acres around Parkersburg and is considered a well-to-do negro farmer. Lucian Wise and Oliver Ware at Egypt own half a section of land each Neither of them are in debt and both have some money saved. James Shoe Gillespie is also a prominent negro farmer near Egypt. Jack Fisher and George Harwell of Houston and Jack Harris of Houlka are substantial farmers in their communities.

Shepherd Kilgore, Baptist preacher in Houston is highly respected among the negroes and has money to lend on good security. He works at Toomer's Planing Mill, and had a comfortable home nicely furnished.

Anderson Horton is a Baptist preacher and is missionary for all the churches in his district. He is a devout christian and is an intelligent negro. He is a leader among his race.

The land roll in the Chancery Clerks office shows that two hundred and twenty-one negroes in the county own their homes. They are located on plots of ground consisting of from one half acre to two acres.

Dr. G. H. Wheeler of Okolona is a licensed practising physician. His father was a slave of Gen. Wheeler, a prosperous and slave holding farmer before the Civil War, and later the first president of the M. and O. Railroad. Dr. Wheeler graduated from high school and taught several years in Chickasaw county, having climaxed his career by serving as principal of the Houston Colored School. About this time he decided on the

career of medicine as his life's vocation and entered Mobarry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee. After graduating with honors, Dr. Wheeler came back to Okolona and began the practice of medicine among his race. He has been successful, not only as a doctor but also in the religious, civic and political life of the negroes of Okolona. No doubt his success is due partially to his wife who was Mary McIntosh, an honor graduate of Illinois University.

Mrs J. T. Strickland
HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
CHICKASAW COUNTY

Canvassers:
Faye Cook,
Mabel Calvin

Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County
September 18, 1936

Supervisor:
Mrs. J. W. Strickland

Subject: Races and Nationalities of the County

Assignment: # 10

This is a supplement.

Other Races in the County

Mr. and Mrs. Skramm-Jensen who are now prominent citizens of Houston, were both born and reared in Copenhagen, Denmark. Mr. Jensen, called Skramm-Jensen in the "Ole Countrie" but shortened to Jensen here, came to America twenty seven years ago. Six years later he was followed by his fiancee, Miss Ophelia Jacobson. Meeting her in New York, he brought her to Houston where they were married. That was twenty-one years ago and they have lived in Houston ever since except for six years spent in Okolona.

Mrs. Jensen's father was a railroad man and for eleven years she worked in a checking room in a station in Copenhagen. Mr. Jensen's father was a worker in metals. They have several beautiful ornaments which he made, one of them being a statue of Thor, the thundr-god. Mr. Jensen, himself, is a baker, having learned the trade in his native country. He has been a very successful baker , both in Houston and Okolona.

In Denmark, according to Mrs. Jensen, a child goes to school only until he is fourteen. (However, they have only six weeks vacation in the year.) When they reach the age of fourteen they are considered grown and therefore able to "look out for themselves". By this time they have usually decided what trade they want to follow, and become a paid apprentice in it. After five years they are given a Master Certificate and are paid master wages. Mrs. Jensen said, "We do not mix trades in the old country. For instance, a grocery store sells groceries and nothing else, a dress shop dresses, a shoe shop shoes, and so forth. Cheese is not sold in a

grocery store but only in a regular cheese shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Jensen are Lutherans; however Mrs. Jensen joined the Methodist church in Houston this summer, "just to be wid my chillun" she said. Mr. Jensen has never changed. She said that children were confirmed in Denmark at birth, then when they reach the age of fourteen they are reconfirmed; this time they are given half a year to prepare for it.

Mr. and Mrs. Jensen were engaged to be married before he came to America. There was a prevalent belief in Denmark that money grew on trees in America. All one had to do was pick it off. Thus Mr. Jensen came to America to make his fortune before marrying. Mrs. Jensen had the most beautiful embroidery work that she made before she was married. The cut work designs are called "hedebo" sewing and a lace effect piece is called "hardanger" embroidery.

Mr. Jensen was quite an athlete in his native country. He has several loving cups that he won in contests and tournaments. In 1906 he represented Denmark at the Olympics in Greece. He won a large painting of a sculptured bust of himself.

Mrs. Jensen said, "Oh, it was just terrible when I first came over here I could not even talk to any one but John. If all de tears I shed had been caught, they would wash away dis house. But the people were nice and sweet to me, and I aan never go back on Houston for that reason."

They have two children, Ellen and Eric or Puddin' as he is more familiarly known. Ellen, who is a student at Grenada College is very active in civic and religious affairs of the town. Puddin' is a senior in High school a member of the Houston High School Band and a Boy Scout. The family is well liked and no one ever thinks about them being from a foreign country except for the peculiar accent in their speech.

Mrs. Tom Kyle, Houston, was born in Poperinghe, Belgium. During the world War she met her husband in this manner: Private Tommie Kyle, his over-seas cap slanting at a jaunty angle, strolled into a little wine-shop in Bordeaux, France, on a brisk January morning back in 1918.

"Little cognac, please'm" he said to the French woman proprietor. She pulled her shawl about her shoulders and wrinkled her eyes. "Marie," she called "qui est ce qu'il y a dites?" (what does he say?) A slim little nineteen year old girl ran out from the back of the shop. Private Kyle repeated his order. (Cognac is a French drink not so strong as whiskey.)

"Cognac" Marie laughed, "It's cognac he wants." Thus it was that the American doughboy first met Martha Marie DePuydt, who had fled her native Poperinghe, Belgium before the onrush of the Germans and was finding refuge and employment as an interpreter in the little French wine-shop. The next day Private Kyle seem to want an apple, the next a box of raisins- the next 'oh, just looking around'. Each time little Marie waited on him and smiled. His camp was soon moved eight miles away, but he would walk most every night to see her. and bed time was called by Mrs. DePuydt at nine o'clock. Thus poor Tommie went plodding back to camp soon after nine in the evening. Two months later Private Kyle and Marie were married in the villiage church. Since they were both from different countries and she of Catholic faith it was necessary to perform five ceremonies. (1) by the French Republic, (2)Bourgrmaster, (3) American Consul, (4) Belgium Authorities, and (5) at the Church by the Priest. Her parents had to sign the certificate due to the fact that the Belgium law reguires the bride to be twenty-one and the groom to be twenty-five.

Mrs. Kyle's father was a farmer in Poperinghe until the Germans destroyed all that he owned during the World War. He had an eight acre farm. This is the size of an average farm in Belgium. He had a herd of

cows. They churned once a week. This was on Thursday. On Friday they carried the butter to the market place. Each farmer paid ten cents for the privilege of entering the gates, the men carrying livestock, and the women carrying butter and eggs. The butter was molded in two pounds cakes, this being called a kilo.

Mrs. Kyle told us a great deal about Belgium as she remembers it. The farmer's cash crop is hops. Wheat, oats, irish potatoes, and sugar beets are also raised for home use and some for market. The pastures are fertilized very heavily in the fall. This makes abundant and nourishing grass for the cattle and sheep. Cow beets, oats, wheat straw, and dried clover are all used for feed. The dry cattle and sheep are grazed on the road sides. Herders tend them, moving from place to place in search of new grass.

Mrs. Kyle attended a convent school until the outbreak of the War in 1914. The convent was then converted into a hospital and she went to a private school with only one lady as teacher. Languages and handwork were stressed in this school more than anything else. Mrs. Kyle speaks Belgian, French, German, and English very fluently.

She never tasted ice cream or even corn bread until she came to the United States. A favorite dish in her family was "kerepop". This consists of butter milk, bread crumbs, boiled rice, all cooked together and last an apple dropped in to give a good flavor.

Mrs. Kyle had many harrowing experiences during the War. From 1915 to 1917 they were compelled at any time, even in the middle of the night to flee from their homes to a safer place until the German soldiers had passed through. Finally in 1917 they were forced by the Belgium police to evacuate their home and go to Bordeaux, France for safety. Her father secured a job in a saw mill. She soon became English enterpreter in the

wine shop where she met her husband. After the War they came to Houston, Mr. Kyle's hometown. to live. He died in 1933 from disease contracted in the War. Mrs. Kyle continues to live on in the modest little home near the edge of town. She has three children who are in the public school. She longs to go back to Belgium but she realizes that her children would not have the advantages of a good education and a high social standing there, so she stays on contentedly with them in Houston.

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While there are only a few Jews in Chickasaw County, those who have made it their home are leaders in civic, social, and business life. The Elias, Morris, and Ruble families are leading citizens of Okolona. Houston has only one Jew resident at present, M. Block, and he has only lived in the town only since August 1935.

Mrs. Eva Morris Elias, Okolona, is a German Jew. She has a son, Ed Elias, two sisters, Mrs. Teresa Rhineheimer, and Miss Augusta Morris, all of whom live in Okolona.

Mrs. Elias was born in Germany. Her father, Emmanuel Morris was born in Bromberg and was a grain merchant there. Her grandfather on her father's side was a manufacturer of tweeds in Tuchel, Germany. Her mother's father whose name was Herman, was a merchant taylor and made clothes only for the royalty. Mr. Morris was a very wealthy and prominent man in Bromberg. He owned three coal mines and had a seat in the stock exchange in Berlin, the privilege of which he paid $50,000. They lived in a mansion of brick and stucco. The upstairs was used for the drying and storing of meats, the first floor was the living quarters and the cellar beneath was used for the storing of wines and vegetables. Stoves,or heits as they were called, were built in when the house was built. The outside was of tile and was very beautiful. Brass knobs turned the heat on or off. The cooking stove had doors of solid brass. Mrs. Elias has some of the silver ware that

used in her German home. A pair of solid silver candlesticks are about two feet high and are beautifully carved. Other silver ornaments are equally as lovely. She has a silver fish spoon, soup laddle, several serving spoons and a pair of solid silver sugar tongs that have been in the family for over a hundred years.

In 1875 Mrs. Elias was married to Mr. Charles Elias. He had left Germany several years before and came to Charleston, South Carolina, whese he had a good mercantile business. While on a short visit to his mother in Germany he met and fell in love with Miss Morris. She did not want to marry him because she did not want to leave her native land. But he promised he would bring her back in two years so she married him and for six months they travelled in Europe on their honeymoon. After that he returned to Charleston and resumed his business.

Mr. Elias served in the Civil War four years. He was a member of the 26th Georgia Infantry and was wounded in his arm and leg. During the war his brother who was in business with him stayed at home to care for the business. When Sherman made his raid to the sea, practically every thing they had was burned, except some of the merchandise which was buried by Mr. Elias' brother. After the war from this small amount that was saved they rebuilt their trade.(Tobacco was $1 a pound, thread $1 per spool, and other exhorbitant prices in proportion. After that he accumulated quite a fortune. Mr. Elias was also a member of the Masonic fraternity. The family still have in their possession his diplona in masonry, given under the name and seal of Henry G. Mackey, dated Feb. 9th, 1859, at Charleston, S. C.

During the great depression in Germany in 1871(such as America has never experienced says Mrs. Elias) this family lost all of their wealth. Even the great quantity of silverware and linens were taken by their creditors. In 1880 the old Mr. Morris and his family came to Charleston. The children all made good homes for themselves. They were Jennie Howard

Kalinsky (deceased) who has a son in Washington in government employ, Teresa Morris Rhinehiemer, living in Okolona, Augusta Morris, Okolona, Rosa Rubel, Mother of Jeff and Lottie Rubel Cohn, Marie Morris Rosentiel (deceased) who has a daughter, Mrs. Rosena Hexter, now living in California, Henry Morris, (deceased) Tobias Morris ,(deceased) and Julius Morris, (deceased).

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M. Block, who has a very popular dry goods store in Houston, was also born in Germany. His parents came to St. Louis when he was a child. He lived ih Sheffield, Alabama for twenty-eight years after his marriage. Then he moved his business to Gunnisonm Mississippi where he was Mayor for three years and a very valuable and trusted public servant. He came to Houston in August 1935 and enjoys the esteem and friendship of its citizens now.

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Julius Rubel was a German Jew, the son of Meyer and Sarah Rubel. He was born in 1853 in Kaiserlautern, Germany. The old home where he was born is still there and is over two hundred and fifty years old. According to a will it cannot be sold out of the Rubel family.

When he was sixteen years old he came to the United States. He spent one year in school in Philadelphia before he joined his uncle, E. Rubel who lived in Corinth, Mississippi. After spending several years in the employ of his uncle in Corinth, he was sent, in 1873, to Okolona to take charge of a dry goods store which his uncle owned there. He bought this store several years later and built it up to be the largest dry goods store in Chickasaw County. Mr. Rubel studied English in Germany and with the year of school in Philadelphia, he could under-

stand and speak English when he reached Mississippi. In 1883 Mr. Rubel made a trip back to Germany to visit some of his relatives, and on his return trip he met Miss Rosa Morris on the boat and fell in love with her. They were married in Camden, South Carolina in April 1884. From this union there were four children born- two girls and two boys. One son, Jeff Rubel is a world war veteran and since his father's death has managed the dry goods store.

Mr. Rubel made a good citizen-he contributed to every cause which would benefit the community and always donated to all charity. He died in 1933 and Mrs. Rubel died several years prior to this. Their children have always been prominent socially in Okolona-the wives and daughters belonging to the literary clubs. Several have been president of the clubs to which they belong.

Mrs J. N. Strickland

Supervisor, Historical Research
Chickasaw County

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

CHICKASAW COUNTY

May 18, 1936

Canvassers: ~~Rubye Cook, Mabel Calvin, and Nora Austin~~

Assignment: Folk Lore and Folk Customs.

I. ~~Customs connected with particular days:~~ Particular days.

1. ~~Easter~~

(~~A~~) ~~Everyone who can afford them buys new clothes to wear on Easter Sunday, especially a new dress.~~

~~It~~ On Easter Sunday an egg hunt is always held in the various communities or in different sections of the town. These are usually attended by children, though in the rural sections the young folks often go. Sometimes a hunt is held for the children in day time and for the older boys and girls at night. A prize is usually given to the person finding the egg with PRIZE marked on it.

2. ~~New Years~~

~~It~~ On New Year's Eve some one usually gives a "Watch Party." Dancing, cards, etc. are enjoyed until twelve o'clock, when everyone present rushes outside to "ring out the old year and ring in the new." Guns and firecrackers are shot, whistles blown, bells rung, and ~~in short~~, anything that will make a noise is brought forth.

3. ~~Fourth of July~~

Picnics, barbecues, fishfries, and baseball games are customary on the Fourth of July. Everyone who possibly can, forgets his work for the day and attends one of the former.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

4. ~~Thanksgiving~~

It is the custom to serve Turkey and cranberry sauce at the Thanksgiving dinner.

5. ~~Christmas~~

On Christmas gifts are exchanged between close friends and relatives. The Santa Claus tradition is especially prevalent. Children's stockings are hung before the fire place, and Santa supposedly comes in a sleigh drawn by reindeer, alights on the housetop and scrambles down the chimney to fill the stockings. Children usually see to it that all fire is put out in the fireplace on Christmas Eve.

Superstition Eg Folk Customs

II. ~~CUSTOMS RELATING TO HUMAN LIFE, PARTICULARLY BIRTH, COURTSHIP, MARRIAGE AND DEATH~~

Superstitions prevail among the colored people- such as -

Asafoetida worn around the neck wards off disease.

A hog tooth attached to a string and worn around the neck with the tooth resting in the hollow cures neuralgia.

Dirt from a cemetery placed where one can walk over it every day will cure rheumatism.

It is bad luck to bring a hoe or ax into the house or to walk with one shoe on and one off.

If your nose itches, someone is coming. The right nostril is for a man, the left for a woman.

To get rid of cut-worms in the garden, catch three, tie up in a cloth and hang in the chimney corner.

1. ~~From interviews with:~~

Ref. on back Range 3 - 1 - Ora Spraggins (negro woman), Houston, ~~Route 4, May 15, 1936~~
- 1 - Sue Crawford (negro woman), Houston, ~~Route 4, May 15, 1936~~
- 1 - W. B. McNorton, Van Vleet, ~~May 16, 1936~~

In connection with birth, there is a belief that a knife placed under the pillow of a girl baby will make her smart. A boy baby should be set on the table to make a preacher of him.

— Folk Customs

The following is an old custom in courtship. The boy would say, "Oh, you're so pretty, you make me love you." If these remarks pleased the girl, they became engaged. Then the parents were consulted about the wedding. The mother would place a broom upon the floor and have the boy ~~jump or~~ try to jump over it. If he touched the broom, he was driven away, the mother saying, "He was lazy and trifling and a whisky drinker." If he failed to touch the broom as he leaped over it, he was the right boy for the girl to marry. A bench was then brought in for them to sit upon together. Other customs in connection with courtship include the finding of a four-leaf-clover on May Day as an indication of a sweetheart for the summer, and looking into the well on the first day of May to see the face of your future husband or wife. ~~2~~

Ref — on Back Page 4

The following material is taken from interviews with Mrs. B. L. Phillips and Mrs. McPherson, both of Houlka, Mississippi. Weddings were very great occasions in the old days. All relatives of both bride and groom were invited. The bride wore a white or blue dress on her wedding day, and brown or gray for the infair. The nearest single relative of both bride and groom served as waiters during the ceremony. Three girls stood beside the bride and three boys beside the groom. The mothers

Ref — on Back Page 4

~~2~~ 5. Interview with Angeline Wamble (Colored), Houston, Miss., ~~Rt. 1 May 14, 1936~~

stood or sat very near, weeping very low. The fathers stood with bowed heads, looking very serious.

On the wedding day a great feast was prepared at the home of the bride. All the relatives and close friends were invited to stay for the wedding supper. The night was spent in the bride's home. Early next morning the bride and groom, the bride's family, all near relatives and close friends would go to the home of the groom. There the relatives and friends of the groom were gathered, and another big feast was spread. This was called an infair dinner. After dinner, usually they had a big dance., unless the father of the groom happened to be a preacher. If so, the crowd gathered around the organ or piano and sang.

The groom usually had a home ready, and on the third day, he and his bride went to their home to begin life together. When they arrived, the groom would take the bride in his arms and carry her over the threshold for luck.

The following information in regard to negro marriage customs was obtained from a talk with ~~Angeline Wamble~~, an old negro mammy. The bride would be dressed in red calico with eight little ruffles fluted about three inches wide, white gloves and white flowers all over her head. The groom would also wear gloves. There were two waitmen. One walked down the aisle behind the bride and carried her train, which he dropped at the place of the ceremony. The other waitman would take the groom's hat and right glove and join the right hands of bride and groom. They were married by a preacher or anyone who could sing, "Come Ye That Love the Lord."

They usually served turkey for the wedding supper, as it was considered to denote riches.

After the ceremony was over, they would have a bride and groom march, and "cut the letter" right and left, by the music of tin pans and buckets. One would hide off in a wilderness of roses (if possible) with a gun. If the bride and groom marched on the first letter of file at the sound of the gun, the turkey was theirs.

If the preacher were not there, Black Mammy sat at the head of the table and was served first. After Black Mammy had finished eating, the one in the crowd who could cut the pigeon wing the highest would get a finger ring place at the table. ~~A surprise would be covered by a saucer.~~

The negroes in this section of the country have some unusual funeral and burial customs. When a death occurs, a crowd gathers at the home and there is a great deal of singing and shouting, the negroes seeming to enjoy very much the social contact with others. They hold a service while sitting up with the corpse, sometimes singing and praying all night. The negroes sing continuously while carrying the casket from the house to the church and from the church to the grave.

Back in slavery days the negroes were not allowed to leave their work and have funerals, so they buried their dead and then had their funerals on Sunday. This custom has been handed down, and is still practised by some negroes. They have their funerals perhaps a week or so more after the burial.

Some groups of negroes do not carry the body of the dead to the church because it is supposed to bring bad luck. They

leave the casket outside and have the service in the church.

~~III.~~ Social Customs

[redacted]

In the fall the farmer would gather his corn, haul it to the barn, and pile it on the ground in one big heap. Then he called in his neighbors, and in the early evening they began shucking corn, putting the corn in one place and the shucks in another. The owner would have placed several bottles of whiskey about in the corn heap, and no one was allowed to tear through the corn to find it, so each man worked very hard to shuck the most corn in order to find the most whiskey. When the corn was all shucked, it was placed in one crib and the shucks in another. Then a bountiful supper was spread, and egg-nog was passed around to both old and young.

Later the owner would shell enough corn to provide bread for his family for several months and carry it to a water mill to be ground into meal.

[redacted]

Springtime was a very busy time for the farmers. In the winter the men cleared a large field, felling all the trees, trimming off all the limbs and piling them in great heaps. The body of the tree would be cut into lengths from six to ten feet, and the neighbors would be called in to help pile the logs. ~~for~~

~~For~~ a day or two before the log rolling took place, the wife and all her neighbors would cook everything good to eat that was available. ~~They caught~~

Ref. to Book Page 6

3. ~~From an interview with~~ Anderson Horton, (colored), Houston, Miss. ~~May 18, 1936~~
4. Mrs. David Stewart, Houlka, Miss., ~~May 11, 1936~~

from three to five chickens, ~~dressed them~~, and put them in a big twenty-gallon wash pot to stew, seasoning with butter, salt, and black pepper. When tender, they made dumplings or chicken pie, which was a great favorite with the men.

The men and boys would pile logs from early dawn until twelve o'clock. Then they would all gather around a long table, seating from twenty to thirty men. This long table was made by placing several dining tables together. Neighbors loaned each other their tables, dishes, and silverware.

While the men were piling logs, the ladies were cooking or quilting, ~~for there were always more than were needed in the kichen.~~

After supper the ~~beds and every other piece of~~ furniture would be moved from one big room, and the old fiddle and banjo were brought out for an all night dance. From early evening to early morning the people danced to old tunes, both young and old taking part. The wittiest man in the crowd was always called upon to call the sets. At the end of each set they changed partners.

These log rollings continued until each man had his logs all piled.

[redacted]

During the winter months the women of the rural communities have quilting parties when a quilt has been set together and is ready for quilting. The lady of the house invites her neighbors

Ref. W. J. Stacy and J. A. Young, Houlka, Miss., ~~May 11, 1936~~

to come and spend the day. The quilt is placed on a frame and hung from the ceiling, and the women take their places around it with needle and thread ready to go to work. A bountiful dinner is served, and a day of quilting, gossip, and merriment is enjoyed by all. Often when the quilt is finished, the young girls present hold it up and a cat is thrown onto it. The girl by whom the cat jumps off will be the next to get married.

[redacted]

It is the custom of the people in Chickasaw County to hold swapping days on the first Monday of the Circuit Court term, which is held twice a year in the spring and fall. On these Mondays, people from different parts of the county bring horses and mules which they desire to sell or swap and expect to find buyers or swappers. The lot where these animals are on display is called the jockey yard.

~~IV.~~ RELIGIOUS CUSTOMS

[redacted]

In the old days there ~~were~~ few churches, and ~~then~~ when the weather would permit, people would take their families, dogs, cooking utensils, bedding, food, guns, song books, and Bibles and gather for a camp meeting. People came from miles ~~and miles~~ around. They always picked the camping ground near a spring, so there would be plenty of water to drink and ~~to~~ cook with.

There ~~would be~~ two services every twenty-four hours. In the late evening the women would go one direction and the men another direction to grove meetings. They would have secret prayers and then offer up their thanks unto God.

The men would hunt in the early mornings and sometimes fish. Both men, women, and children were very serious during these meetings, but they still believed in clean pleasures.

These meetings would last from two to three weeks. They always had prayer at the alter each service. Some would feel the Spirit of God within them so strongly they would shout and send praise to God in loud voices.

There was always a great number converted, and at the close of the meeting they were baptized, and all the rest would wish each and every one of them God speed.

Everyone seemed to leave these meetings with a happy heart and souls filled with joy. They seemed to appreciate God and His many blessings much more than before these meetings.

DIVISION OF FOLK TALES

~~1. Local Legends~~

Parents scare children who misbehave with "Raw-Hide-and-Bloody-Bones." He is supposed to be a man who wears no clothes, has no skin on his body, has long claws, and eats alive children who are bad. The younger generation frightened their children with "Eastis" a typical old negro character who is called - the Statistic of Houston.

~~2. "Black Mammy" Influences~~

If it thunders within twenty-four hours after one dies, that person will not go to heaven.

If you meet a corpse and don't turn around and go back, a

Ref 6. Mrs. J. E. Cobb, Houlka, Miss.

7-

member of your own family will die.

B. Witch and Ghost Tales

The following is a story told ~~to one of our canvassers~~ by Mr. W. B. McNorton, of VanVleet, farmer and former County Tax Assessor.

"The Witches' Dance is a spot in a deep hollow on the Okolona road between Houston and Van Vleet. It is full of trees and ordinarily, of course, the ground would be covered with leaves and undergrowth. But there is a spot ~~down there~~ about 8 x 10 ft. ~~as big as an automobile~~ where nothing grows and leaves will not stay. It is always bare, winter and summer. I've heard old folks say that the witches danced there, and I guess that is why it is called the "Witches' Dance." ~~Of course, I don't believe in such, yet I don't know what causes it, and I do know it is like that.~~

"~~And, more than that,~~ I saw something there one night which I know you won't believe when I tell you, and for that reason I've never told it more than half a dozen times. But I swear I saw this. I was riding along there horseback one night and saw somebody coming down the road. The moon was shining bright as day, and I could tell it was women. Negro women going to church, I supposed. But it scared my horse, and I had to whip and whip him to make him go. When we got closer, I saw the women didn't have any heads. Well, you can imagine how I felt. They were ordinary looking women except they had no heads. I had a pistol with me and pulled it out to fire, but it snapped on me and wouldn't shoot. Never did shoot.

"It was a long time before I told that, because I knew no one would believe it. But I have a brother-in-law who saw it, and I I have heard of two other people who saw it."

Mrs J. W. Strickland
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Chickasaw County

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

11. PIONEER CHURCHES :

Tradition and history of county churches from the organization of the county to 1845, have it that the first church built was by the Baptist denomination in 1835, and located near the southwest corner of territory carved into Chickasaw County in its formation in 1836; organized by the Reverend James Martin, as its pastor. When constituted, this church was composed in part of such sterling christians as Thomas and Henry Fox, Charles Spencer, William Griffin, David Gran and Hardin Harris.

In May of 1844, Louis Moore conveyed by deed two acres of land to the Houlka Baptist Church, lying to the left of the Houston and Pontotoc road leading north of his old homestead quite one half mile distant upon which the congregation built a frame structure near a gushing spring from the foot of a hill nearby, water from which emptied into a Baptismal pool carved out of solid rock. This church and its comfortable surroundings attracted large congregations, leading to much spiritual good in the advancement and uplift of Christianity. This inviting structure was accidentally burned during the Civil War, and the spring and baptistry are today covered and hidden by mud.

The Baptist denomination built a church about three miles east of Houston, composed in part of the membership of Jesse Seale, Thomas B. and J.B. Middlebrook, John Parker, and Joseph Middlebrook, having for its pastor the Rev. James Martin.

The Baptists, during the early days of the pastorate services of Rev. James Martin, built Bethel Church, about four miles south of Houston, composed in part of William Martin, Simeon Eskridge, and John E. Lyles and family.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

11. PIONEER CHURCHES : (Continued)

Friendship Church when first built was non-sectarian for several years, open to worship of all denominations where a like Sabbath School was organized and regularly maintained, growing into great usefulness, and was superintended for the first fifty years by the Hon. J.A. Lewis, late of Houston, with such marked usefulness, that it has been characterized as the initiatory school for the ministry. When at stated intervals, the congregation heard sermons from such consecrated ministers of the Gospel as Moses D. Foster, A.J. Foster Sr., and Wiley Lewis. Then, too, in these fifty years of Sabbath School service, Hon. J.A. Lewis and his lovely wife have given to the ministry two exceptional sons.

Friendship Presbyterian church (Old School) was probably the first of that denomination constituted in the county, located about three miles north of Van Vleet, with membership in part consisting of Judge Steen and family, David Marion and family, Hon. S.L. Wilson and family, the Hobsons, Thomas Baskin Reid and sons, Joseph and W.D.

Palestine Methodist Church located near Montpelier, stands on land donated by Rev. A.J. Foster and wife. First served by Rev. William Belk, local pastor, with membership consisting in part of such worthies as H.C. Kirby, Jacob Barr, J.C. Goggins, A.J. Foster, its pastor, Bartlet S. Duke, J.P. Beasley, Mr. Appling and John Hart.

County Line Methodist Church, between Chickasaw and Pontotoc Counties, located just south of Laws Country Store, is another of the old forts from which Satanic influences were bombarded.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

11. PIONEER CHURCHES : (Continued)

Friendship Methodist Church, located north of Houston on the Houston and Pontotoc road, near the old T.B. Reid homestead, settled prior to the organization of the county, further characterized as the place where the last old time Methodist camp meetings was held, had an ideal exemplary membership composed of such families as the Boyds, Hollidays, Craigs and Johnsons. It is credited as having one of the neatest and well-kept cemeteries of the county.

Prospect Methodist Church, located near the homestead of the late Rev. T.J. Lowry, one of the young pioneer Methodist Ministers of the county, and later son-in-law of John Farr, then resident living on his farm west of Houston, now having the distinction of the " Farr Old Fields", was constituted in the early days of his active, courageous, unselfish ministry, with membership composed in part of the Striblings, Gordons, Mims and Lowry families.

Amity Baptist Church, located three miles northeast of Sparta, when constituted had as church officials, John Brownlee, and J.F. Harrington.

The Woodland Cumberland Presbyterian Church, located three miles west of Sparta, was erected by Colonel John W. Davidson, on his land and at his expense, and when constituted had in part in addition to his membership, the Hugh Logan, Wesley Norman, John Mc Cluney, J.N. Morrison, and W.R. Davis families and A.B. May.

Enon Primitive Baptist Church located near McCondy, was constituted with a membership composed in part of the Couch families.

What is commonly known as the Gunn Primitive Baptist Church, located near Egypt, in the eastern part of the county, constituted,

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

11. PIONEER CHURCHES: (Continued)

had in part a membership of that name and had for its minister the Rev. William Gunn.

Salem Church:

Among the first Baptist Churches of Chickasaw County was one about three miles east of Houston near where the present Old Salem Schoolhouse now stands. Some of the members were the families of Jessie Seales, Henry Gibbs, John Parker, and several Middlebrooks families. The church stood there for a while, but inasmuch as most of the membership lived northeast of there the church was moved about two miles southeast of Van Vleet on Section twenty. This was Old Salem Church. All during the Civil War and many years before, this church was active and had a large attendance.

Preaching was held once a month, on Saturday and Sunday. The Saturday meetings were devoted to church conference, discipline, etc. Discipline was extremely strict and persons were often dismissed from the church for small offenses.

Some of the early members were Neily McKinnon and family, Hastings Neal, Mrs. Nicie Neal, Dave Goza and family, Jim Dowining and family, and the Pinlingtons.

Jesse Seals was probably the most outstanding preacher, having preached here for years and years.

Sometime after the Civil War, the majority of the members had either died or moved away and the church became disorganized. Then shortly afterward it was decided that a new church should be built.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

11. PIONEER CHURCHES: (Continued)

Mr. Reubin Davis gave the land and forty dollars. This was located about six miles east of Houston near Sycamore, and the rest of the money was raised by subscription. The date cannot be determined exactly but it was around 1880-85. Mr. Sebe Parker was instrumental in the organization of this church and one of the leaders all during his lifetime. This church was named New Salem and was attended by the Parkers, Brocks, Davises, and others. It functioned with a good attendance until about fifteen years ago when it became extinct and the church was used as a schoolhouse.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

111. MODERN CHURCHES :

Houston Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today :

Colonel Joel Pinson a native Tennesseean, being owner of lands near the center of the new county of Chickasaw, and desirous of perpetuating the name of General Sam Houston, he proposed to donate land for its county site upon condition that the Board of County Police give the new town the name of Houston, which was gratefully accepted. The lands donated were at once surveyed by Thomas C. Williams, county surveyor, into squares, lots and streets, a map of which was filed on July 20, 1836, (this being the first original survey).

Colonel Pinson realizing that the stability and perpetuity of our Government rested greatly upon the intelligence of its citizenship, and that education and religion must go hand in hand, donated certain lots of his land,upon which were to be erected buildings for the male and female academies and likewise to the Baptist, Methodist, Old and New School Presbyterian Churches for public worship.

In September, 1842, the members of the Missionary Baptist Church constituted of a membership residing in and near Houston, meeting preliminary thereto, presided over by Elders James Martin and Jesse Thomas. Elder Martin preached the dedicating sermon of the new church. Prominent among the members present were William M. Moffat, T.B. Middlebrooks, Holley Porter, Daniel Johnson and G.W. Thornton. The new church worshiped in the courthouse without a regular pastor, though served by Elders J.C. Keeny and James Martin, until 1852, when the congregation built its church on the donated lot and Elder M. W. Christman was called to its first regular pastorate and William M. Moffat was chosen one of its deacons and for many years served the

III. MODERN CHURCHES : (Continued)

church as clerk. The first church was a one room frame building and contained a balcony with steps leading up to it from the outside. This balcony was used for the slaves. This building cost about twelve hundred dollars. Preaching services were held one Sunday in each month, and conferences were held on Saturday nights. Church members were always received on Saturdays.

The first protracted meeting was held, May 1845, lasting only one week. Three members were received, namely Caroline Pulliam, Thornton Bridgeman, and Robert, a slave.

The church discipline was very strict. The members were frequently excluded if they did not adhere closely to all the rules and regulations of the church.

In 1845, Benjamin Hunt was excluded for gambling, Sabbath breaking and blasphemy. On another occasion Eliza Tittle was accused of dancing and a committee was appointed to see her. She did not deny the charge, was not sorry, would not attend church and wanted her name stricken from the roll, which was immediately done.

Margaret Hardin was excluded for fornication. The Rev. Thomas B. Lockhart was excluded on a charge of intemperance, this was after he served the church as pastor.

Some of the early pastors were: James Martin; M.W. Christman; Thomas B. Lockhart; J.C. Vincent; A.D. Brooks; F.L. Seward; R.W. Thompson; W.L. Gideon.

A list of the members who joined in the constitution were: William M. Moffat; Harriet Moffat; Margaret Hardin (excluded) Didamia Johnson; James W. Johnson; Daniel Johnson; George W. Thornton;

III. MODERN CHURCHES : (Continued)

Thomas B. Middlebrooks; Harriet Middlebrooks; Elizabeth Waddle; Rebecca Hardin; Holly Porter; (excluded) Catherine Thornton; Venus and Louis (colored) Jane Oakly; Mary Ann Blasingham; Balaan Izell; William Middlebrooks; Benjamin Hunt; Louisa Ault.

Some of the most outstanding members were: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. Moffat; Wm. K. Harrison; A.E.S. Dumas; Stephen Medlin; George W. Thornton; and Littleton Hill.

The present Baptist Church was erected in 1905, during the pastorate of Rev. E.E. Thornton. Previously the Church was located on the original lot which was donated by Joel Pinson. The Christian Church now stands on that lot. The present church is located about one block off Court Square or the business district of the town. It is a beautiful brick building erected originally at a cost of $20,000. The basement has been converted into Sunday School rooms and the auditorium is surrounded by Sunday School rooms and also the balcony. The auditorium seats five hundred, and there are eighteen Sunday School class rooms. At present the church membership is five hundred and forty. The total Sunday School enrollment is one hundred seventy-one, with Mr. Jack Chenault as Superintendent. Mrs. A.C. George is President of a number of the church organizations, namely; Y.W.A's, G.A's; Sunbeams; also a Senior, Junior and Intermediate B.Y.P.U., also a story telling hour for the tiny tots held at the B.Y.P.U. hour.

The Pastors home is a nice modern bungalow located about two blocks from the business district of town and just across the street from the Presbyterian Church. It was built in 1923 at a cost of about $3000.00.

III. MODERN CHURCHES : (Continued)

Houlka Presbyterian Church of Yesterday and Today :

The Presbyterian Church was the first church of any faith organized in Old Houlka. It was organized in April of 1873, sixty-four years ago. The Presbytery sent Rev. A.H. Barkley there for the purpose of organizing the church. He was assisted by T.J. Steen, an Elder from Friendship Church.

The organization was effected in accordance with the provisions laid down in the form of government, and the petitioners were formed into a church to be known as Oak Grove Presbyterian Church.

The following charter members were enrolled: M.H. Robinson; T.L. Baker; J.C. Mc Junkin; J.L. Robinson, A.L. Mc Junkin; J.F. Hobson; J.E. Hobson; R.G. Hobson; W.T. Steen; W.D. Mc Junkin; R.T. Hobson; J.A. Hobson; T.F. Marion;Mesdames M.B. Robinson; S.J. Holladay; M.E. Brown; S.A. Hobson; E.C. Robinson; Cisley Hobson Sr.; M.M. Baker; J.S. Hobson; Elizabeth Mc Junkin; F.E. Stein; M.A. Hobson; H.A. Marion; Misses L.M. Robinson; H.R.Robinson; N.M. Robinson; Cisley Hobson Jr.; Janie Mc Junkin; Molly Mc Junkin; and S. A. Mc Junkin.

The elders were: M.R. Robinson; R.G. Hobson; W.D. Mc Junkin; J.C. Mc Junkin; W.T. Steen; J.F. Hobson.

The deacons were : R.T. Hobson; T.F. Marion; J.E. Hobson and J.L. Robinson.

Everyone was very enthusiastic over the prospects of a church, so work was started at once. The Savelys donated a site for the building. Every one gave freely of his substance and his time. Rev. Barkley came to hold the first meeting in this church. T.J. Steen and wife, Elinor, Miss Hattie Mc Junkin, R.B. Marion and wife came into the church.

III. MODERN CHURCHES : (Continued)

Securing a pastor was the next step, so W.T. Steen and W.D. Mc Junkin were sent to Presbytery at Dekalb for this purpose. In March Rev. J.D. West came as stated supply from Chickasaw Presbytery. The third Sunday was the day set for regular appointment. The organization grew rapidly, and many influential families came into the church. A Sunday School and prayer meeting were organized early in the history. Later a Union Sunday School was organized, which was and is today the pride of many older citizens of the town. Rev. J.S. West was pastor of this church for ten years, with Rev. W.T. Savage filling his pulpit many times during Rev. Wests absence. Rev. W.V. Frierson was the next regular pastor. He served until 1894. The ladies of the church raised enough money to buy an organ. Organists were : Misses Callie Sue Hobson, Nona Hobson, and Mollie Marion. George H. Steen was the next pastor for one year. Rev A.H. Barkley then came back as pastor. D.N. Armentrout and J.F. Turner served the church several years as pastor. In 1904, D.L. Barr of Alabama Presbytery accepted a call to this church.

During this time it was an inevitable fact that a railroad would come through that section. A new town was built one mile from Old Houlka and so the membership of Oak Grove transfered to New Houlka and the name changed to Houlka Presbyterian Church. The building today is the one erected then. Rev. Barr, erected the manse in Houston, in 1905 and the present pastor lives in this manse.

The womans' auxiliary was organized in 1914 and Mrs. Jesse Patterson was first president. A new piano was bought for the church while H.S. Henderson was pastor. Since that time electric fans and lights have been installed.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Some outstanding men who have been pastors of this church are: Rev. F.D. Daniel; Rev. Kelly Unger; Rev. S.T. Hill; Rev. H.S. Henderson; Rev. J.M. Richardson; Rev. C.G.T. Hamilton and Rev. W.F. Patch, present pastor.

Houlka Methodist Church Yesterday and Today:

About fifty-three years ago the first Houlka Methodist Church was organized. In the fall of 1884 a church was erected on a one-acre lot located in the southwest corner of the cross-roads at Old Houlka, which was donated by W.A. and E.A. Harrill. The trustees of this church property were: I.E. Garrett, W.W. Bolding, and J.E. Lyon.

Before the church was built the Methodists who lived there worshiped in the Presbyterian Church which was on the lot where Leland Norman's home now stands. Rev. Eugene Johnson was the first Methodist pastor, and since there was no Methodist Church, the Presbyterians offered their church for services, and it was used until the Methodist Church was completed. That showed that a spirit of cooperation and helpfulness existed among the denominations.

Some of the people belonged to the Methodist Church at Wesley Chapel and some at County Line, which was the nearest Methodist Church and was located on the Pontotoc and Houston road near the line between Pontotoc and Chickasaw Counties. When the church at Houlka was built, the County Line Church was discontinued and most of its members transferred to the Houlka Church. Among whom was W.M. Holliday and family. Some of the members at Wesley Chapel also moved their membership, one of which was Dr. W.C. Walker and family.

A few of the outstanding members of the first Houlka Methodist

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Church were: John W. Winter and family; J.E. Lyon and family; W.W. Bolding and family; Dr. W.C. Walker and wife and Mrs. Whitehead; W.M. Holliday and family; Mr. Billy Whitten; Dr. P.W. Roland and sister Miss Kitty Roland; the Saxons, Howards, Isbells, Baileys, Alexanders and Harris family. Dr. Roland and Mr. Harris were converted in 1888, when both were comparatively old men.

This church was on the Houston and Wesley Chapel circuit and remained so for about twenty years. Once a month the preacher came from Houston to hold services.

A Sunday School was organized, but, when Prof. E.A. Smith, superintendent of the Houlka Boarding School (about 1885 to 1891) was appointed Superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School, the Methodist met with the Presbyterians in a Union Sunday School, which was a great inspiration to many of the older people. Later the Methodist organized their own Sunday School, and Mr. John Winter was appointed Superintendent. He served several years and was succeeded by W.M. Holliday who was Superintendent until his death in April 1905. Mr. J.J. Hiller was then appointed.

The first organ was bought soon after the church was built. Mrs. W.C. Walker sponsored a turkey dinner to raise money to buy it. Miss Janet Bolding was the first organist.

The pastors who served this church from 1884 to 1905 were: Rev. Eugene Johnson, J.R. Robertson, H.R. Tucker, J.W. Anderson, J.C. Park, J.W. Bell, H.C. Moorehead, and W.C. Lester.

Some of the marriages which occured in this church were: Miss Betty Johnson and J.T. Carter; Miss Ophelia Saxon and Fletcher Norman;

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Miss Fannie Harris and Jim Guyser; Miss Francis Baker and Irby Wooten; Miss Mattie Alexander and Willie Wilson.

So far as I could learn, there was only one who answered the call to the Ministry from this church, that being C.W. Bailey who was converted at an early age under Rev. Robertson's ministry. In 1902 he was admitted to the North Mississippi Conference.

We think of this church as a tribute to the fathers and mothers who bore the burden and toil that we who follow should have a house in which to worship and praise God.

In 1904 during Annual Conference, Houlka was made a charge. The railroad, which is now the G.M. & N., having been completed and the town having been moved near the railroad, the Methodists decided to move their church to the new town, a distance of about one mile west of Old Houlka. In November of 1905, Mrs. S.A. Harrill, O.M. Harrill, and Mrs. Anna H. Reid gave the lot on which the church now stands in exchange for the old lot, and a new church was constructed. The old church building was sold and the money was used in helping to build the new church. For several years the people struggled to finish the payments on their new church, and also on the parsonage which was built at that time.

The trustees of this church property were: J.W.H. Baskin; Dr. W.C. Walker; and F.U. Guinn.

The first pastor of the Houlka Charge was Rev. W.C. Carlisle who was the first to live in the new parsonage and who served this Charge four years. Many new members were added during these years, and the church grew spiritually also under this faithful, consecrated,

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Godly man's leadership.

During the first year of this charge there were six churches; Houlka, Wesley Chapel, New Hope, George's Chapel, Union, Sharron, but for many years there were only four, those being Houlka, Wesley Chapel, Concord and Asbury. (Asbury is now Van Vleet) In 1920, when Rev. B. F. Bullard was pastor, Thorn, New Hope and George's Chapel were added to the charge and in 1925 another church, Pyland was added while Rev. W.C. Maddox was pastor, this making eight churches on the charge. It is to this good, sincere, faithful, Christian man that the church is indebted, owes gratitude and love, for the building of three church buildings; one at Wesley Chapel, which was rebuilt soon after the old building was burned; one at Houlka, the old building having been badly damaged during a storm in 1913, and repaired and used for several years, was not adequate for the work as it should be; and one at Pyland soon after the church was organized.

In 1927 George's Chapel, Thorn, and Pyland were removed from the charge (the work being too extensive for one pastor to do) and in 1929 New Hope Church burned, and not being rebuilt, leaves only four churches on the charge now, which are Houlka, Wesley Chapel, Concord, and Van Vleet.

The Sunday School has been an interesting and successful phase of the church life. From the time of its organization what was called Children's Day (now called Sunday School Day) was observed each year. An offering was always made and given to missions. Some of the Sunday School Superintendents have been, Dr. W.C. Walker, W.L. Guinn, W.L. Walker, O.T. Gaines, R.B. Wessel, D.H. Alexander, P.W. Griffin, and

III. MODERN CHURCHES : (Continued)

Z.A. Bullard, the present Superintendent.

There was not an Epworth League until 1909. Paul W. Griffin was its president, and there were thirty-five members. It was soon discontinued, but was reorganized later. In 1927 under Rev. W.C. Newnam's ministry the league was organized and chartered and has done good work since. It is now in union with the Christian Endeavor, the young people's organization of the Presbyterian Church, meeting half time in each church.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized soon after the church was moved to New Houlka. Mrs. W.C. Carlyle was its first president. The following have been presidents : Mrs. Effie Sales, Mrs. Esther Harris, Mrs. O.T. Gaines, Mrs. R.B. Wessels. In 1923 the Ladies' Aid Society began to collect funds to help build a new church. When the building of the church started they had $600.00 to contribute to the fund, which they had raised by offerings, by " Hen-gatherings " and by selling ice cream and lemonade in town on Saturdays. These women also raised the money that bought the piano which is now used. At different times they have bought furnishings for the parsonage. In 1927 the Ladies' Aid became the Woman's Missionary Society with Mrs. R.B. Wessels as president. In 1929 Mrs. W.W. Bruner was elected president. In 1931 Mrs. Wessels was again elected and served until 1934, when Mrs. Billy Blake took her place. The work of the women has been very successful and very helpful, and the church owes them much appreciation for their work. Their project for this year is raising funds to buy a new carpet for the church, and already sufficient funds have been collected.

III. MODERN CHURCHES : (Continued)

The pastors who have served the church since 1905 are as follows:

Rev. W.C. Carlisle.....(1905 to 1908)
Rev. Durrett.....(1909 to 1910)
Rev. Davenport.....(1911 to
Rev. W.N. Doods.....(1912 to 1914)
Rev. A.W. Langley.....(1915 to 1914)
Rev. A.J. Beasley.....(1917 to
Rev. O.P. Armour.....(1918 to 1919)
Rev. B.F. Bullard.....(1920 to 1921)
Rev. A.A. Martin.....(1922 to 1923)
Rev. W.C. Maddox.....(1924 to 1926)
Rev. W.C. Newman.....(1927 to 1928)
Rev. W.W. Bruner.....(1929 to 1930)
Rev. W.M. Hester.....(1931 to 1932)
Rev. G.A. Baker.....(1933 to 1935)
Rev. E.M. Shaw.....(1936, and is the present pastor.

Written by Mrs. S.E. Norman , Houlka, Mississippi.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Houston Presbyterian Church of Yesterday and Today:

An accurate history of the Houston Presbyterian Church cannot be given, since the first minutes of the session have been misplaced. From data given by the historical foundation of Presbyterian records from Montreat, N.C., by Dr. Tenny, the Houston Presbyterian Church was organized in 1841, the first pastor being Rev. T.C. Stewart. The church was first called " Antioch ".

By a petition from Tombigbee Presbytery, now East Mississippi Presbytery, the name was changed to Houston Presbyterian Church.

A vacant period then ensued from the loss of data, until 1851, when J.N. Carrothers became pastor and served until 1891, when he was called to his eternal reward. According to dates found on his monument in Friendship Cemetery, he served the church forty years. He lived to be eighty-six years old. He was active in the ministry until just a few months before death claimed him, preaching his last sermon in the old Methodist Church. His work and influence still abide with the descendants of his ministry, who are living.

For some reason, a house of worship was not built until 1885. The congregation worshipped in the old Methodist Church and later in the old Female Academy up to that time.

The Houston Presbyterian Church has never been a very large church as far as numbers go, as so many of our younger members for business interests have sought homes and membership else where. Then so many of the older members have been called by death. Numbers of young men and women who have gone out from this church are now fruit-bearing members for the Kingdom in churches of this faith.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Manse is an attractive two-story building, and was erected in 1905. It reflects credit on the members of former years.

The Houston Church has had a Woman's Society since 1883, and it has done a great deal to further the advancement of the church. Later years, all Women's Societies have been organized into the Women's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church.

After Rev. J.N. Carrotherss death, Rev. A.H. Barley was supply ministers for some time. Then came the following pastors: Rev. B.L. Barr, Rev. J.Frank Turner, Rev. A.S. Conwell, Rev. Kelly Unger, Rev. H.S. Henderson, Rev. G.D. Moses, Rev. S.T. Hill, Rev. J.M. Richardson, Rev. G.T. Hamilton, the last and present pastor, Rev. W.F. Patch. All of these, with the exception of three, served the church two years.

The eldership of the church in former years consisted of Messers Martin; Galbraith; Black; Bates; White; Doss; and Hamiter; and later, T.W. Scott; Wiley Marion and J.E. Hill.

The eldership at present time consists of Dr. J.Rice Williams, Messers T.L. Haman; W.E. Scott Sr.; E.S. Medlin; Ashton Toomer; J.W. Elliott and R.E. Atwell.

The diaconate formerly consisted of Edgar White; E.F. Medlin and Thomas Pulliam; Messers Hobson; Andrews; two Marions and Randle. The present diaconate is Willie Rice Elliott, W.E. Scott Jr., Henry Tournwall, Carter Patch and John Edgar Hill.

While numbers of young men have been ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the East Mississippi Presbytery, only one from this church has gone out as a preacher of the Gospel: Rev. W.L. Hamilton, of Chester S.C., whose pastorates have been almost entirely in the Carolinas.

111. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The members of this church are very proud of it, though numerically small. It has done much good for the town and community, and in 1936 the church, a small but neat and attractive frame building, was done over inside and out, and now stands as a fitting memorial to former and present members. The church organization is ninety-six years old. There is a graded Sunday School and a Junior Auxiliary in connection with the Woman's Auxiliary, also an active Christian Endeavor League.

The Presbyterian Church of Okolona Yesterday and Today:

It was back in the fifties, that some of the early settlers here from Virginia, Tennessee and the Carolinas felt the need of a church of their own faith. By their request, Mr. Carrothers, a Presbyterian preacher, who was then teaching and preaching in Houston, Mississippi; came to institute and perfect such an organization.

So it was on a Sabbath day in 1856 that these early Christian Settlers assembled in a Methodist Chuhhh which stood on or near the corner where the Okolona High School now stands, and did institute and perfect such an organization,"The Presbyterian Church"

Thus the organization came into being with twelve Charter Members. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. John White, Major Shepherd and wife, Major Dearing, Dr. Deavenport and wife, and others.

They had no church building so they worshipped in a store building owned by Mr. John White. The organization began to grow and about 1859 or 1860, steps were taken to build a church. A lot was secured. Lumber and building materials were hard to get and much of it had to be shipped in. Major Shepherd, who lived on a plantation northeast of town,

111. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

was largely instrumental in building the first church. He gave a great deal of the lumber, had it cut, sawed and hauled to the lot. It was rather a large building, massive timbers being used and much of this same timber is in the new church of today.

There was a large dome on the top of the church and a front porch supported by massive columns, taken as a whole it was rather an imposing building. A Mr. Arnold gave as his contribution the paint and painting, and some of the residents of today remember the style of windows that were painted by him. Major Shepherd gave the bell and a large pulpit Bible. He made a special trip to Mobile to buy the bell which is in use today.

Rev. Peland was the pastor just before the war between the states. Mrs. Julia Brady was perhaps the first child ever baptized in this church. Miss Henrietta Moreton and Captain Elliott were perhaps the first couple ever married here, this being directly after the war.

During the war this church, as well as all other churches in Okolona, was used as a hospital, and later as a school. After the war and during the reconstruction days the old land marks were gradually passing away and the church became very weak both numerically and financially, owing to the fact that large fortunes had been lost, many of the old settlers moved away and still others had passed to the great beyond. So it was a great struggle to hold the organization together, but from time to time, after the war, different preachers came and preached. First, Rev. J.W. Kerr, then later Rev. Hall.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

In 1870 or 1871, Rev. Love was stationed here as a regular pastor. In 1873, Rev. Jerry Witherspoon came as a supply in the summer and in the fall went back to Columbia Seminary to get his degree. He was called as pastor in 1875. About this time he was married to Miss Laura Murdock, a charming Okolona girl. In 1876, Rev. Witherspoon was asked to make the opening prayer at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, he being the lineal descendant of a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1877, Rev. Hunter was pastor for a short while, followed by Rev. Flynn in 1879.

In 1883, Rev. J.D. West, who was stationed in Pontotoc and had charge of the school there, came and preached once a month. About this time other denominations of the town were putting up new church buildings down where the main part of town now stands, so the Presbyterians thought it wise to move their building in order to keep in the community center. So a lot was secured from the Myers estate and through the efforts of Messers. Mc Carley, Parchman, Baskin and Houston and others, sufficient funds were in hand to accomplish this work. So it was in 1884 the old historic land-mark was torn down and moved to the present place.

The second building was modeled very much on the same plan as the first one. In 1885, Mr. and Mrs. George Parchman presented to the church a handsome silver communion set and baptismal bowl. The baptismal Bowl is still in use and the Communion Set went back to the Parchman family when individual cups came into use.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

In 1886 the church grew very weak on account of financial conditions. In 1888, Rev. George H. Steen came as pastor and the church took on new life and began to grow. Messers Mc Carley, Murdock and Parchman were made elders and Ed Baskin, Sam Sadler and Henry Waller were made Deacons.

In 1891 and 1892, Rev. Morgan was pastor and in 1893 Rev. R.I. Long was called.

In 1895, Rev. John E. Hobson came and during his pastorate some of the old land marks passed away. He was pastor of this church for about two years but went back to the Seminary to get his degree.

In 1898, Rev. G.A. Strickland was called. He was pastor for four years and during that time the church was growing in numbers as well as Spiritually.

In 1902, Rev. John W. Mosely came and he stayed for seven years. Rev. Mosely was followed by Rev. John F. Eddins. It was Mr. Eddins, who first started talk of a new church building. The World War put a stop to this project at this time.

The Rev. Fant D. Daniels followed. His pastorate was during 1916 and 1917.

It was while Rev. Joseph C. Stuart, from the " Old North State" and a Princeton Theological student, was supplying this church in the summer of 1918 that a new and better church building was talked of. It all seemed impossible for the fact that the World War had just ended and finaces were at such a low ebb. Mr. B.F. Ellis, said " all we need is faith ". As a result of this statement plans for the new church were formed. So this old land mark that had been the scene of many

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III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

glorious meetings, happy weddings, sad funerals and joyous baptisms was torn down. Using as much of the old material as possible, a lovely brick building was erected. By December of 1919, the building was ready for services. This lovely church built on " Simple Faith " at a cost some thing like $15,000.00. It is clear of debt and has a beautiful pipe organ, affectionately dedicated to Miss Maria Elliott, who was instrumental in starting a pipe organ fund.

The Woman's work in this church has played a great part in its advancement and growth. The first organized work of the Okolona Presbyterian women was known as " The Ladies Aid Society ", but as to the date of organization or the officers, little is known. The first Missionary Society was organized in 1888 with Mrs. J.O. Parchman as president, and Mrs. Alice Gideon, secretary and treasurer. As the years passed these societies were not always active organizations and during a period when the church had no pastor, they became very inactive.

At some time in the history of the Ladies Aid Society, Bible study was introduced and some not caring to take up this phase of the work organized a separate society called, " The Dorcas Society," which carried on the former program of the Ladies Aid Society, that of sewing and doing charity work. The societies continued as separate and distinct organizations until 1919 when they all merged into one central organization called " The Woman's Auxiliary".

During the intervening years the Auxiliary has worked constantly and carried out each and every phase of the work of the Auxiliary. The present pastor is Rev. Looney. The church does not own a pastor's home but rents a nice bungalow for him. This church has Sunday School every Sunday.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Okolona Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Methodist Church was organized some time in the early forties. About 1846 or 1847 the lot where the Okolona High School building now stands was donated to the Methodists by Rev. Adam La Grone and a church was built there. About the time of the close of the war between the states this was disposed of or in some way lost, and the congregation worshiped for some time in a hall or house down town. In 1878 the congregation, especially the women of the congregation, led by Mrs. Dr. Tindall authorized Gen. W.F. Tucker to secure a lot. Then the congregation rallied and by much hard work and sacrifice built the then commodius and elegant little church, which is now the Christian Church, that served until the congregation moved into the beautiful new brick church located on Main Street.

Okolona ranks among the best towns of the South, commercially, socially and religiously. It has a congenial religious home for every person and we invite every one who comes to Okolona to be at home with us and to know you have a hearty welcome in our churches.

We find from the old records that the Methodist Church of Okolona was a regular part of the Aberdeen Circuit in 1847. The old frame church, forty-four by thirty-six feet, was built on the present school house lot in 1852, the pastor was Rev. S.B. Carson. The old two-story brick church, on the same lot was built about 1865, and Rev. A.C. Allen was pastor at that time.

This church became a station with full time that year and has remained so to this time. Rev. N.G. Augustus did the necessary agitation for a new church during his second pastorate, in 1903 to 1905.

III. MODERN CHURCHES : (Continued)

The church was dedicated by Bishop W.F. Mc Murry.

The good women of the church deserve a large part of the credit for this good work.

The church is well organized and doing well in all of its departments. The Missionary Societies are very active and so is the Sunday school . A spirit of harmony prevails and patriotism abounds. Thirty-eight young men answered the call of their country during the World War from this Church and Sunday School.

This denomination of Okolona owns its pastor's home. A nice two-story frame dwelling.

Okolona Grace Episcopal Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Grace Episcopal Church of Okolona was organized in June 1851 with eight members. Dr. Jos. B. Britney and Dr. John E. Tucker were the Wardens, Dr. Sterling Tucker and Mrs. C.S. Howe, Vestrymen. The Rev. J.H. Ingram, distinguished author of " Prince of the House of David " and many other books. He began holding monthly services April 1851. Mr. C.S. Howe gave a lot July 25th, 1851. The corner-stone was laid December 8th, 1851. The church was completed June 21st, 1852 at a cost of $1250.00. Mr. Ingram gave his services for a year and started the Episcopal College. He was rector of St. John's Church in Aberdeen at the time. Rev. J.B.T. Smith, principal of the Okolona Female Institute served until October 1852. Rev. T.B. Lawson was called January 1853, for two Sundays a month. On June 17th, 1853, the church was consecrated by Bishop Green, grandfather of the present Bishop Green, who is Bishop Coajutor of Mississippi.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

In March of 1859, the ladies purchased a house and lot for a rectory. In 1859, St Thomas Parish, Pikeville, was incorporated with Okolona.

On November 15th, 1859, John E. Tucker conveyed, with others, to the Bishop the chapel and burial lot adjacent to their premises, which was consecrated by the Bishops St. Cypriaus.

On May 21, 1860, Charles Gates conveyed to certain trustees, the property known as " The Rose Gates College " as a church female school and for the benefit of the parish forever.

This institution was used as a hospital for both armies in 1863. In April 1863 it was burned by the Yankee Army. In 1864 to 1865 the church was used as a hospital for the wounded of both armies.

In 1864 there were one hundred thirty-three white parishioners and one hundred sixty-six colored.

Later the church was torn down and the congregation scattered. After many years a nucleus of this congregation rebuilt Grace Episcopal Church. The organ that was used in 1851 was repaired and used for services for two years. It is now a museum piece and still in good condition.

The Bible used now is the same one used in 1851. A new Rectory was built several years ago. Regular services are held twice each month.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Okolona Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Turning backward to the forties, when Okolona was little more than a name, but a very beautiful name meaning " water plentiful," home seekers first heard of the rich prairie lands. The men started clearing away the tall prairie grass and driving out the wild animals in order that they might build homes for their loved ones.

Among the early inhabitants who came in covered wagons drawn by oxen was a man from South Carolina named John J. Hodges who built a one room cabin of logs with no floor. There was no church near by, so the people had church services in a corn crib belonging to Mr. Hodges. He later added another room to his house and they used it to preach in.

Finally they decided to build a church in Okolona. Adam La Grone gave the lot, John J. Hodges the money, and Dr. Ligon gave the timber and work. Many of the members gave of their time and labor. The lot was on the northwest corner of Main and Church Streets (later owned by Mr. Dink Harrell, and later still, by William Hodges.)

In the hearts of these early settlers was the desire to worship God. Regardless of all the difficulties of hewing lumber, and hauling it for many miles, the scarcity of tools to work with, this church building was completed after a long time. The benches were made by J.T. Crow, uncle of the late Mrs. Nannie Knox, organist for twenty years, and great uncle of Mrs. R.W. Chandler, who later served for twelve years as W.M.U. President. He also made the pulpit stand and gave it to the church as his gift.

In 1849 the building was completed and the Baptists from all

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

around, upon hearing of the new place of worship came to the regular services held twice each month. At this time Rev. G.A. Grammar was pastor and the church building was dedicated by R.A. Venable.

Three deacons were chosen and a treasurer. They drew up a church covnant, rules of decorum and articles of faith, which were read each quarter and adhered to.

The preacher was entertained by members, and although his salary was small, it was paid in money. Supplies and provisions were given him.

The women were active members and contributed their share, but had no organizations at this time.

In 1861 Okolona was made a supply depot during the Civil War. The wounded soldiers were brought to Okolona where the Baptist Church was used as a hospital in a Christ-like ministry of mercy to the sick and wounded.

After the war the church resumed its work and many outstanding men in the Baptist denomination served as ministers of the Church.

It was in 1867 that the women organized a Ladies' Aid Society. They met at the home of Mrs. Addie Darden, and Mrs. Bettie Poore was the first President. These women organized the Earnest Workers for the younger women of the church. Later the women, at the suggestion of Mrs. A.L. O'Briant, united with the Baptists of the State and formed a Woman's Missionary Union.

These women have had a large share in the progress of the church and have worked untiring for every worthwhile cause. They have observed regularly the weeks of prayer, and have given to missions

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

both at home and abroad, besides the causes in our own church. In July 1919, Mrs. J.A. Donaldson organized a G.A. with nine members. They soon increased to seventeen and later became the banner auxiliary in the State in 1920 and 1921.

On June 17, 1921, a band of young people met at the church and organized a Baptist Young Peoples Union with Mrs. Cliff Chandler as president. This work was under the direction of Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Sullivan. The week following the organization, Mr. M.F. Herring of Winona came and taught a class in B.Y.P.U. methods. The band soon grew from thirteen to thirty-four, and reached all requirements in the standard of excellence. The enrollment today of the B.Y.P.U. averages about eighty each Sunday and is under the able direction of Mr. Earl Dennis. This splendid organization has had a part in training many young people of the church.

It was in 1924 that the church realized the need for a larger building with plenty of Sunday School rooms and adequate space to meet the needs of a growing organization, decided to build a new three-story brick church in place of the modest one-room frame building. An architect from Birmingham Alabama, was secured to draw up the plans and specifications. This building is the beautiful structure that we now worship in, valued at approximately $50,000 and built during the pasterate of Rev. W.O. Blount.

Since having a modern and suitable building to meet in, the Sunday School has grown to an active membership of two hundred. Some of the men who have served for many years as superintendent are the late W.E. Berry, Ed Savage, E.J. Ezell, Hon. A.T. Stovall and Adlai Lyles.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Such men as E.T. Mobberly, W.A. Sullivan, A.L. O'Briant, Laurence C. Riley and the present pastor, Rev. D.L. Hill, have been a source of inspiration as our pastors and leaders. One field worker has gone from our church to New Orleans, Baptist Bible Institute for training., being Mrs. Kathleen Callis Mc Manus.

The church owns a nice two-story frame building which they use as a pastor's home. It is valued at three thousand dollars.

The Okolona Christian Church of Yesterday and Today:

Rev. M.F. Harmon from Jackson, Mississippi, came to Okolona and organized the Christian Church in 1890. The only place they had to meet was in the homes of the different members. Finally they raised enough money to buy the Odd Fellows Home. After several years the church died down all but just two or three faithful members. Mrs. Harold Knox kept it going for a number of years.

They now own what was the first Methodist Church and they have an active Sunday School and also Missionary Society.

The Houlka Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Houlka Baptist Church was organized about 1893 or 1894, and a strong house of worship was erected just west of the old school building at Old Houlka. Mr. Joe Hamilton, J.R. Mayo, W.S. Savely, James Thompson, Aquilla Delashment and others, were the founders and brought their memberships from Shiloh after its completion. Before this, the Rev. Gideon preached for the Baptist in the Presbyterian Church.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Rev. R.A. Cooper served as pastor for twenty years, until at the beginning of 1914, he moved to Calladian, Texas, leaving the Baptist without a preacher, and the people a great and good man.

The church as it stood for many years, was rolled from the old town, through the woods and over small creeks, without a mishap whatever to New Houlka .

Following Rev. Cooper came Rev. H.M. Collins who served as pastor and principal of the Houlka School for a number of years. Succeeding Rev. Collins, the present minister Rev. S.P. Andrews, served for a number of years, and it was during his pastorate that the church was remodeled.

A number of Sunday Schools were built adjacent to the church. During this period the church enjoyed its most aggressive times, as the young people took greater interest in the church work and all the branches of the church were most active.

The church has not been lacking in earnest hard workers, as it has stood out among the best for many years. Rev. S.P. Andrews left the church for a period of time, and was followed by the following ministers: Rev. Furr; Rev; Davis, and then Rev. Andrews again returned to fill his old position and he is now the present pastor.

The Houston Christian Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Houston Christian Church was organized in 1905. Rev. W.M. Baker of Meridian came to Houston at that time by invitation and organized a church. The old Baptist Church was purchased by this denomination, W.H. Griffin of Houlka, Sam Hall of Houston, and W.D. Woods of

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Houston being the largest contributors.

In 1927 a new and modern church was built of hollow tile. Although not palatial or imposing it is a nice comfortable little church of which the Christians are justly proud. There is no pastor's home. Preaching services are only held once each month. Sunday School (not graded) is held in this church each Sunday.

The Cockrells, Halls, Brays, W.H. Stevens family, Sam Hall, W.D. Woods family and Mrs. Cora Turman were some of the earlier members of this church.

Some of the pastors have been Rev. Smith of Dancy, Rev. McCorkle from Baldwyn, Rev. Jerry Reynold of Jackson, Mississippi, Rev. F.K. Dunn, Rev. L.C. Carawan, and Rev. Taylor from Memphis, Tennessee. The present pastor is Rev. Lynn F. Wilson of Okolona.

Dr. Taylor help plan and arrange the new church. Some of the most outstanding Christian workers have been Mr. W.D. Woods, Mr. J.B. Hasting (deceased), Dr. V.B. Philpot, Mrs. Maggie Beasley, and W.H. Griffin, now of Houlka.

The Houston Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Rev. James Laughridge, a local minister, organized the Methodist Church in Houston about the year of 1835. For the first few years it was sustained by a few faithful members who worshipped in the Court house. Among them were A.K. Craig, H.M. Goode, W.M. Byars, Abram Byars, and W.J. Gee. This little group of pioneers erected the first church building in the town of Houston. When the town lots were laid off Joel Pinson donated a lot to the Methodists. It was located

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

about two blocks east of the Court Square. The members donated time and money and the edifice was soon completed. It was a large one room structure painted white with green blinds. A porch and steps extended across the entire front. It was supported by four large columns. There were two entrances and a large steeple containing a bell.

This organization grew into a very prosperous and influential church with a well regulated Sunday School. Like all pioneer churches the discipline was very strict and members were excluded for the smallest digression from the straight and narrow path. Several of the members owned a tent or cabin at Wesley Chapel Methodist Church located about seven miles north of Houston on the Houston and Pontotoc road, where the camp meetings were held every summer. They always went and carried their families and stayed through the entire meeting. There was always a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit and much good was done.

Early in the year 1896 the members began to feel that they needed a new church building. Bro. Anderson was pastor at the time. Mr. S.T. Hall gave the present lot in exchange for the old building. This he had torn away,and with the material built a dwelling house on his farm in the country about eight miles east of Houston.

The new church which is in use today was soon erected. The late D.D. Tabb was contractor. His daughter Laudie Tabb was the first to marry in the new church, marrying D.E. Shell, who is now a senior stewart of the church.

From time to time annexes have been added to adequately take care of the growing congregations. The church is a large frame build-

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

ing with a tall steeple. It is painted white and has stained glass windows. The building contains a large auditorium and about twelve fairly well equiped class rooms.

The parsonage owned by the church is located on North Jackson Street. It is a large two-story dwelling in fairly good state of preservation. It has recently been painted on the out side and redone on the inside. It is valued at about $ 3000.00.

The Methodist Church has a well organized Church School and Epworth League using graded literature.

The Woman's Missionary Society has about thirty members and is the most active organization of the church. The Young Ladies' Circle of the Woman's Missionary Society is composed of about fifteen young ladies.

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

On June 2nd, 1851, Thomas B. Reid deeded to Samuel Williams et al two and one half acres of land as long as it was used for church purposes. When it ceased to be used for a church it was to revert to the Reid heirs. Mr. Reid had the deed made this way so that a saloon could never be placed there, as he was strongly against whiskey. A rude log church was built and they worshipped in it until 1880, when it was torn away and replaced with a large frame house. Three men gave one hundred dollars each, namely, Daniel Johnson, Col. L.T. Hill, and T.G. Johnson. Mr. Daniel Johnson was the principal factor in this church as far as money was concerned.

Each year there was held a Children's Day service; the child-

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

ren gave recitations in the morning, then there was singing in the afternoons.

This was the only Church in the County where Camp Meetings were held. There were small cabins with partitions between, which made two rooms, one for the men and one for the ladies. Numbers of these were built all over the church grounds, each family building their own cabin. Just before the meeting began each year a large brush arbor was built in the center of the cabins, under this arbor was where the Camp Meeting services were held. People came in covered wagons, in buggies and on horse back from miles away, often as far away as Oxford, Mississippi, bringing enough food and bedding to last the two weeks of the meeting. Though of course every one could not stay the entire time.

Five services were held during the day, an early sunrise service, a mid-morning service, the regular preaching at eleven o'-clock, then another in the mid-afternoon, and the regular night service., during the Camp Meetings.

Singing schools were held at this church nearly every summer under the leadership of Adam K. Craig, commonly called " Squire " Craig. Consequently, good singing was always had at this church.

Church discipline was strong. Persons were often churched.

There was always a good Sunday School. It was called an Evergreen Sunday School because of the fact that it was held the entire year; for many years it did not even go into winter quarters.

No other organizations of this church were ever very strong.

Rev. Gilderoy Porter was probably one of the most important

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

pastors this church ever had. It seems that he could do better work and more of it than any one else. At one time he had charge of seven churches.

This church has continued in existence up to the present time. About 1925, a new church was built, across the road from where the old church stood but on the original site. It is a large one room frame building, nicely ceiled and painted.

Preaching services are held every third Sunday afternoon by Rev. E.M. Shaw of Houlka, Mississippi.

The only organization this church has is Sunday School. Though not as large as in the past years it is still active except for a few months during the winter.

Mrs. Betty Carter is the most outstanding Christian worker. However, working hand in hand with her until his death a few years ago, was Mr. Flahterty, and it is only fair to mention him since he was so outstanding.

This church has no pastor's home.

111. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Buena Vista Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Buena Vista Methodist Church was organized in 1887 by Rev. R.A. Tucker. The present one room frame building was built at that time. The money was raised by public subscription. About this time an old Methodist church called Lake Providence, located at Sycamore was abandoned and most of its membership came to the Buena Vista Methodist Church because it was more centrally located. Some of the early pastors of this church were Rev. R.A. Tucker, Rev. Ky Spraggins, Rev. Tom Taylor and ___ Robertson. This was a wide awake church for a number of years with a large membership. Some of the families who were instrumental in the progress of this church were the Pattersons, Owens, and Parkers. At the present time there are only twenty-five members. It is on the Egypt circuit and the Rev. B.L. Wimberly holds services there once a month.

A Union Sunday School of all denominations is held in the Methodist Church every Sunday. There are no other organizations.

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, located nine miles southwest of Houston was organized in December 1859. A meeting was held at a schoolhouse near the home of John C. Griffice and a church organized with G.L. Jennings as pastor. The charter members were John C. Griffice, T.T. Brooks, William Pounds, J.F. Ezell, Wiley Bullard, Elizabeth Pounds, Olivia Griffice, Mary Miller, Mrs. E.C. Brooks, and colored Ben, Mary, Hannah, Eliza, and Minerva, servants of

111. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

William Pounds or a total number of twelve white and five colored.

Mr. James Larkin, a Catholic and an Irishman donated the land for a church and the first meeting was held in it the fourth Sunday in January 1860.

About a year later the pastor and clerk of the church enlisted in the Civil War and R.M. Mitchell was made the next pastor. Some of the other pastors who followed soon afterward were: Edd A. Price, R.W. Thompson, and S.M. Cole. The Rev. S.M. Cole was pastor of this church for forty years, beginning in 1876 and retiring in 1916. He would probably be considered the most outstanding minister. It was he who was instrumental in securing the new church which was built in 1913.

Rev. E.L. Putnam of Mathiston is the present pastor and holds services every fourth Sunday. There are two hundred sixty-nine members. Sunday School is held during the summer, but there are no other organizations.

The present church is a one room frame building painted white and valued at eight hundred dollars.

Arbor Grove Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Arbor Grove Baptist Church which is located about six miles southeast of Houston, was organized September 25, 1892. Nineteen charter members met under a brush arbor and wrote the articles of faith and the first moderator, A.C. Ball named the church Arbor Grove. Mr. Ike Thrasher donated the land upon which a one room frame building was erected.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Some of the charter members were Ben Lyles, Robbie Lyles, L.M. Pearsall, Ike Thrasher, J.M. Pumphrey and H.J. Sligh.

Rev. W.C. Ballard of Okolona is the present pastor and services are held there every fourth Sunday. The present members number about one hundred sixty-four. They have an active Sunday School.

The Baptist Church of Buena Vista of Yesterday and Today:

The Baptist Church in Buena Vista was moved from the Union Baptist Church about one mile south of Buena Vista. Nothing could be learned about the history of the Union Church, though it seems that this was a very early church. However, the school was located near this church and after it was moved to Buena Vista it seemed advisable to move the church also. Consequently, in 1887 the church was torn down and part of it used to build the new church at Buena Vista. The Union Church was a large, nice frame building and Elisha Thornton was the first preacher remembered.

Some of the families associated with this church were those of R.L. Bean, J.L. Pulliam, H.B. Pulliam, Munford Bean and the Thornton families.

From 1887 to 1915 the congregation worshipped in this second church. But in 1915 the church split and the majority of the members bought a half interest in the Buena Vista Presbyterian Church and moved up there. Then for a time there were two Baptist Churches, the Missionary Baptist and the old Church was called the Stegall Church. At present neither of these Churches is functioning, though both of the buildings are standing.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The McCondy Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The McCondy Methodist Church is located in McCondy and was organized under the supervision of Rev. Elias Kilgore in the year of 1880. Rev. Kilgore was in the community at that time holding a revival at the Baptist Church. The one room frame building was soon erected. It was financed by donations and a negro carpenter did the work. This building is still in use today. A few repairs have been made recently. The active Sunday School, using graded literature, has an average attendance of about eighty. And the Junior Epworth League is a wide awake organization with Mrs. E.K. Guinn as leader. The Women's Missionary Society of this church is composed of about twelve members. This church is on the Egypt circuit and the Rev. L.B. Wimberly is pastor and conducts services at this church twice a month.

The McCondy Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

McCondy Baptist Church is located near the schoolhouse, and was organized in the latter 1860's by Rev. William Gideon who was an extremely prominent pastor in the county at that time.

The first building was a rather crude one built of rough lumber and not ceiled. In 1888 the present church was built. It is a large one room building, painted white and has ten windows.

Preaching services are held once a month, with Rev. H.M. Collins of Van Vleet as pastor. There is no Sunday School nor any other organizations. The membership consists of about seventy-five members, though only about fifteen of them attend services regularly. In fact the church is practically dead.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Methodist Church of Egypt of Yesterday and Today:

The Methodist Church at Egypt was organized and built in 1884, the Rev. W.J. Henley being instrumental in its organization. The church was partly built, having the foundation and framework up when a storm came and blew it down. It was then rebuilt. It is a one-room building painted white and is still in use.

Some of the earlier preachers were Rev. Tom Taylor, a Rev. Menasco and a Rev. Richardson.

This church has a membership of approximately twenty-five and services are conducted there once a month by the pastor Rev. L.B. Wimberly.

The pastor's home in Egypt is a small five room cottage, located not very far from the church.

The Egypt Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Baptist Church at Egypt was organized before the Civil War. It was at that time located at Hebron just over the line in Monroe County. In 1905 the location was moved to Egypt and a new church built. It is a large one-room frame building painted white.

Rev. H.M. Collins of Van Vleet is the present pastor and conducts services there once a month. Sunday School is held every Sunday, this being the only Sunday School in Egypt. The other churches cooperate, and a Union Sunday School has been organized. There are no other church activities. The women of the church have always been organized into a W.M.U., but it is not active the year around.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Woodland Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Woodland Methodist Church was established in 1906. Previous to that the Methodist people had worshipped at Friendship Church at Congress which was two and one half miles south of Woodland. This church was built in the early days of the county, though the exact date could not be ascertained. For several years following its organization it was non-sectarian. H.H. Owens, Hon Asbury Lewis, and W.B. Lewis were instrumental in building this church, while some of the earlier members consisted of Moses D. Foster, A.J. Foster, Sr. and Wiley Lewis. The Hon. J.A. (Asbury) Lewis was superintendent of the Sunday School maintained here for the first forty years.

This church was on the Montpelier Circuit, but in 1905 the Methodist Conference moved it to Mantee, but the members transferred themselves to Woodland. At this time there was no church in Woodland and the different denominations worshipped in the schoolhouse. In 1906 the Methodist built a church. Rev. Sullivan was the first pastor and was succeeded by a man named Poe.

The present pastor is Rev. Frank McGee. He holds services here once a month, every third Sunday. He also has charge of six other churches, though some of them are not in Chickasaw County. There is a pastor's home and the church is a one-room frame building. Sunday School is held every Sunday but the membership is small.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Baptist Church of Woodland Yesterday and Today:

The Woodland Baptist Church was built in 1906. Previous to this the congregation worshipped in the schoolhouse. Messers Kirby, Gilfoy, and Alec Hill were the leaders in the organization of this church, with Rev. Mitchell and Rev. Cole as the first pastors.

In 1927 a nice new building was erected. There is no pastor's home however. Rev. C.L. Fry of Blue Mountain is the pastor and conducts services there every first Sunday. There is a small Sunday School, consisting of about twenty members.

The Bethel Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Bethel Baptist Church, located four miles south of Houston on Highway number fifteen, was organized in 1850. This was during the early days of the pastorate services of the Rev. James Martin, who was joined in part by Simeon Eskridge, William Martin and the John E. Lyles and E.T. House families in the formation of the church. Simeon Eskridge gave two acres of land for the cemetery and church. Captain Stribbling drew up the deed for the church.

The first church was erected by the men of the community from logs hewn out of the woods. Later a one room frame building was erected but it was not even ceiled. The congregation now worships in a very nice frame building, painted white. The cemetery and grounds are well kept. The pastor is now Rev. John Gore of Slate Springs. Services are held every first Sunday. Bethel is a wide awake rural church with about one hundred eighty-nine active members, and an active Sunday School.

III. MODERN CHURCHES:

The Rhodes Chapel Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Rhodes Chapel Methodist Church was organized in 1880 and so called for a man whose name was Jakie Rhodes who gave the land. Rev. Thomas Lowery and Billie Flynn were the pastors who helped in the organization. Some of the first members were Willis Mahan, Jim McCluney, John Griffin, Jake and George Hardin, Jacob Wooten, and Stephen Flynn.

The church is a large one-room frame structure, ceiled inside and painted outside.

There is no Sunday School, but preaching services are held there once a month by Rev. Thomas G. Lowery of Vardaman. Memorial Day services are always held once a year, too, usually the third Sunday in May.

Prospect Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Prospect Methodist Church, located about four miles southeast of Houston was founded around 1850. For several years before hand the schoolhouse had been a place of worship, and because Houston was the closest church, it was decided that a church should be built. Rev. Thomas Lowery gave four acres of land for use as a church and cemetery and was the most important figure in the organization of this church. Some of the early members were the families of Issac Brinker, Eli Gordon, Meleydger Pyron, Thos. J. Lowery, and the Beasley, Mims and Hollingsworth families. It was built by David Ausley and is still in use, though it has been remodelled and is in very good condition yet, though it is just a one-room frame building.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Some of the early preachers were Gilderoy Porter, Thomas Lowry and two whose names were Parrott and Postum. Services are held every second Sunday by the pastor Rev. McGee of Woodland.

There is no Sunday School or other church organizations, as the membership has decreased in the last few years and interest is not as paramount as in the earlier years. At present there are abput one hundred thirty members.

The Thorn Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

In 1908, Rev. Graves then pastor of the Methodist Church of Houston, assisted by W.L. Doss, prominent citizen of the Thorn community organized the Methodist Church at Thorn. In 1909 a church was built which is still in use. It is an unusually large one-room frame building, ceiled inside and painted white outside. There is no pastor's home located there.

The only organization is a Sunday School which is well attended every Sunday. During the summer singings are held there once a month on Sunday afternoons. An annual all-day singing is held every first Sunday in June.

There are seventy members and services are held once a month by the pastor Rev. Thomas G. Lowery of Vardaman.

The Thorn Church of God of Yesterday and Today:

The Thorn Church of God, located at Thorn, was organized in 1921 by Rev. G.C. Dunn. The present church is a large frame building unpainted. There is no pastor's home.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Services are conducted there once a month by the pastor Rev. Hollin. There are about thirty-five members. Sunday School and prayer meeting is held once a week.

Lake Church of God :

Another Church of God, called Lake, is located about two miles from Thorn. It was organized by a Rev. Gore five years ago. This church was the result of a split in the Thorn Church, about half of the members going to the new church and the other half remaining with the old one. This church has a membership of about twenty-five and the pastor Rev. B.H. Moore conducts services there every Sunday. Sunday School and prayer meeting is held once a week, also. The church is a small, crude, wooden structure.

Enon Primitive Baptist Church:

Enon Primitive Baptist Church is located nine miles southeast of Houston and the only church of this denomination in the county. This church had been established and services held at this place for years prior to its constitution. The body of members held their membership with Emmius church down near Old Cumberland. Emmius extended an arm and gave the few members here the privilege to transact business under their discipline. Among the old pastors were Rev. Scroggins, C.E. Verell, and Bill Little.

The arm, Enon met August 28th, 1886 for the purpose of constituting a church with the following presbyters present, I.W. Easley and E.M. Verell. The services were opened by prayer, offered by I.W.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Easley, G.B. Walker was elected clerk and O.C. Davis elected moderator.

The following letters were turned in and these composed the charter member staff. W.D. Couch, Bettie Couch, C.E. Couch, Ann B. Couch, G.W. Cox, Ruth Cox, F.W. Duncan and Martha L. Mixon. W.D. Couch gave the church ground. The money was raised by donations and no one taxed. The old settlers and well known citizens of Chickasaw county E.M. Verell and W.D. Couch supported by others built the church. Mr. Couch was a charter member. He was a loyal supporter until death. The Enon community is still well settled with Couches and they are believers in the primitive Baptist doctrine and hold the church in high esteem. Rev. Verell was called to the care of the church when it was first constituted (1886). He was a faithful pastor and strong in the faith until death in 1921. Rev. Verell's services are still outstanding in the minds of Enon Church. The Church is still loyally supported by the Verell family. Since the death of Rev. Verell the church has had several pastors among them are: Rev. J.C. Huddleston, G.M. Jeffcoats, B.A. Carter, Lee Hankins, Benton Goofer, N.T. Easly, W.C. Wallis, and J.M. Bullard. The latter is the present pastor.

This Church was consolidated with the Little Black Association in 1886 and it holds its annual session on Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in October and also through Sunday.

The Methodist Church of Van Vleet of Yesterday and Today:

The Methodist Church at Van Vleet was first established about two miles south of Van Vleet about seventy years ago. It was at that time called Rhodes Church. Jesse Gwin donated the land on which the

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

church was built. The more prominent members consisted of the families of Dave Rhodes, Jesia McDaniel, and the Ray and Barnett families.

Later (date not determined) a new church was built and called Asbury. The first preacher here was a Rev. Parrott, a son-in-law of Jesia McDaniel. This was a prominent church in its day, having a large membership, some of whom were very prominent people.

By 1910 the village of Van Vleet had been firmly established, most of the old members around Asbury had moved away and it seemed proper that the church should be moved to Van Vleet. Consequently the building was erected by C.F. Wilson in 1910 and the Asbury membership moved.

This is a large one-room frame building, painted inside and out and is located in Van Vleet.

Rev. E.M. Shaw holds services there once a month, while Sunday School is held every Sunday.

The Baptist Church of Van Vleet of Yesterday and Today:

The Baptist Church at Van Vleet was originally established on Thornton Hill, about two miles north-east of Van Vleet by M.R. Barnett. This was about sixty years ago. The lot was donated by a Mr. McDaniel for use as a school and church as long as used for that purpose. One building served both as a church and Sunday School. The Barnetts and Fitzgeralds constituted some of the membership here. The Rev. A.C. Ball was one of the first pastors of this church.

In 1910 this church was likewise moved to Van Vleet and a building erected by W.J. Davis, the money for which was raised through

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

subscription. This building was later swept away by a cyclone and another erected. In 1933 this one was blown away by a storm, so the members decided they would build a more substantial church this time. A modest brick veneer was built, consisting of one large room and two small ones, all of which can be converted into one.

There are about one hundred twenty-five members at present. Rev. S.P. Andrews of Houlka is pastor and conducts services there every first Sunday. This church has Sunday School every Sunday and also Baptist Young People's Union.

Rev. H.M. Collins is probably the most outstanding pastor this church has had, having served as pastor here for many years.

Amity Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The old Amity Baptist Church was first established about the year of 1858 and was located about two miles southeast of Sparta on the road to Montpelier. Johnnie Brownlee and Jim Davis were two of the most important figures in the organization of this church. The building was made of logs and remained here until 1876 when it was moved to about one half mile south of Sparta where it stayed until 1897 when it was again moved to the town of Sparta. The lot was bought from the Masons and a new church building erected where the Old Masonic building stood.

Rev. Gideon was the first pastor of the second church. Following him were Parker White, a Rev. Huey and a man whose name was Lovelace. Lon Hall. J.A. Wilkinson, John Paden and Dr. Montgomery were considered as the " pillars " of the church at this time.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The present building is a large one-room frame structure, painted white. Rev. H.M. Collins of Van Vleet preaches there once a month, each second Sunday to a membership which consists of one hundred twenty-one. There is a Sunday School and Women's Missionary Union organization, though small in membership they are active. Mrs. Lattie Woodruff is probably the most active worker this church has at present.

The Sparta Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Methodist Church at Sparta, located on the east side of the road from Sparta to Houston, was built in 1876. The membership, etc. was moved from the Old Oak Grove Church of which very little could be learned except that it was located one mile east of Sparta near the Oak Grove Schoolhouse.

The money for the church was raised by subscriptions and the present church was erected. Some of the earlier members were Wilson Harrill and family, Zenniman Ming and family, Alexander Mixon and family, Dr. Kilgore's family, and Mrs. Henry Brinker, while Rev. T.J. Lowry, Rev. Kennedy and Rev. Norman were the first preachers.

This church has continued up to the present time and is now under the direction of Rev. Mc Gee of Woodland who preaches there once a month.

George's Chapel Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The George's Chapel Methodist Church is located about eight miles west of Houston near the Calhoun county line. It was organized eighty years ago or more; the exact date could not be learned. However, there have been three buildings, the first of which was a log structure.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

It was organized by the Rev. George Blissard as pastor and citizens John Clark, Simp Blissard, Jim Woolridge, and others. Simp Blissard gave three acres of land for use as a church and cemetery.

The old log church was replaced with a frame structure which stood for about thirty years, and being sadly in need of repairs, it was decided that a new one should be built. This was the present church building, and it was erected in the early part of the twentieth century. It is a large one-room frame building, painted white and is in good condition.

Services are held there once a month by the Rev. Thomas Lowery of Vardaman and the church has a membership of about ninety active members. Though Sunday School is not held at this church, there is a Sunday School for the members to attend at Center Point schoolhouse, which is in Calhoun county as this is a more central location. There is a cemetery nearby and several negro slaves are buried there.

Concord Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Concord Methodist Church located about three and one half miles northeast of Houston was organized about 1875. The organization of the church and the first meeting being held under a brush arbor near where the Concord Cemetery is now located.

Soon after the organization, the members decided to build a church, some of them donating money others their labor to ereet the building and it was soon completed. This church was used until it burned in 1900.

Some of the first pastors were Rev. Henry Smith, Rev. Jim

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Cunningham, Rev. Columbus Evans, and Rev. H.C. Parrott. And some of the charter members were ; John L. Davis and family, John C. Porter and family, R.A. Turman and family, C.C. Gray and family, and John W. Hill and family.

Soon after the church burned it was decided to rebuild it at another location, this being about two miles north of the old location. A new one-room building was soon completed and is still being used today as the Concord Church. It is well ventilated with a number of windows and is ceiled inside and painted white outside.

Services are held there every third Sunday by the pastor Rev. E.M. Shaw of Houlka, Mississippi. There are no active church organizations. Once or twice each year the members of this church meet at the cemetery and cut all the grass and weeds and mound up the graves nicely. There is no pastors home.

Pleasant Grove or Atlanta Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Pleasant Grove or Atlanta Baptist Church located about sixteen miles southwest of Houston near the little village of Atlanta was organized about eighty years ago, but very little information about the organization could be obtained.

The first church was a frame building and was used until about ten years ago when it was replaced by the present building. Funds for ereeting this new church were raised by donations from the members and public spirited citizens who lived near by.

Some of the early members were N.B. Crawford and family, Joel Ellison and family, and Ira Ellison and family. And some of the first

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

pastors were Rev. Jimmy Cox, Rev. - - Thompson, Rev. Tom Wilson, and Rev. W.H. Thompson.

The present membership of this church is one hundred two and services are held there every fourth Sunday by the pastor Rev. J.W. Kitchen of Maben, Mississippi. There is no pastorss home. At present there is no Sunday School or other organizations conducted there.

About twice each year members of this church meet there for the purpose of cleaning off the cemetery as there is no regular care-taker for the cemetery.

(Interview with Mr. Dave Crawford of Atlanta, Mississippi.)

Friendship Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

About twenty-five years ago it was decided to consolidate the Elzey Baptist Church located in Calhoun county and Burgess Baptist church located in Chickasaw county and build a new church half way between the two locations.

Harry Huddleston one of the earlier members helped re-organize the church and donated a large portion of the lumber used and assisted in the erection of the new building. This church is located near the Chickasaw and Calhoun county line and is called Friendship. It is a one-room frame building, ceiled inside and painted white on the outside.

Some of the earlier members were H.M. Evans, W.R. Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Griffin, Paul Moore and Alfred Mixon and family.

The present membership of this church is about one hundred and services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. Jim Hartly of near Houston. There is no pastor's home.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

At present there is no Sunday School or other organizations. One Sunday during the summer an all day singing is held there.

Boones Chapel Methodist Church of Yesterday and Today :

Boones Chapel Methodist Church located about eight miles south-west of Okolona in what is known as Shake-Rag community was organized as a Union church in 1869 under the pastorate of Rev. -- Dunn. Later it became a Methodist church.

The first building was a box structure and was used about ten years when it was decided that a new and larger church was needed. The second church was a nice frame building and was used until about eight years ago when it was replaced with a nice brick building which consists of four rooms two of which can be thrown into one.

Some of the earlier members were Jim Lyon and family, Doc Boone and family, Lem Suggs and family, Duncan Sullivan and family, and Billy McGhee and family.

The present membership of this church is about eighty-five and services are held there every third Sunday by the pastor Rev. L.B. Wimberly of Egypt. No Sunday School or other organizations are conducted there now.

During the period this church was a Union church a cemetery was started and is still used for a burial ground for all denominations. The first person buried there was Imogene Sullivan, sister of Mr. J.B. Sullivan familarly known as Pa Sullivan. Once a year the people of the community meet at this church and cemetery for the purpose of cleaning off the cemetery. One year it is done the week before the second

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Sunday in May and then on Sunday afterwards a Memorial Service is held by the Baptist denomination. The next year this is done the week before the third Sunday in May and on Sunday afterwards a Memorial service is held by the Methodist denomination.

The Mount Olive Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Mount Olive Baptist Church, located about eight miles southwest of Okolona in the " Shake-Rag " community, was organized in 1872 or 1873. The first church was a nice frame building but was in use only about ten years when it burned. A Sunday School rally was held one cold Saturday and Sunday and naturally a big fire was had. After every one had gone from the church it caught fire and burned down.

Some of the first pastors were Rev. R.A. Cooper, E.E. Thornton, and Charles Nelson of Tupelo, while some of the earliest members were J.B. Sullivan and family, Green Hill and family, Will Rooker and wife, and Sam Harper and family.

The present church is located about one mile southwest of where the old church was located. It is a frame building, consisting of one room ceiled inside and painted white outside.

The present pastor is Rev. W.C. Ballard of Wren who conducts services there every second Sunday in each month. He has been pastor of this church for thirteen years. The membership of this church is about one hundred and fifty active members. Revivals lasting a week are held each year in August. There is no Sunday School or other church organizations.

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

Parkersburg Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Parkersburg Church, located about six miles northeast of Houston, was organized August 21, 1914 with Rev. J.B. Wages as the first pastor. The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Terry, Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Clem Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Flanagan, Mr. John Park, Mrs. D.I. Neal, Miss Sue Abbott, Jack Chenault, Grady Chenault, Attie Chenault, Corrine Neal, Bettie Mae Neal.

All these people had been members of the Center Hill Baptist Church but when the railroad came from Okolona to Houston some of the members wanted to move the church near the railroad. Consequently, there was a split in the church and the new church, Parkersburg, was organized.

Contributions were made to build the church and, land belonging to Herman and Jane Neal was given by D.I. Neal, administrator of their estate.

The pastors have been Rev. J.B. Wages, Rev. J.A. Huffstateler, Rev. Brown, Rev. Townsend, Rev. M.C. Putnam, and Rev. Paul Weddle.. Rev. Putnam served this church for more than ten years.

The present pastor is Rev. Paul Weddle of Okolona who conducts services there every second Sunday. There is no Sunday School or other church organizations. There are seventy-nine members.

The church is a one-room frame building and is badly in need of paint and repairs.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

III. MODERN CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Friendship Presbyterian Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Friendship Presbyterian Church located about two miles northwest of Van Vleet, was organized in 1842. Services were first held in a school house on Dick's Creek, but a few years later, about 1846, the site was moved about a mile southwest to where the church now is and a small log cabin with one door and no windows was built. Shortly after the Civil War a large frame church was built and is still in use and in good condition.

The first pastors were Rev. James N. Carrothers and Rev. Martin, while the membership consisted in part of Judge Steen and family, David Marion and family, James Aston and wife, Hon. S.L. Wilson and family, the Hobsons, Bakers, and Reids.

This is the first church of its denomination established in the county and still is the only one that is located out in the country.

Rev. W.F. Patch is the present pastor and holds services there every fourth Sunday. The membership of this church is about seventy-five. There is no Sunday School or other church organizations.

The church is very old though is in a fairly good condition, being a large one-room frame building painted white.

V. STATISTICS ON NEGRO CHURCHES:

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church is located at Sparta and has a membership of about eighty or ninety. Services are held there every second Sunday by the pastor Robert Smith of Houston, Mississippi. Sunday School is held in this church every Sunday.

The Methodist Episcopal Church (North) is located in Houston and has a membership of about fifty. R.L. Howard is the pastor and conducts services there every second and third Sundays.

Hopewell Methodist Church is located about seven miles south of Houston near the Lowery Farm. Services are held there every fourth Sunday by the pastor R.L. Howard. This church has a membership of about fifty.

Mount Olive Methodist Church is located about four miles east of Houston on a local road and has a membership of about fifty. Services are held there every first Sunday by the pastor R.L. Howard.

Zion Springs Baptist Church is located about eight miles east of Houston and has a membership of one hundred forty-three. Services are conducted there every first Sunday by the pastor James Jetticks of Aberdeen, Mississippi.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is located one mile north of Buena Vista and has a membership of four hundred eighty. Services are held there every third Sunday by the pastor J.A. Parson of Tupelo, Mississippi.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

V.

V. STATISTICS ON NEGRO CHURCHES: (Continued)

Center Hill Baptist Church is located one mile south of Hall hill which is on Highway number eight and has a membership of about seventy-three. Services are held every fourth Sunday by the pastor G.C. Irons of Aberdeen, Mississippi.

Macedonia Baptist Church is located about two miles south of Buena Vista. It has a large membership for a rural church and also a good Sunday School. Services are held there every third Sunday by the pastor Rev. J.E. Ferrow, of Columbus, Mississippi.

The Okolona Calvary Baptist Church is located in Okolona and has a membership of about three hundred fifty. Services are held there every Sunday by the pastor Rev. M.J. Stallings.

The Okolona Methodist Church is located in Okolona and has a membership of about two hundred fifty. The pastor C.M. Howard conducts services there every Sunday.

The Houston Baptist Church located in Houston and has a membership of about three hundred. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev.-- Porter of Tupelo, Mississippi.

In most cases the exact number of members could not be ascertained because of the scattered membership. All of these church buildings are small one room frame houses.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

V. STATISTICS ON NEGRO CHURCHES: (Continued)

Mount Mariah Baptist Church is located between Van Vleet and Okolona. The pastor Rev. F.J. Lowe conducts services there once a month. Sunday School is held there every Sunday with Mose Bell as the Superintendent.

Clark's Chapel Baptist Church is located about four miles south of Okolona. Rev. F.L. Thompson is pastor and Amos Kirk is Superintendent of Sunday School. Church services are held there once a month.

The Second Baptist Church of Houlka is located in the town of New Houlka. It is called the Second Baptist because it split from the Church at Old Houlka, and moved into New Houlka. Rev. H.A. Dismuke is pastor and L.M. Bean is Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Ross Hill Baptist Church is located about two miles west of Van Vleet. Rev. J.C. Crawford is pastor and conducts services there once a month. Sunday School is held every Sunday with Lamar Gordon as Superintendent.

Center Hill Baptist Church is located three miles northeast of Van Vleet. The pastor Rev. S.D. Wilson conducts services there once a month. S.M. Harris is Sunday School Superintendent.

Macedonia Baptist Church is located near Old Houlka. The pastor Rev. B. Austin conducts services there once a month .

CHICKASAW COUNTY
Assignment # 26

V. STATISTICS ON NEGRO CHURCHES: (Continued)

Eastern Star Baptist Church is located in Okolona. Rev. F.S. Smith is pastor and holds services there once a month. Sunday School is held there with the wife of N.A. Johnson as Superintendent.

Palestine Baptist Church is located three miles south of Van Vleet. Services are held there once a month with Rev. F.J. Lowe as pastor. L.C. McClendon is Superintendent of Sunday School.

Red Bud Baptist Church is located three miles west of Egypt. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. M.S. Naugle. W.T. Rowland is Sunday School Superintendent.

New Zion Baptist Church is located two miles east of Van Vleet. Rev. S.M. Easter is pastor and conducts services there once a month. H.B. Crockett is Superintendent of Sunday School.

Mount Union Baptist Church is located northwest of Okolona a few miles. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. E.A. Moore.

Bethlehem Baptist Church is located about four miles north of Houston on Highway number fifteen. Rev. M.A. Morrow is pastor and holds services once a month.

Pine Ridge Baptist Church is a very small church located about five miles west of Houston. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. Cass Reedy.

CHICKASAW COUNTY
Assignment # 26

V. STATISTICS ON NEGRO CHURCHES: (Continued)

Gladwell Chapel Baptist Church is located near old Prairie Mount. Services are held there once a month by Rev. S.D. Wilson the pastor.

Johnson's Chapel Methodist Church is located about seven miles southeast of Houston in the Verell community. The building used for the church was once the Pearsall (white) School building. Services are held there every first Sunday by the pastor Rev. Cullens of Corinth, Mississippi.

Moore's Chapel Methodist Church is located about seven miles north of Houston on Highway number fifteen. The pastor Rev. Claude Russell conducts services there once a month.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

V. NEGRO CHURCHES:

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Rev. W.L. Gideon, then pastor of the Houston (white) Baptist Church, organized this church over seventy-five years ago. It is located at Sparta near the Amity Baptist Church. Dr. J.P. Montgomery gave an acre of land to the colored people and they built a small church on it.

Since that time the building burned and was rebuilt and just a few years ago it was remodeled and made larger.

Today it is a wide awake church with about ninety members and Robert Smith, of Houston, Mississippi is its pastor. The deacons are as follows; William Crigler, who is the most outstanding worker in the church, Lem Mosley, Jim Echols, Tosh Collins, Alfred Davis and George Wallace. (Interview with Henry Montgomery) colored.

The Methodist Episcopal Church (North) in Houston:

This church was organized about fifty years ago, to the best knowledge of the oldest colored residents. A negro named Warner Farr bought the lot on which the present church stands and built a little log cabin on it which he gave for a church. Since then two frame churches have been built. The present one was erected in 1930. It is a large one room building, painted white, and has a belfry on top. The pastor's home stands beside this church but is small and in a run-down condition. These are located three blocks west of the Court Square on Highway number eight.

The pastor is R.L. Howard, who preaches here twice a month. The membership consists of about fifty.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

V. NEGRO CHURCHES: (Continued)

There is a fine Sunday School and an active Epworth and Junior League. A Ladies' Aid and Womans Home Missionary Society have been organized, though are inactive at present. (Interview with Aunt Alice Porter) colored.

Zion Springs Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Zion Springs is located about eight miles east of Houston and first began, sixty years ago, as a brush arbor. Soon afterward a log cabin was built in which the congregation worshipped for a number of years. William Lewis Walker organized this church with Jack Seales and wife Daphne Seales and Tom Huddleston and wife Lucy Huddleston as some of the first members.

The present church building is a large, one-room frame structure painted white, with a belfry on top.

The only organization is a Sunday School consisting of thirty-five members.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is located about one mile north of Buena Vista and was organized in 1873, Tom Buchanan (white) giving the land on which the church was built. The first building was a small, rude structure built of rough lumber. In 1900 a nice frame building was erected the money for it being donated by the members.

This church has a membership of four hundred and eighty members and services are held there every third Sunday by the pastor Rev. J.A. Parsons of Tupelo, Mississippi.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

V. NEGRO CHURCHES: (Continued)

There is an active Sunday School consisting of one hundred thirty-eight members, a Baptist Young Peoples Union having forty-eight members, and a Home Mission Society.

This is probably one of the most wide awake negro churches in the county and has an unusually large membership. A salary of two hundred dollars yearly is paid the pastor of this church.

Center Hill Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

This Church is located about one mile south of Hall hill which is on Highway number eight or about eight miles east of Houston. It was organized, so far as the older members can determine, about fifty or sixty years ago. A colored preacher whose name is George Baskin was instrumental in its organization. The first church was an old log dwelling, but later the church which now stands was built. It is an old frame building consisting of one large room and badly in need of paint and repairs.

Some of the members who were in the organization of the church were: Henderson Holloman and wife Chaney Holloman, Jack Thomas, Ed Tucker and wife Katie Tucker, Mandy Melvina, Betty Thomas, Nelse Holloman, Bill Tucker, Isabella Pulliam, Jensie Thomas, Anthony Thomas, Louis Taylor, Henrietta Holloman and Garry Holloman. Only seven of these are still living.

There is at present an active Sunday School with an enrollment of twenty-six. During the summer months singings are held here, usually on Thursddy nights. There are no other organizations.

(Interview with Rogers Thomas, deacon of this church.)

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

V. NEGRO CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Macedonia Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

Macedonia Baptist Church is located about two miles south of Buena Vista. It is a nice large church painted white; bungalow type; this is the third building that has been on this location.

The Church was first organized in a dwelling about sixty years ago. Shortly afterward a house of worship was built. Bill Parker, a negro teacher, taking considerable interest in it. He was teaching near here and he and his pupils helped carry the foundation logs from the nearby woods. The land was bought from Mr. R.L. Bean. The second church was wrecked by a storm and was replaced with the third and present building.

The pastor is a Rev. J.E. Ferrow, of Columbus, Mississippi and holds services there every third Sunday. There is a good Sunday School with E.H. Cousins as superintendent. There are no other organizations.

The Calvary Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

The Calvary Baptist Church of Okolona was founded by Ambrose Henderson in 1868. They own their property and the church is financed by the membership. They have an active Sunday School and have services every Sunday. George Wheeler is superintendent of the Sunday School. The Deacons are Joe Fields, Hayward White, Green Long, Dave Rasberry and George Wheeler.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

V. NEGRO CHURCHES: (Continued)

The Methodist Church of Okolona of Yesterday and Today:

The Methodist Church was organized about a year later, 1869 by Isaac MayWeather, C. Gates, and C.B. Brown. The members are assessed. They have an active Sunday School and have services every Sunday. When they first started having services the white people had services in the little one room building in the morning and they let the colored people at night. Zack Walker is superintendent of the Sunday School. The Stewards are Tom Crockett, Sam Fykes, Mat Proffett, John Davis and Richard Hamilton.

The Houston Baptist Church of Yesterday and Today:

During the days before the Civil War the negroes of Houston belonged to the same church that the white people did. However, after the war Judge William S. Bates gave the negroes an old house for use as a schoolhouse and Baptist Church and Rev. Gideon, Dick Suddis and a man named Whitmore organized the church. All the negroes then moved their membership from the white church except one. She was Mary Paulk and said she wanted to die in the white church, so they let her membership stay there.

Later on Judge Martin gave them the house and ask them to move it off his land. A site was bought from Rev. Carothers, Presbyterian preacher (white) and the house moved there. The present building is the fourth building the congregation has used. The present church isa large frame building painted white. There is a large auditorium and two or three small rooms. It was built about seven years ago. There is no pastors home. Sunday school is held here every Sunday.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

V. NEGRO CHURCHES: (Continued)

NORTON SPRINGS METHODIST CHURCH:

The Norton Springs Methodist Church is located about three miles east of Houston on Highway number eight. The exact date of its organization could not be learned, but it must have been about 1875. Steve Norton, father of Joe Norton, Edmund Bynum, father of Joe Bynum, and Sam and Louisa Belo were some of the first members. Steve Norton gave the land for the church and cemetery.

The first church was a crude affair built of rough lumber, but in 1900 a new one was built, which is the present building. It is a large one-room frame building, ceiled inside and painted outside.

There are twenty-seven members and preaching is had every second Sunday by the Rev. Mosley. There is also a good Sunday School well attended.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

The information for Assignment # 26 " Church History " was obtained from the following :

John W. Hill, Houston, Miss.
W.T. Johnson, Houston, Miss.
W.D. Woods, Houston, Miss.
Edd Woolridge, Thorn, Miss.
Tom Lester, Houston, Miss.
Mrs. Evie Nabors, Houlka, Miss. Route-1
Bennie McGee, Thorn, Miss.
Mrs. R.E. Reeder, Pyland, Miss.
S.F. McCluney, Houston, Miss Route-?
Mrs. Alma Carter, Houston, Miss. Route-2
Rev. W.F. Patch, Houston, Miss.
W.A. Harrington, Houston, Miss.
Reubin Davis, Houston, Miss.
J.B. " Pa " Sullivan, Okolona, Miss Route-?
Dave Crawford, Atlanta....Woodland, Miss Route-?
Thomas Foster, Houston, Miss. Route-2
Mrs. E.E. Thornton, Houston, Miss.
Mrs. Mattie Medlin, Houston, Miss.
Mrs. C.E. Verell, Houston, Miss Route-1
Mrs. Arlan Streeter, Houston, Miss. Route-3
Mr. S.T. King, Buena Vista, Mississippi.
Mr. Charles Evans, Egypt, Miss.
Mrs. E.K. Guinn, McCondy, Miss.
Mrs. Jim Valliant, McCondy, Miss.
Mr. J.E. Atkinson, Van Vleet, Miss.
Mrs. Champion, Woodland, Miss.
E.T. House, Houston, Miss.
Mrs. Sallie Norman, Houlka, Miss.
Rev. W.C. Stewart, Houston, Miss.
Rev. Thomas G. Lowery, Vardaman, Miss
Mrs. J.A. Evans, Houston, Miss.
Miss Mary Ausley, Houston, Miss.
Willie Couch, Houston, Miss. Route-4

Church Records
Minutes of 17th Annual Session of Chickasaw County Baptist Association.
Centennial Edition (1936) of The Houston Times-Post.

Colored Rev. R.L. Howard, Houston, Miss.
Colored Wife of Ed Tucker, Houston, Miss. Route-4
Colored Rev. Anderson Horton, Houston, Miss.

Mrs. J.C. Hightower

Mrs. J.C. Hightower, Historian
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County.

2nd Copy
Chickasaw
Religion

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. T. E. Gregory, Pastor.
Services every Sunday, Morning and Evening.
Mrs. D. F. Morgan, Organist.
Archie McDonnell, Lay Leader.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

D. F. Morgan — C. A. LaGrone
D. S. Cunningham — D. H. Shell
M. R. Waller

BOARD OF STEWARDS

D. S. Cunningham, Chairman and Recording Steward

M. R. Waller	A. McDonnell	Mrs. T. P. Davis
C. A. LaGrone	A. G. Ritter, Treas.	J. A. Herndon
S. C. Jones	Mrs. W. E. Bearden	Mrs. Paulk Foster
E. L. Murphree	S. B. Dottery	Mrs. A. S. Miller
J. P. Porter	A. E. Woodfin	Mrs. R. V. Nabors

SUNDAY SCHOOL

J. C. Luper, Superintendent — E. L. Murphree, Assistant

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

Mrs. W. O. Harbour ..... Chairman

GOLDEN CROSS DIRECTOR

Mrs. Fred McGehee ..... Chairman

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

W. A. Taylor ..... Chairman

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

E. L. Murphree ..... Chairman

SUPERANNUATE ENDOWMENT FUND

Mrs. T. P. Davis ..... President

EPWORTH LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

Samuel Lee — Miriam Jones

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. Paulk Foster ..... President

WHO'S WHO IN OFFICIAL METHODISM

Our Bishops

Warren Akin Candler.....Atlanta ,Ga.

Collins Denny .....Richmond, Va.

Edwin DuBose Mouzon.....Charlotte, N. C.

John Monroe Moore ..... 1308 Commerce Street , Dallas, Tex.

William Fletcher McMurry.....Fayette, MO.

Urban Valentine Williams Darlington.....Huntington , W.Va.

Horace Mellard DuBose..... Nashville ,Tenn.

William Newman Ainsworth..... ..... Birmingham ,Ala.

James Cannon, Jr..... 50 Bliss Building ,Washington , D. C.

Samuel Ross Hay ..... Fort Worth ,Tex.

Hoyt McWhorter Dobbs ....Shreveport, La.

Hiram Abiff Boaz.....Houston, Tex.

Arthur James Moore .....San Francisco ,Calif.

Paul Bentley Kern.....Shanghai, China

Angie Frank Smith.....Houston, Tex.

QUADRENNIAL BOARDS

Education

J. E. Stephens, Pres. — W. R. Lott, Sec.

Missions

J. D. Wroten, Pres. — A. R. Beasley, Sec.

Church Extension

C. A. Parks, Pres. — J. J. Baird, Sec.-Treas.

Bible Work

T. E. Gregory, Chm. — W. W. Jones, Sec.

Hospitals

C. A. Northington, Pres. — N. J. Golding, Sec.-Treas.

Memoirs

Seamon Rhea, Chm. — W. C. Galceran, Jr., Sec.

Lay Activities

J. G. Houston..... Chairman

Budget

C. M. Chapman, Chm. — E. C. Driskell, Sec.

Finance

A. C. McCorkle, Pres. — A. T. McIlwain, Sec.-Treas.

Christian Literature

J. A. George, Pres. — W. S. Selman, Sec.-Treas.

Temperance and Social Service

W. C. Newman, Pres. — W. L. Robinson, Sec.

Benevolences

Bishop Collins Denny, Pres. — R. G. Moore, Sec.-Treas.

Admissions

W. L. Storment, Chm. — W. W. Hattsfield, Sec.

Orphans' Home

Rev. E. B. Sharp, Chm. — T. B. Thrower, Sec.

OKOLONA

"Okolona was first named Rose Hill. It was changed to Okolona by J. N. Walton, Postmaster at Aberdeen, on instructions from Washington, as there was another Rose Hill in the state. The name Okolona means peaceful or calm, as might be the characteristic of the Indian for whom it was named. Mr. Walton said that Okolona was the handsomest Indian he had ever seen, dressed in gorgeously beaded buckskin suit, moccasins and feathered head gear, bow and quiver. So he named the Queen City of the Prairies Okolona- and what a beautiful city it is, with its magnificent School building, a great Masonic temple, its handsome churches and stores, its fine parks and swimming pool.

"Okolona is as healthy a city as any on the continent. You ascend when you enter Okolona from whatever way you approach it. Our society is exceedingly democratic, politics or religion cause no dissension.

METHODIST CHURCH

"The Methodist Church was organized some time in the early forties. About 1846 or 47 the lot where the School building now stands was donated to the Methodists by old Bro. Adam LaGrone and a house was built there **** * * * About the time of the close of the war this was disposed of or in some way lost, and the congregation worshiped for some time in a hall or house down town. In 1878 the congregation, especially the women of the congregation, led by Mrs. Dr. Tindall, authorized Gen. W. F. Tucker to secure a lot. The congregation rallied and by much hard work and sacrifice built the then commodious and elegant little church house, which is now the Christian church, that served until the congregation moved into the beautiful new brick church on Main Street.

"Okolona ranks among the best towns of the South, commercially, socially and religiously. We have a congenial religious home for every person and we

invite every one who comes to Okolona to be at home with us and to know you have a hearty welcome in our Churches."

We find from the old record that the Methodist Church in Okolona was a regular part of the Aberdeen circuit in 1847. The old frame church, 44 by 36 ft., was built on the present school house lot in 1852, Rev. S. B. Carson, pastor. The old two-story brick church, on the same lot was built about 1865, Rev. A. C. Allen, pastor.

The frame church on Olive street was built in 1878 during the pastorate of Rev. T. J. Harris. Okolona Church became a station with full time that year and has remained so to this time. Rev. N. G. Augustus did the necessary agitation for a new church during his second pastorate, 1903-5. The enterprise was carried forward beyond the foundation by Rev. W. E. M. Brogan, and completed, paid for and dedicated during the pastorate of Rev. R. A. Clark. The building committee consisted of F. J.McDonnell, Se., Dr. D. F. Morgan, Walter Smith, Z . T. Harper and C. A. LaGrone. The Church was dedicated by Bishop W. F. McMurry.

The Board of Stewards in 1878, when the old church was built, 55 years ago, consisted of Gen. W . F. Tucker, Wm. LaGrone, J. A. LaGrone, W. O. Cook, Recording Steward; D. C. Greenwood, J. L. Langhridge, A. Y. Harper, J. W. Faires, Sunday School Superintendent. This was when the church was first made a station.

Rev. J. H. Holder was pastor when the elegant two-story parsonage on the corner of Monroe and Stonewall was built. The good women of the Church deserve a large part of the credit for this good work.

The Church is well organized and doing well in all of its departments. The Missionary Societies are all flourishing and the Sunday School is active and up to date. A spirit of harmony prevails and patriotism abounds.

Thirty-eight young men answered the call of their country from our Church and Sunday School during the World War. The Church is alive spiritually. The outlook is hopeful, let every member be faithful and loyal. WILL YOU DO YOUR PART?

We give below a list of the Pastors and Presiding Elders from 1845 to date.

PASTORS, OKOLONA, MISS.

Aberdeen Circuit, Including Okolona

W. W. Caulder, 1845
S. J. Henderson, 1846
J. F. Walsh, 1847
Isaac N. Manley, 1848
Samuel A. Mullen, 1849
W. J. Mahan, 1850-51
S. B. Carson, 1852

Okolona Circuit

T. J. Lowery, 1855-56
Kitchen Adams and Simeon Walker, 1857
Addison Lea and R. G. Porter, 1858
A. L. Hunsaker, 1859
J. T. C. Colliens, 1860-61. (Okolona and Verona)
J. M. Spencer, 1862-63
Find no minutes for 1864
Archibald C. Allen, 1865
J. C. Lowe, 1866-67
J. P. Dancer, 1868. (West Point and Okolona)
David C. Sullens supply and T. L. Duke, 1869. (O & V.)
Thomas Cameron, 1870
John F. Markham, 1871-72
John R. Allen, 1873

T. C. Weir, 1874
W. B. Murrah, 1875. (West Point and Okolona)
To be supplied, 1876
J. B. Stone, 1877
T. J. Harris, 1878
J. F. Markham, 1879
J. P. Young, 1880-81
S. D. Long, 1882-84
J. Ritchey, 1885-87
T. C. Weir, 1888
R. A. Burroughs, 1889-90
N. G. Augustus, 1891-93
J. H. Shumaker, 1894
W. W. Woollard, 1895-96
K. A. Jones, 1897-98
J. A. Leach, 1899-1901
M. D. Fly, 1902
N. G. Augustus, 1903-04

OKOLONA STATION

W. E. M. Brogan, 1905-06
R. A. Clark, 1907-09
J. H. Holder, 1910-13
S. A. Brown, 1914
S. B. Myers, 1915
J. W. Bell, 1916
J. R. Randolph, 1917-18
J. H. Brooks, 1919-21
G. W. Williams, 1921
E. H. Cunningham, 1922-24
W. N. Duncan, 1925
A. C. McCorkle, 1926
F. H. McGee, 1927-28
T. E. Gregory, 1928-54

PRESIDING ELDERS
Memphis Conference, Aberdeen District

A. Davidson, 1845
T. L. Boswell, 1846-50
Moses Brock, 1851-52
J. H. Brooks, 1855-56
M. J. Blackwell, 1857-60
J. T. Merriweather, 1861-65
(Find no minutes for 1864)
M. J. Blackwell, 1865
A. C. Allen, 1866-69

North Mississippi Conference, Verona District

J. B. Stone, 1870-73

T. Y. Ramsey, 1874-77

In 1875, Put in Aberdeen District

Amos Kendall, 1878-81

R. G. Porter, 1882-85

Amos Kendall, 1886-89

J. B. Stone, 1890-92

W. S. LaGrone, 1893

S. M. Thames, 1894-97

J. M. Wyatt, 1898

W. W. Woollard, 1899-1901

J. C. Park, 1902-03

J. H. Mitchell, 1904-07

J. H. Felts, 1908-10

J. E. Cunningham, 1911

J. W. Bell, 1911-15

T. H. Lipscomb, 1916-17

T. H. Dorsey

L. P. Hasson

E. N. Broyles

T. H. Dorsey

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

Reid Abernathy	L. S. Brewster
Mrs. N. D. Adams	Mrs. Emma Brewster
C. V. Abernathy	Robert Brewster
T. G. Abernathy	Mrs. Robert Brewster
Miss Juanita Anderson	E. L. Borden
Miss Geraldine Anderson	Mrs. E. L. Borden

Louise Archer	E. L. Borden, Jr.
Miss Ellie Baker	Mildred Borden
H. Baker	Mrs. H. S. Brooks
S. E. Baker	Virginia Burdine Brooks
Mrs. S. E. Baker	Mrs. Mae[illegible] Bacon Brock
Mrs. Amanda Birmingham	Mrs. Frank Burkitt
Frank Bethany	Ed Russell Burkitt
Mrs. Frank Bethany	Mrs. Theo Brand
W. E. Bearden	Miss Margret Bateman
Mrs. W. E. Bearden	Frank Brock
T. J. Bearden	Miss Mary Baskin
Miss Jennie Lee Bearden	Milton Cavin
Wm., Jr., Bearden	Geo. Cavin
Miss Annice Bearden	Charlie Cavin
Mrs. Bernard Bean	Mrs. J. L. Colbert
Geo. C. Bean	Mrs. Abner Cox
Frank F. Bean	Guy Crawford
Jesse P. Bean	D. S. Cunningham
Miss Nancy Bean	Mrs. D. S. Cunningham
Mrs. Jennie Buchanan	Mary Sykes Cunningham
Miss Mattie Lee Buchanan	Olivia Cunningham
Mrs. W. F. Buchanan	J. Crabtree
Mrs. R. E. Buchanan	Mrs. J. Crabtree
Hillary Buchanan	Edward Crabtree
Miss Emily Buchanan	Mrs. Vester Clemens
Sara Katherine Buchanan	Miss Kate Crighton
Mrs. Mamie Brett	Miss Alice Crighton

B. F. Collins
Mrs. B. F. Collins
Frank Collins
Scott Collins
Mary Lucile Collins
H. P. Cook
Mrs. Ella Cook
Miss Kate Cook
Mrs. Edgar Corley
G. C. Carlisle
Mrs. G. C. Carlisle
G. Clark Carlisle
H. Carlton Carlisle
Mrs. Clark Carlisle
Mrs. Lucile Carroll
Miss Wrin Cartledge
T. E. Cade
Mrs. Martha Cade
Milwee Duncan
Mrs. Milwee Duncan
Cornelia Duncan
Mildred Duncan
William Duncan
Gean Duncan
S. B. Dottery
Mrs. S. B. Dottery
Viola R. Dottery
Morgia Dottery

T. P. Davis
Mrs. T. P. Davis
Miss Elizabeth Davis
Robt. Harding Davis
Mrs. J. E. Davis
Miss Loraine Dahmer
Mrs. Sylbia Deavenport
Miss Bethna Deavenport
W. H. Deavenport, Jr.
Mrs. Doris DeVault
Joe N. Dulaney
Mrs. Joe N. Dulaney
Cecil Dossett
Mrs. Cecil Dossett
Lemuel Dossett
Miss Cecile Dossett
Hugh Ford Dossett
Mrs. F. H. Darnell
F. E. Easter
Mrs. F. E. Easter
Eleanor Easter
Annie Laura Easter
B. H. Easter
Mrs. W. B. Edmonds
Dorothy Edmonds
Bettie Nell Edmonds
B. K. Foster
Mrs. B. K. Foster

Olive Dottery
Ernice Dottery
Mrs. Annie Dawson
Jessie Dawson
Leon Dawson
Elburt Dawson
Wardie Dawson
Nannie Lou Fitzgerald
Dakin Fitzgerald
Robt. Lee Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Ella Virginia Fitzgerald
Everett Fitzgerald
Morris Fuller
Bugg Floyd
Helen Floyd
Zana Floyd
Mrs. D. D. Fante
Mrs. W. V. Fowler
William Fowler
Mrs. Howard Gaskin
Mrs. Annie Glass
Miss Helen Glass
Miss Zana Glass
Mrs. H. C. Glidewell
Irvin Glidewell
Elinor Gregory
A. T. Gregory
Mrs. A. T. Gregory
Clementine Gregory
Maynette Gregory

Mary Lee Foster
Geo. E. Foster
Frank H. Foster
Mrs. Geo. Foster
Mrs. Paulk Foster
Geo. Foster, Jr.
Mrs. R. L. Fitzgerald
H. W. Grauer
Mrs. H. W. Grauer
Thos. Grauer
Earl Grauer
Mrs. Earl Grauer
Barbra Ruth Grauer
John Marshall Grower
W. A. Grissom
Mrs. W. A. Grissom
Mrs. W. T. Grissom
J. A. Green
Christine Green
Gladys Green
D. L. Grantham
Mrs. D. L. Grantham
Mrs. L. P. Haley
Francis Gathin
Lovick Haley
Fred Haley
Archie Haley
C. P. Harris
Mrs. C. P. Harris
John Allen Harris
W. O. Harbour

W. A. Gregory
Mrs. W. A. Gregory
Mrs. Ada Gregory
Elma Vaughn Gregory
Mrs. Maggie Gossett
Mrs. T. E. Gregory
Paul Gregory
Manley Gregory
Sara Gertrude Gregory
Mrs. Cora Gates
Adam Gates
Ervin Hill
Mrs. T. G. Hulsey
Carroll Hair
Frank Hair
N. A. Holmes
Mollie Holt
Vercy C. Henry
Mrs. J. M. Hadden
Mrs. J. L. Jones
S. C. Jones
Mrs. S. C. Jones
Miss Katherine Jones
Miriam Jones
Miss Marjorie Morgan Jones
J. W. Johnson, Jr.
Mrs. Wallace Johnson

Mrs. W. O. Harbour
J. A. Herndon
Mrs. J. A. Herndon
Mrs. Mary Virginia Harwell
Walter Harwell
F. M. Herndon
Mrs. F. M. Herndon
Frank Murrah Herndon
Mrs. E. L. Henderson
Mary C. Henderson
Mrs. Eula Hill
Carolyn LaGrone
Mrs. G. W. LaGrone
Dr. J. C. Luper
Mrs. J. C. Luper
E. H. Latimer
E. H. Latimer, Jr.
Mrs. Hattie Lassiter
Miss Alice Lamb
J. L. Looney
Mrs. J. L. Looney
Archie McDonnell
Mrs. Fred McGehee
Walter McGehee
Mrs. Kate McGehee
Mary Winifred McGehee
Ann McGehee

Miss Helen Johnson
Miss Jaunita Johnson
Mrs. Myrtle Johnson
D. A. Johnson
Ellen Jensen
W. H. Johnson
Mrs. W. H. Johnson
Jonnie Johnson
Bettie Johnson
C. C. Johnston
W. P. Knox
J. A. Lee
Samuel Lee
C. A. LaGrone
Mrs. C. A. LaGrone
Chandler LaGrone
Miss Charline LaGrone
Mrs. Frances LaGrone Beett
Mrs. M. H. LaGrone
Howard McDuffie
Mrs. Howard McDuffie
W. R. McDuffie
Mrs. W. R. McDuffie
Alice Hyatt McDuffie
Anne W. McDuffie
Nubill Morgan
Romie Morgan

Mrs. Adele Miller Gibsor
Miss Clem Miller
Erskine Miller
Harris Miller
A. S. Miller
Mrs. A. S. Miller
F. T. Miller
Miss Louise Miller
S. D. Murphree
Mrs. S. D. Murphree
Lile Murphree
Winston Murphree
Dr. D. F. Morgan
Mrs. D. F. Morgan
Miss Margaret Morgan
Dewitt Morgan
Frank Morgan
J. W. McRae
Jack McKinney
Nash Ogden
Mrs. Nash Ogden
W. M. Pannell
Mrs. W. M. Pannell
W. M. Pannell, Jr.
Mrs. W. M. Pannell, Jr.
Calvin Pannell
Guy Pannell

Mary Morgan
G. S. McIntyre
Mrs. S. G. McIntyre
Mary Jacobs Morris
Mary Moffett
Mrs. B. L. McGehee
G. W. McGehee
Mrs. W. N. Moore
Louise McCorkle
Joe McDowell
Mrs. Joe McDowell
Leroy McDowell
C. V. McClesky
Mrs. C. V. McClesky
Mary Louise McClesky
Elizabeth McClesky
Mrs. Joe Morgan
R. V. Nabors
Mrs. R. V. Nabors
Leroy Nix
Dudley Nix
E. W. Nickels
Annie Rope
Mrs. Wade Reeder
Mrs. W. E. Nickels
Frank Owen
Mrs. Frank Owen

J. P. Porter
Mrs. J. P. Porter
J. P. Porter, Jr.
K. Parham
Mrs. K. Parham
Geo. M. Parham
Mary Ann Parham
R. E. Pearcy
Robt. Penebaker
Mrs. Louise Pressley
Bruce Pearcy
Mrs. Leonard Priest
Leonard Priest
Mrs. Lonnie Richardson
Lonnie Richardson
Cora Gates Richardson
Sudie Lee Robins
Mary Robins
Gertrude Robins
O. T. Robins
Ivey Robins
Donaldson Robins
Lula Robins
A. G. Ritter
Mrs. A. G. Ritter
E. E. Reedy
Mrs. E. E. Reedy

Mrs. Lillian Russell
Mrs. Nettie Russell
Mrs. Lessie Summers
O. E. Shell
Mrs. O. E. Shell
D. H. Shell
Mrs. D. H. Shell
Dan Shell
Mrs. Sara Smith
T. R. Schrimsher
Mrs. L. A. Sanders
John S anders
Sara Geo. S anders
Mrs. A. T. Stovall
Mrs. R. C. Stovall
Mrs. E. A. Spencer
Owen Scott
Charlie Sims
C. L. Stanford
Clanton Sansom
Mrs. Jack Sansom
Bettie Stone
John Stone
Mrs. John Stone
Billie Stone
Stella Stone
Mrs. J. C. Stone

Mrs. Robert Sansom
Mrs. Clifford Savage
Mary Dossett Stum
W. A. Taylor
Mrs. W. A. Taylor
Arthur Taylor
Mrs. Arthur Taylor
Miss Mary L. Taylor
Homer Tate
Mrs. Homer Tate
Miss Carrie May Townsend
Mrs. Marian Sanders Tyler
J. E. Trussell
Mrs. J. E. Trussell
Mrs. Ruth Turbeville
M. R. W aller
Miss Hilary Ward
Mrs. T. J. Woodfin
Thos. Woodfin
Averil Woodfin
Naomi White
W. S. Wright
Mrs. W. S. Wright
J. W . Wilson
C. G. W ard
Mrs. C. G. Ward
Edward Whitman

Evelyn Stone
W. C. Stone
Mrs. W. C. Stone
Sansom Stone
Miss T. C. Shepherd
Robert Sansom

Mrs. Edward Whitman
Martha Helen Whitman
Annie May Whitman
Edward Whitman, Jr.
W. H. West, Jr.

N. B. These names were copied from tne Record Book. If any name was omitted it was unintentional and you will do the Pastor a favor to tell him.

HISTORY OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. Juliana Hays, of Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. McGanoc, of Nashville, were sent out by the Board of Eight Bishops in 1878 to organize the Women of Southern Methodism for a definite part in the Work of the Church. These women made a tour of our Southern States and organized Foreign Mission Societies. I could not get the exact date of the organization in our church. They organized with six charter members, namely: Mrs. Emma LaGrone, Mrs. M. A. Tindall, Mrs. Ellen Denton, Mrs. Mamie Trice, Mrs. Annie Harper, Mrs. Mary Dawson. The dues were ten cents a month. They sent sixty per cent to Conference Treasurer and kept forty per cent at home .

Soon other women joined in this good work, Mrs. J. M. Haley, Mrs. Laura Murdock, Mrs. Shell and others. In 1884 they made a missionary quilt. In every square of the quilt was the name of some one who paid ten cents to have it there. The quilt was sold in 1886 to the North Mississippi Conference and netted the Society seventy-one dollars and fifty cents. That was the first money raised for missions besides the $7.20 a year dues. They sent $50.00 of this money to Petropolis, Brazil, to help build a school for girls. They bought two certificates at $10.00 each to help build the Laura Haygood Memorial University at Soochow, China.

Next they supported a Bible woman for three and a half years at Laredo, Texas.

They supported three scholarships at different times at Haygood, Soochow, China.

The Bible Women that used these scholarships were given Christian names. One was Mamie Miller for the daughter of our own Aunt Laura. Another was Miss Okolona. I could not find the name of the other. The Bible Women finished their four year course and went into the interior of China to teach their own people.

About this time,Mrs. Cora McDonnell was made president of the Foreign

Mission Society. Mrs. Fannie Clark was District Secretary.

In 1904 a Home Mission Society was organized with 42 members. Mrs. M. H. Houseman was President. They met once a week and paid ten cents a month dues. A social meeting was held once a month, some member entertaining. At this meeting a free will offering of five or ten cents each would be given.

They had seven subscribers to our Homes. They raised $200.00 and bought plans and specifications for a new church. They raised $200.00 on the building fund and paid for most of the furnishings. The church was started in 1905 and dedicated in 1909. In 1908 the Foreign and Home Societies merged and became a Missionary Society with 47 members, with Mrs. W. O. Harbour, President; Mrs. J. M. Haley, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Dan Shell, Treasurer; Mrs. Cora McDonnell, District Secretary. During the years 1910 to 1913 they built a handsome parsonage. They contributed each year to Scarritt, to the Orphans Home, to aoBible Chair in Grenada, to Week of Prayer and to Charities. The dues were twenty-five cents a month, the pledge $25.00 a year. They paid to missions in 1908 about $50.00.

In 1923 Mrs. Joe Herndon was made District Secretary, serving two years.

Mrs. R. E. Buchanan was President for 1925 and '26. 1926 was the banner year for finances. They raised $1050.41, had 65 members and 35 subscribers to Missionary Voice. They paid $300.00 to Belle Bennett Memorial.

1927 was also a great year. Mrs. A. S. Miller was President. With every branch of the work well organized the Society was ~~organized~~ recognized as the Greatest Spiritual Factor in the Church.___Mrs. W. O. Harbour.

The following ladies served as President at different times: Mrs. Ellen Denton, Mrs. Laura Murdock, Mrs. Maida Houseman, Mrs. W. O. Harbour, Mrs. Sara Smith, Mrs. A. S. Miller, Mrs. Porter Davis, Mrs. Frank Owens, Mrs. E. I. Keller, Mrs. W. M. Pannell, Mrs. W. F. Buchanan, Mrs. G. D. Garrison, Mrs. R. E. Buchanan,

Mrs. Fred McGehee, Mrs. R. V. Nabors and Mrs. Edna Grauer Foster.

The newly elected officers are:

Mrs. Edna Grauer Foster ..... President
Mrs. T. E. Gregory .....Vice-President
Mrs. R. V. Nabors..... Recording Secretary
Mrs. J. C. Luper..... Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Robert Brewster..... Treasurer
Mrs. John Stone ..... Superintendent of Children's Work
Mrs. W. O. Harbour.....Superintendent of Mission and Bible Study
Mrs. Fred McGehee.....Superintendent of Publicity
Mrs. W. E. Bearden.....Supt. of Christian Social Relations
Mrs. W. M. Pannell.....Superintendent of Supplies
Mrs. Hubert Corley .....Agent for World Outlook
Mrs. Hettie Owen.....Local Treasurer

—————o—————

PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this little booklet to preserve in a permanent form some Historical data, and to make a Directory of the Methodist Church.

The contents of this little book will all be history in a few years. To produce it has required a lot of time and hard work, so please read all there is in it, even to the advertisements, as they are not only a part of the directory, but they made its publication possible.

This little booklet is presented to you as a SOUVENIR.

Canvassers
Mrs. Elma Holloway
Miss Mabel C. Calvin
Miss Margaret Sue Shell

CHICKASAW COUNTY

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
April-21-1937

Historian
Mrs. J.C. Hightower

ASSIGNMENT # 26

Subject: Church History

1. STATISTICS:

The following are the churches of Chickasaw County, names of pastors, frequency of service, name, location and membership of each.

Amity Baptist Church is located at Sparta and has a membership of one hundred twenty-one. Services are conducted there every second Sunday by the pastor Rev. H.M. Collins of Van Vleet, Miss.

Arbor Grove Baptist Church is located about six miles southeast of Houston on the old Houston and Starkville road and has a membership of one hundred sixty-four. Rev. W.C. Ballard of Okolona is pastor and conducts services there every fourth Sunday.

Bethel Baptist Church is located four miles south of Houston on Highway fifteen and has a membership of one hundred eighty-nine. Services are held there every first Sunday by the pastor Rev. John Gore of Slate Springs, Mississippi.

Friendship Baptist Church is located about eight miles west of Houston near the Calhoun and Chickasaw county line and has a membership of eighty. Services are held there once each month by the pastor Rev. J.F. Hartly of near Houston.

Houlka Baptist Church is located in New Houlka and has a membership of two hundred sixty-two. Services are held there every second and fourth Sundays by the pastor Rev. S.P. Andrews of Houlka.

Houston Baptist Church is located in Houston and has a membership of five hundred forty. Services are conducted there every Sunday by the pastor Rev. W.C. Stewart.

1. STATISTICS: (Continued)

Mount Olive Baptist Church is located about four and one half miles northwest of Egypt in what is known as the Chalk Bluff community. Services are held there every second Sunday by the pastor Rev. W.C. Ballard, of Okolona. The membership of this church is one hundred and seventeen.

Okolona Baptist Church is located in Okolona and has a total membership of four hundred and five. Services are conducted there every Sunday by the pastor Rev. D.L. Hill.

Parkersburg is located about six miles northeast of Houston and has a membership of seventy-eight. Services are conducted there every second Sunday by the pastor Rev. Paul Weddle.

Pleasant Ridge is located about three miles west of Anchor and has a membership of two hundred and sixty-five. Services are conducted by the pastor Rev. E.T. Putnam of Maben, Mississippi every fourth Sunday.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is located about two miles south of the little village of Atlanta and has a membership of one hundred and two. The pastor Rev. J.W. Kitchens of Maben conducts services there every third Sunday.

Shiloh Baptist Church is located about six miles east of Old Houlka and has a membership of one hundred sixty-nine. Services are conducted there every third Sunday by the pastor Rev. Frank Warren of Pontotoc, Mississippi.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

1. STATITSTICS: (Continued)

Van Vleet Baptist Church located in Van Vleet and has a membership of one hundred twenty-five. Services are conducted there every first Sunday by the pastor Rev. S.P. Andrews of Houlka, Miss.

Okolona Methodist Church is located in Okolona and has a membership of three hundred and seventy-five. The pastor Rev. W.L. Storment conducts services there every Sunday.

Houston Methodist Church is located in Houston and has a membership of three hundred and thirty eight. Services are held there every Sunday by the pastor Rev.W.R. Dawson. Prayer Meeting is held regularly every Wednesday night.

Okolona Presbyterian Church is located in Okolona and has a membership of one hundred twenty-five. Services are held there each Sunday by the pastor Rev. J.M. Looney.

Grace Episcopal Church is located in Okolona and has a membership of fifteen. Services are held there twice each month by the pastor Rev. G.T. Hamilton.

The Christian Church of Okolona has a membership of eighty-four. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. G.F. Wilson, but Sunday .

The Catholic Church of Okolóna has a membership of thirty-six. Services are held there twice each month by Father Robert.

Thorn Methodist Church is located at Thorn and has a membership of seventy. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. Thomas G. Lowery.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

1. STATISTICS: (Continued)

Georges' Chapel is a Methodist Church located about one and one half miles north of Thorn and has a membership of about ninety. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. Thomas Lowery.

Pyland Methodist Church is located in Pyland and has a membership of about sixty. Rev. Thomas Lowery is the pastor holding services there once a month.

Rhodes Chapel Methodist Church is located about two miles south of Highway number eight between Houston and Vardaman and has a membership of seventy. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. Thomas Lowery.

Buena Vista Methodist Church is located in Buena Vista and has a membership of about twenty-five. It is on the Egypt circuit and Rev. B.L. Wimberly holds services there once a month.

McCondy Methodist Church is located in the vicinity of McCondy near the home of Dr. E.K. Guinn. There are about ninety members. This church is on the Egypt Circuit and Rev. L.B. Wimberly, of Egypt, holds services there twice a month.

The Baptist Church of Egypt has a membership of about fifteen and services are conducted once a month by the pastor Rev. H.M. Collins of Van Vleet, Mississippi.

CHICKASAW COUNTY
Assignment # 26

1. STATISTICS: (Continued)

The Methodist Church of Egypt has a membership of about twenty-five and services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. L.B. Wimberly.

The McCondy Baptist Church is located near the McCondy school and has a membership of about seventy-five. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. H.M. Collins of Van Vleet, Mississippi.

The Christian Church of Houston has a membership of about thirty active members. Services are conducted there once a month by the pastor Rev. L.F. Wilson, of Okolona, Mississippi.

The Woodland Methodist Church is located in Woodland and has a very small membership. Services are held there every third Sunday by the pastor Rev. Frank McGee.

The Thorn Church of God, is located at Thorn and has a membership of about thirty-five active members. Services are conducted there once a month by the pastor Rev. Hollin.

The Lake Church of God, is located about two miles from Thorn and has an active membership of about twenty-five. The pastor Rev. B.H. Moore conducts services there every Sunday.

Enon Primitive Baptist Church is located about nine miles southeast of Houston in what is known as the Couch community. This church

CHICKASAW COUNTY
Assignment # 26

1. STATISTICS: (Continued)

has a large active membership for a rural church. The Rev. J.M. Bullard is the present pastor.

The Van Vleet Methodist Church is located in the village of Van Vleet and has a small membership. Services are held there once a month by the pastor Rev. E.M. Shaw of Houlka, Mississippi, while Sunday School is held every Sunday.

The Houston Presbyterian Church is located in Houston and has a membership of seventy-five. Services are held there twice each month by the pastor Rev. W.F. Patch of Houston.

The Houlka Presbyterian Church is located in Houlka and has a membership of seventy-five. The pastor Rev. W.F. Patch conducts services there every third Sunday.

The Friendship Presbyterian Church is located about two miles northwest of Van Vleet and has a membership of seventy-five. Services are held there every fourth Sunday by the pastor Rev. W.F. Patch of Houston, Mississippi.

The Concord Methodist Church is located about three and one half miles northeast of Houston and has a membership of about one hundred. Services are held there every third Sunday by the pastor Rev. E.M. Shaw.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 26

1. STATISTICS: (Continued)

Prospect Methodist Church is located about four miles southeast of Houston and has a membership of about one hundred thirty members. Services are held there every second Sunday by the pastor Rev. Frank Megee of Woodland, Mississippi.

Boone's Chapel Methodist Church is located about eight miles southwest of Okolona in what is known as " Shake-Rag " community and has a membership of about eighty-five. Services are conducted there every third Sunday by the pastor Rev. L.B. Wimberly of Egypt, Miss.

(1)

CHICKASAW COUNTY

The following is a list of he pastors who served the Houston Baptist Church from the time it was organized in September 1842 to the present date.

M. W. Chrestman.....1842-1845
A. W. Elledge.....1846
James Martin..... 1847.1850
James Davis..... 1850-1852
Hugh Quinn.....1852
L. B. Lockhart.....1853
J.C. Vincent..... 1854
J.C. Keeney.....1855-1858
W. S. Webb..... 1858
F. L. Seaward..... 1860-1862
A. D. Brooks.....1862-1865
William Gordon..... 1865
George Jennings..... 1867
W. L. Gideon..... 1870
R. W. Thompson..... 1875
Judson Moore.....1880
W. L. Gideon.....1881-1888

At this point the church clerk was changed and no record was kept. There may have been other preachers who served during this period, but these are the only ones that could be learned from interviews with older citizens. The authentic records takes up again with W. T. Hudson in 1908.

Luther Burress.....was pastor several years in the 90's
J. Parker ..... " " in the latter 90's.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Robert Peden.....1901-1902
E. E. Thornton..... 1904-1907
Lusk..... 1907
W. T. Hudson..... 1908
L. A. Moore..... 1909-1910
G. W. Riley..... 1911-1916
R. L. Gillon..... 1917-1919
Wayne Alliston..... 1919
D. W. Hodges..... 1920-1924
W. C. Stewart..... ..... 1924 to the present time.

accepted SR

CHICKASAW COUNTY
HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
CANVASSERS: MABEL CALVIN, RUBYE COOK, BLANCHE COLBERT
DATE: JULY 21, 1936
SUBJECT: EDUCATION ASSIGNMENT #11

"SCHOOLS OF YESTERDAY"

Before going into the history of Chickasaw County Schools, it might be well to have in mind as a background the early history of the public school system of Mississippi.

The following paragraphs were copied from MEMOIRS OF MISSISSIPPI, VOL. II, Page 328:

In 1846 was passed the first statute in Mississippi contemplating the establishment of a uniform system of free schools, supported by license fees and taxation. Through a faulty construction of the statute however, as well as a narrow interpretation of it the enterprise did not get well under way. While efforts were made to put the system into operation, and with some success in a few localities, yet as a whole the undertaking proved a failure. Numerous local acts were passed inaugerating various schemes. There was neither unity of plan nor perseverence of effort. The schools of Hinds County flourished and presented some semblance of the present system, but in all other parts of the state, the movement was more or less crippled and in many instances completely paralyzed by the want of a uniform and vigorous policy.

At the teachers' meeting of January, 1867, resolutions were adopted, looking toward the establishment of a common school system, and of normal schools for the education of colored teachers, but the reconstruction measures interfered and stopped all action of a public character. The constitution of 1869 made it the duty of the legislature to establish a uniform system of free public schools, to be supported

by taxation, or otherwise, for all children between the ages of five and twenty-one years. This injunction was obeyed by the act of July 4, 1870. Schools were ordered to be maintained for four months in each year, a state board of education was provided for, and a state superintendent of public education and a county superintendent in each county. At first there was much opposition to the system; more in some localities than in others. It was regarded as a system of taxation without representation, imposed by adventurers and plunderers, rather for the purpose of riveting their fetters on the people of the state than for any humanitarian object. However, that opposition gradually died away. The system, with some minor alterations and adjustments of details, has been not only preserved, but even enlarged, since the democratic party regained control of the state affairs. The new constitution of 1890 devotes to the common schools all the poll taxes collected in the respective counties, and such additional sum from the general funds in the state treasury as shall be necessary in order to maintain the schools for at least four months. Any county or separate school district is authorized to levy such further local taxes as may be desired for the purpose of continuing the schools beyond the four months. It is estimated that the amount needed to carry on the four months' term will be $800,000 per annum, to which must be added the further local levies for the prolonged terms. The expenditures for common schools for the year 1888-9 aggregated $1,117,110.82. The children emrolled were: whites, one hundred and forty-eight thousand four hundred and thirty-five; colored, one hundred and seventy-three thousand five hundred and fifty-two. The teachers employed were : whites, four thousand and eighteen; colored, three thousand and ninety-seven.

The separate schools constitute a most important feature of the common school system. The act of 1870 provided that any incorporated city of five thousand inhabitants might constitute itself a separate district for school purposes, with the privilege of raising and extending its school work, and with the power to collect special taxes to that end. Subsequent statutes have admitted smaller cities to this privilege, until now any town of one thousand or more inhabitants may exercise it. Under this plan numerous such schools have been established at intervals, and that work is still going on.

Education, so called, in Chickasaw County began with its earliest settlement made therein by the white people. Common schools were regularly and successfully taught in every neighborhood from their earliest settlement, under the control and at the expense of the patrons thereof, with such aid as was afforded by the common school fund proper of the county. Academies of a high order were set in operation in Houston and Okolona and other towns in the county as early as the wants of the people demanded, and they too, were conducted, controlled, and sustained, in the same way as the common schools and with great and universal satisfaction to the people. And this successful and satisfactory system of education was continued from the earliest settlement of the county until it was broken down and superseded by the system of public instruction inaugerated by the constitution, and set on foot by the act of the Legislature of the state in 1870.

Among the earlier schools of Chickasaw County were the following: Brown School, New Salem, sometimes called Parker school, Johnson Creek, Midway, Chalk Bluff, Wakahoota, Pearsall, Bethel, Oak Grove, Ridgeway, Okolona King Hill, and the Houston Academy, now the Houston High school.

Mrs Felton Thompson, Woodland, is now on her eighty-fifth year but she wool remembers her early school days. There weve no free schools and very few school buildings in the county, so what educations she has was received in old Prospect.Church. She attended only in summer for several reasons, and tuition was paid by her parents although she does not remember how much it was a month. Mrs Thompson had to walk about a mile over a lonely road before she joined other children in the community, and she was very much afraid as the woods were so dense, for this reason she frequently pretended to be too ill to go to school. Some of her teachers were Miss Lizzie Lyon, Miss Lou Cherry, Mr Pullis who taught a writing school. Some of the pupils she remembers were Jacob Ingram, Jennie Stovall, George Box, Mary Bulletin and Fannie Lowe.

Mrs Barn Hill attended school at Old Woodland, about two miles east of the present town of Woodland. The school building was a one-room building. Some of the teachers were Frank Montgomery, Earl Gilder, Sam Crawford, Miss Bell Bell and Miss Ella May Gilfoy. This building was burned and a new building erected about a fourth of a mile west.of Woodland, as this was nearer the center of the school district. Before the building was completed school was taught in the Old Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In after years this school was moved to New Woodland and Mrs America Childs Popper was the first teacher to teach in the new building.

Mrs Lizzie Craig is now livingin Houston and is a member of one of the pioneer families of Chickasaw County.She said her husband attended the first school taught in Houston. It was a one-room log cabin, just north of town but she does not remember the name of the school, or who the teachers were, it was built in 1838. She attended school at Bluff Springs, the first year the school was established. It was one of the first free school in the county. Some of the teachers were Mr. Baker, Mr.

Hamilton, Rev. Columbus Evans, T.W.Hamilton, MissiFannie Thomas, Miss Mattie Norton. She said there were about fixty pupils, someof the pupil were Joe Mims, who afterward became a preacher,Bobbie Smith, an educato the Houston girls and Stribling boys.

Brown School. The First location of the Jim Brown school was about 7 miles southeast of Houston. It was established just after.the war though informant does not know the exact date, and was a log cabin with a stick and mud chimney with split log benches. At first it was a subscription school with two teachers. Mr Hood was the first teacher remembered , other earlier teachers were Jihnnie Baird, Mrs Lizzie Dehay, Mrs Pallie Hollingsworth, John Pearson, Ophelia Porter, and Gertrude Doss.

Later the schoolhouse was moved across the branch about a half mile on Ed Couch's place, and a better building constructed.In 1929. this s school was consolidated with Macedonia. Some of the pupils were the Mayfield girls and boys, Helen Ashby, Billie and Jimmie Brown, Ray's, John and Will Ashby, Harmons Griddles, Autreys, Gillams and Doss'.

Mr Reuben Davis, age 92, went to school at.several places, but he did not remember the names of any of the schools, if they had a name. The schools were taught wherever the teacher could secure a vacant house. The first place he went was to a school just northeof the old Wakahoota school which was established later in an old log house.This school was on Early Turman's Place and Billie Chennault was his earliest teacher. The next school he attended was in a Hard-Shell Baptist Churc called Tick Temple, which was located about five miles east of Houston. Jim Parker was his teacher. He next went to a school near Hardin Davis place on the Houston and Okolona road. Miss Brown was his teacher there Some of the pupils were Tobe Walker, Sid and Jim Lassiter, and John Davis.Summerfield Pearson, another teacher, taught a school in a little log cabin where Frank Beatty's place now is.

Mr Davis said all of these were pay schools although there was a small

public fund for children whose parents could not afford to pay tuition. The older pupils were required to pay more than the younger ones. The board of trustees visited the school once a month. If there were any boys in the school who were unruly and the teacher could not whip them, the trustees punished them. There was always a bunch of long hickory switches standing in one corner of the school room. Websters Speller, Webster's Dictionary and Davies Atithmetic were taught.

Elliot Parker satrted to school in 1874 to the New Salem school which was located four miles east of Houston on Highway No. 8. This school was sometimes called the Parker school. It was a pay school du during the first fe years of his attendance. The school house was a fra frame building with a few desks and puncheon benches. One end of the fo foom was painted black for a blackboard. Some of his teachers were T Tom Hamilton, M.K.Thornton and Mary Boyd, who married Tom Paden, Mrs Lizzie Dehay, Mrs John Carruthers and Miss Fannie Smith. During the years that Mrs Dehay taught, Mr Parker and a few other children attended a school taught by Miss Fannie Smith in her home. This was because a an unfriendly feeling between the Nortond and Parkers. Some of the pupils was New Salem were Lee Davis, Mary and Alice Davis, the Johns children and Delia Neal. In 1903 the school was moved about a mile south of the former location so as to be more nearly in the center of th the school district. This building was blown off the blocks two or hree times by heavy winds before thewas condemned. A new building was erected about a half mile distant on the Highway. Near this chool building was a spring which furnished water for the school twenty years. The New Salem school is still in operation as school.

e out of place to give a short sketch of Mrs Lizzie was connected with practically all the early schools tically all persons interviewed have mantioned

her. She was before her marriage, lizzie Norton, and was born and reared in Chickasaw County.. She was educated at Nazareth College, Bar Bardstown, Kentucky, a Catholic Convent, and was a devout Catholic. She taught in the schools of Chickasaw and Clay Counties over a period of forty years, 1860 to 1900. She was considered a splendid disciplinarian. It has been said that her first school was at Griffin school, about six miles west of Houston, and her last was at Una in Clay county.

Creek

Johnson School was established about 1869. It was about five miles and was known as the Dendy school. It was later consolidated with the Anchor school. It was a good school, having the best teachers th t could be secured some of whom were Mrs. Van Crawford, Jim Wofford, Duke Thornton, Miss Ellen Arnett, Brutus Turman and wife, Mr. Silas L Lewis and Charlie Beesley. Mrs. Dendy, who gave this information said that when they moved to Houston, their children who had received all the education they had were ahead of children their ages in the Houston School.

The Midway School was originally located on the Crawford Lancaster place about a mile north-west of Bethel Church. It was a log house and the first teacher was Mr Joe Price. The school stood at this place for several years then was moved to what is now known as Senora. It was then moved to near Prospect church where new material was added to part of the old material and a new school building erected and a splendid school was operated for several years. The school was later moved to the front of Boscoe McNeal's home, three miles south of Houston. Mr Pearson gave part of the land on which this building was erected. Part of the material was furnished by the county, the remainder being furnished by patrons interested in the school, who did all the construction. This school was consolidated with the Houston school in 1920.

Probably one of the first schools in Houston was taught in the home now owned by Miss Minnie Hall. This house has since, of course, been repaired and remodelled, but the original large room of the old school is still there. Miss Hall remembers hearing her mother who was a Lipsey speak of this school. Miss Lipsey came to Chickasaw County in 1843 at the age of ten thus she must have attended school here between the years of 1843 and 1850. Mr. A. Turman is the only person that Miss Hall remembers hearing her speak of in connection with the school. It was a private school with a very few pupils and tuition price was high.[1]

In 1864 a Mrs. Scott who lived just north of the present O. M. and G.S. Railroad bridge taught a private school in her home. Mr. B. M. Smith then a child of seven, went to school to her.[2]

Sometime in the period dating from 1868-70 a small school was established about 8 miles southwest of Okolona on the plantation of a Mr. Skidd, a promient citizen of the community at that time. The building which had been erected for some tenant on the plantation was a small log structure with rough, hewn log benches and a fire place. Miss Emma Isom of Aberdeen, Mississippi was the first teacher that the person interviewed remembers. The Gates family were the most prominent citizens in the community at this time. Mr. Lew Marable of Okolona is a descendent of this family. The school building and teachers changed from time to time until in 1893 the school was christened Chalk Bluff and the building was erected about a mile from the former site. Mrs. Fannie Thomas, Miss Emma Bell Muhson of Okolona, and a Mr. Gilder were some of the teachers. J. J. Middlebrooks and E.E. Buchingham were two of the trustees remembered.

1 Interview with Miss Minnie Hall, Houston
2 Interview with Mr. B. M. Smith, Houston
3 In " " M. . King, Okolona

Somewhere about 1850 the old Wakahoota school was established though little is known of it in its earliest days. Mrs. Belle Calvin, aged 78, remembers that her father, Jack Smith, first went to school there with his oldest children, who were from ten to fifteen years older than she, and learned to read, write and figure. However, she cannot remember having heard the names of any of the teachers at that time. About 1860 the school building became too dilapidated to be longer used and for a period of five or six years, school was held in any tenant house that could be found empty. One of the places that was used was a little log cabin that had a dirt floor and a large chimney. This cabin was about three miles northeast of Houston between the farms now owned by Mrs. George Bishop and Mr. Richard Turman. Mr. John W. Hill first went to school here in 1862. It was a subscription school and Bill McLaughlin was the teacher. Then school was held in an old log tenant house on the Coleman Gray place which was just east of the present Dock Buchanan (colored) place, for several years. This is about four miles northeast of Houston. Jim Cherry and Mrs. Ellen Shaw taught here before the war, while Lee Smith taught right after the war. Soon after the war, though the date cannot be found exactly, the school building was replaced on the site of the first building by a large log structure consisting of one room. The benches were made of long split logs hewn with a broad axe. They were supported by two poles at either end held in place by holes bored in the log. The benches had no backs. For the larger students large benches were made and smaller ones for the little folks. Planks were pegged to the wall for writing purposes but were taken down and placed against the wall when not in use. Some of the teachers in this school were: a Mr. Baker, Lillie Creed, Mrs. Lizzie Dehay, Columbus Evans, M. K. Thornton, Lydia Buchanan, and Lillie White. Some of the persons who attended Wakahoota School were:

Mr. John W. Hill, Dave and Buck Smith, Jim Reid, Lish Thorton, Jack Turman, Reed Thomas, Jonathan Waldrop, John L. Davis, and his sister Louise Davis, Ervin Calvin, Lump and Harve Chenault, Belle Smith, Massie Holliday, three McGraw boys, and others. Miss Fairy Goza, Sam Goza, Ervin Calvin, Milton, Dave and Daisy Davis, Mamie Smith, Joe L. Davis, Morgan Davis, George and Bob Bishop are some of those who went to school at Wakahoota during the schools last years. By this ti e, 1880, it had become a free school. This was an ungraded school and pupils who entered their first year were taught their ABC's and how to write capitals on their slates.(The slates were padded around the edges to hold the slate pencil).Then the reader, arithmetic,"blue back" speller, geography, history, and dictionary were taken up in the order named. However, books were very scarce. In the later days the name was changed to Concord, though the location was still within a mile of the old Wakahoota school. This school was continued until 1920 when it was merged into Center Hill school which is still operating as a small one teacher school.[1]

The Pearsall school, six miles southeast of Houston was established before 1862 though the exact date can not be determined. The lot for the building was given by Louis Pearsall and the building was erected by Henry and George Medlin. It was a one room frame building with ceiling overhead. Eight double desks and some benches and a heater comprised the school furniture. A two months winter term and a two months summer term was taught.Columbus Evans, Capt. Stribbling, Mr. Middleton, Mrs. Carothers Dr. Sid Evans, Dr. Gus Evans,Mrs. Lillie Riley, wife of the late Geo. D. Riley, and Mrs. Lizzie Dehay were some of the teachers. Some of the pupils were: Mollie,Boyd, and Tom Martin, Jack Porter, Jim Pumphrey, Jack Harrington and Bill Smith.

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1. Interview with Mrs. Belle Calvin who lives near Houston.

In later years this school was divided into two schools, one of them th Bethel school, and the ohter was moved into the Verell neighborhood and grew into a two tecner school retaining the name of Pearsall until 193 when it was consolidated with the Woodland school.

The lot for the Bethel school five miles south of Houston, was boug from A. R. Lowery for $15. The county gave $100 for the building and t patrons furnished the labor. People most interested in the school were: W.D. Smith, Sam Harrington, Jeff Gordon and Bovell Stovall. Miss Sarah Paine was the first teacher in this one room frame building. For the pa three years, however, pupils of this school have been transferred to the Woodland school.[1]

The Oak Grove school near Sparta was established in 1855. It is the oldest school building still standing in then county.The people of the community who were at that time the Kinards, Moores, Janesons, Smiths, and Montgomerys, built it for John A. Wilkinson, father of W. A. Wilkinson of Houston, to teach in. He was only twenty three years of age and was a graduate of the University of Alabama. By 1871 it had become a thriving school with an attendance of from fifty to seventy pupils. Other of the early teachers were Elisha Thornton, Master Randle, and Ike Cockrell. In 1934 this building was repaired and painted with C.W.A. funds. It is still operating as aone teacher school.[2]

The Ridgeway school was located two miles east of Old Houlka. It was a small on room frame building. Mrs. Adeline Allen,wife of Rev. A. C. Allen was the first teacher remembered. Capt. B.L.Fitzpatrick and a Miss Teague were others. This was a subscription school, meaning that the pupils had to pay tiution to the teacher.

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1. Interview with W.D.Smith, Houston, Mississippi
2. Interview with Mrs. J. C. Beasley, County Superintendent of Education

The work of this school was divided into two groups, one group consisting of young men preparing for college, the second groupa consisting of smaller children who did not go above the grammar course. Upon entering school at the age of five, pupils were taught their ABC's. After thoroughly mastering them, they began reading, writing, and spelling. After that Arithmetic, history, English, and Geography were taken up. Among those who received their early education in this school were Dr. Wesley Bond, T. W. Hamilton, R. H. Rockett, Dr. W. O. Walker, and Miss Nora Griffin. The teacher, Mrs. Allen was instrumental in organizing a Sunday School at the school building and on Sunday afternoon patrons and pupils attended regularly. Finally (no date) the school was burned and never rebuilt.

The first free school building in Okolona was a frame structure consisting of two large rooms with a HALL between. This building had several small rooms on the back that were used as class rooms. There was a small two room bbuilding separate from the larger building that was used for the teaching of music and voice. Before this time there were only private schools in Okolona. If a person could get as many as twenty pupils, he could teach. Miss Bessie Babbitt with whom the canvasser talked, said that the county paid these teachers. Her father, Mr. Amzi Babbitt was a member of the City Board of Okolona, and having four children to educate he was in favor of consolidation of these small schools in and near Okolona and having one school. He was instrumental in putting this this through. Some of the private teachers were given places in the school and one teacher, a Miss Boden summer taught for forty-two years in the same school. This was about 1880. In 1890 this building was torn down and a brick structure built.

— Interview with Miss Nora Griffin, Houston and Dr. O. Walker

It was a two story building ans was used until 1922. In that year it was torn down and replaced with a magnificient three story brick building with every modern convenience. Among the early citizens who received their education here were as follows: A.T. Stovall, lawyer who is now president of the C&G R.R., Walter Chandler, banker and merchant of Okolona, Mrs. L. P. Haley, outstandi g club woman, Fred McDonald, Supt. of Methodist Orphanage, Jackson, Mississippi, Dewitt Morgan, son of Dr. D. F. Morgan, Novelist, Dudley Nix, a musician of international fame. There is being built in connection with the Okolona s hool a Conservatory of Music that will be ready for the 1936 term. This school is one of the outstanding educational centers in the state. The people of Okolona are justly proud of it. The new building was erected at a cost of $150,000 or more.

King Hill school was established some time near the close of the Civil War. It was located about half way between Woodland and Chewawa and was a small one room frame building with long benches with no backs. The first teacher that Mrs. Beasley, the person interviewed, remembers is Miss Ellen Arnett who was one of the most outstanding teachers of the county. She was very versatile and taught Physical education, Dramatics, Public school music and Elocution in this school besides the basic subjects that were regularly taught in the county. Some others who taught in the King Hill school are Lillie Armstrong, sister of Mrs. Tom Farr, Elizah Flynn, now a very outstanding business men in Bangs, Texas, Archie Park of Houston, Miss Lula Ward, deceased, and Mr. R. L. Crosthwait who died in 1898 while he was a co-principal of the Mississippi Normal College and W. L. Crosthwaite who is now a prominent nerve and brain specialist in Waco, Texas. The school was moved south about twice and now it is still a one teacher school located on the Jackson road near the Gordon place. Mrs. Frank Weaver, teacher

Mrs Bessie Bobbit, OKOLONA

Some of the outstanding people who received their first education in this school are Mrs. J. C. Beasley, the present Superintendent of Education of this county, Jim Gordon, member of the Board of Supervisors, Mrs. Flora Harrington, business woman of Houston, and R. L. and W.L. Crosthwait who have been mentioned as teachers in this school.[1]

We feel that it is fitting to include here a sketch of the life of Miss Ellen T. Arnett. This was told to us by her sister-in-law, Mrs. A.S.Arnett.

Miss Ellen T. Arnett was born at Van Vleet, Mississippi April 18, 1847, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Neely Arnett.Their home was known as "Cottage Home" in the community. She went to school to Prof. Zeb Gathright at Shuqualak and from there to Nazareth Catholic Convent at Bardstown, Kentucky.

Her first school was a private school near her home taught on Col. Thad Shacklefords place when she was sixteen years of age. Her first public school was on the Arnett place in Van Vleet with about thirty five pupils. Next she taught at Locust Hill now known as Asberry, for about three years with about fifty pupils. Then she taught one year in a log cabin on the Shaw place near Van Vleet.

From there she went to King Hill below Houston where she taught three years. She boarded the first year with Mr. Pat Ward, one with Mr. Boykin and one with Mr. Turman.

Next she taught in the Ridgeway school, then the Logan and Tabbville schools. She taught two years at Center Hill. She also taught in Monroe, Clay and Calhoun Counties. Her average salary was about thirty five dollars a month and she paid from six to seven dollars per month for board. She taught private schools during the summer months a number of times. At the close of school she would put on an exhibitionthe most

1. Interview with Mrs. [illegible], Sabbit, Oklahoma
4. " " Mrs.J.C.Beasley, Houston

of the dialogues and readings being her own compositions. She would always make an address to her pupils at this time.

She taught elocution and gave lessons on the guitar. She played the piano and was considered a very good musician. She was one of the few early teachers who taught physical education in the school.

When she was about sixty years old she retired from the teaching profession and made her home with her sister Mrs. Virginia Ashby at Van Vleet. When she was about seventy five years old she taught a class without compensation in her room. This class consisted of her two small nephews and several children from the neighborhood.

Miss Ellen died August 29, 1930 at the age of eighty three year. The extent of her influence can not be measured as many of her pupils arenoutstanding successes in various walks of life in widely scattered parts of the United States.

The Houston Academy located at Houston, Chickasaw County was incorporated in 1844. A lot was procured by a gift from Joel Pinson and a school building erected. A charter of incoporation designated Thomas N. Martin, Thomas Alexandria, ___ Amosa, R. M. Moore, G. N. Thornton, W.S. Featherston and Dr. U.S. Williams as trustees. This institution being well disciplined with well educated instructors at once attracted the attention of adjoining counties and drew many pupils therefore growing into usefulness until the outbreak of the Civil War.[1]

Not very much information has been secured about the school during the period after its incorporation up to the Civil War. An old newspaper now in possession of W.E. Scott., Houston had several advertisements of the Houston Male Academy. They were as follows:

1 — Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. II

Copied from The Southern Argus a weekly Publication
Edited by Thomson and Thornton in Houston, Mississippi

To The Patrons of My School

Having become interested in the Argus office, and assumed the editorship of that paper, the subscriber does not intend to devote himself to its management entirely until after the expiration of the present session of his school, which will terminate in a few weeks. He takes this method of thanking them for their patronage, and assuring them that he will serve faithfully until the expiration of the last day.

Signed,

G.S. Crasty
Houston Male Academy, September 8, 1851

In the same paper Mr. Crasty had the following advertisement:

Classical School

(Preparatory to the University of Mississippi)

The subscriber has just commenced his second session at the Houston Male Academy, and hopes by close attention to the duties of his station to merit the patronage of the community which he has so liberally received. He will admit scholars at any time during the session. His method of instruction is designed to lay the foundation of a good education, deep and broad, for which purpose he has planned to avail himself of all the useful improvements of the day in the department. Scholars here can be prepared for admission into any of our colleges, especially the University of this State, as the text books of that institution will be used as far as possible. A sound morality will be inculcated on all occasions. Good order and attention to studies will be strictly enforced. Price of tuition, etc. same as heretofore.

Signed,

G.S. Crasty, Principal

It has been impossible to find any of the history of the school after this up until the year 1866 when a Mr. Baker who has been mentioned before in the history of the other schools, taught both the boys and the girls in the old Masonic Temple whihh was located across the street from the present Presbyterian Church. In 1867 the Male and Female Academy was divided and Mr. Baker taught the boys and a Mr. Beard taught the girls, however before the term was over Mr. Baker resigned and the boys and girls were again reunited under Mr. Beard. About this time, 1867, a lot with a building erected by Thomas Sidney Evans, Uncle of Dr. Sid Evans was taught by the county. It was a large and beautiful building begun by Mr. Evans before he went to the War for his bride to be, Miss Sylvia Lyon. However, Mr. Evans was killed in action and the county considering this a likely location bought it at the exhorbitant price of $5,000 and moved the Male and Female College here. It was located on the site where the present Houston High School now stands. Some of the teachers who taught in this building were Beckett Gladney assisted by John Gladney, A.M. Conkey, and a Mr. Allen. In 1872 or 1873 Mr. D.W. Hamiter, father of Mrs. Mattie Medlin took charge of the school. About 1875 the school was again divided. Mr. Hamiter taught the boys and Rev. Payne, a retired Methodist Minister took the girls back to the old school building. in 1878 Prfo. J.C. Miller was elected and taught in the Male Academy until 1884. The schools were consolidated in 1885 under Prof. Morris as the Houston Normal school. He was succeeded by Prof. Fletcher Hawk who was Principal for two years. The first teacher to receive diplomas was in 1887.

The gradu tes were: Clemmie Shell (wife of late Dr. Evans), B.S., Annie Hughes Walker(wife of late A. H. Towery)

teacher of music. The school was a private eneteprise of Prof. Aberneth's. The buildings used were Prof. Abernethy, one building, 30x60, tow stories igh, with six recitation rooms and a large hall. There was a separate boarding house with a capacity of 40 boarders. This was for ladies only. Gentlemen boarded at private houses. The first year the school had 117 pupils, principally local, only about 25 being boarders. The succeeding years during which the school was located at Troy, Mississip i were marked by steady growth, until the last year 320 pupils were enrolled, 1[1] teachers employed, the institution had primary, preparatory, teachers, commercial, scientific, classical, Music (instrumental and vocal) and art department.

Copied from Catalogue of the Mississippi Normal College, 1893-94

Realizing that Houston offered far superior advantages for sustaining such a sch ol as the Normal was growing to be, the principal, Prof. Abernethy made a present of the building and grounds at Troy, valued at $6000 to the community and come to Houston 1888.

This school was the first Normal school in Mississippi. The founders conceived the idea of establishing and building such an institution of learning as would reach the masses.

The college now has facilities for classifying any student whatever may be his grade, as students may enter any time of the year and find classes to suit them. We do not believe in compulsion but teach that all successful study must be voluntarily done.

Students perform all the domestic duties necessary in their rooms. This gives healthful exercis, gives a taste for home occupation, honest labor and makes the institution not only less expensive, but more independent than it could be with servants that would otherwise be required.

The small charge for degree is intended merely to defray the

[1] Memoirs of Miss. Page 235

the necessary expenses incident to graduation.

No fee for diploma is exacted.

Diplomas are conferred not sold.

Good moral character is required to graduation and a degree will not be given to any one who is known to drink during the year.

The college buildings are three in number, one was built befor the school was moved to Houston, the other two have been built within the last two years. The original building is two stories, contains four large recitation rooms and two halls. The new college Chapel 60x90 feet contains the lower floor, six large recitation rooms, with large hall between. All recitation rooms which are comfortably seated, well vantilated and located and furnished with blackboards, charts, and apparatus for teaching in every department successfully and to the very best advantage. On the second floor is the college hall. This is expecially arranged for speaking and literary school.

Tuition could be paid in livestock, produce, wood, eggs, and milk. Board, including lights, fuel, washing, and furnished rooms, per month, $8.50; Teacher's Department tution, $3.00; Junior Scientific year, tuition, $3.00; Senior Scientific year, tuition, $4.00. Maximum Salary for county teachers was at that time $45 per month.

The girls were required to wear uniforms, thereby reducing costs to a minimum of $25 per session.

Every ten weeks the seniors gave a program, the occasion being called a "reunion." Held at night, the whole countryside as well the town people gathered in the auditorium for the entertainment. At Commencement time was the red letter day in the lives of many. Occassionally a party was given at the dormotory where the young people gathered and had an evening of merriment. In this way many a maiden found her beau ideal, and later the friendship culminated in a happy marriage.

The pupils were required to go to Sunday school and the church of their choice, and were accompanied by a teacher who was amember of that church. After the close of the session in June 1901, Prof. and Mrs. Abernethy went to teach in Paris, Texas.

Some of the outstanding gradutates are:

J.R. Countiss_____Preacher and President of Grenada College.
T.R. Paden _____Preacher
C.J. Longest _____Educator
Robert Tanner_____Educator
C.L. Corsthwait_____Educator
M. P. Bush _____Educator
J.A. Wadlington_____M. D;
J. Stennis _____M. D.
W. L. Crosthwait_____M. D.
Judge J.W. Pack_____Jurist
Tom Abernethy _____Business
Walter Scott _____Business
Duggan Shell _____Business
Burgie Scott _____Business

There are many, many others who went out from t is school and lived useful and successful lives. Prof. and Mrs. Abernethy's influence will be felt for generations, there being no way of knowing the extent as they helped the young man and women of that period as few people do", said Miss Fairy Goza, a graduate of this school and a teacher in the Houston School, herself, holding the torch high to guide the way of the youth of Chickasaw County.

In 1905 and 1906 the Mississippi Normal College became the Houston High School with Earnest L. Collins as Principal. He was assisted by his brother Hubert Collins who now lives in Van Vleet and is still engaged in school work. It was in 1906 that Prof. L. B. Reid, a native Chickasaw Countian came back from Texas and accepted the principalship of the Houston High School which position he has held continuous to the present time.

In the fall of 1906 the old Normal School building, which had been used for so many years, burned. This occurred while school was in session and the term was finished out in the old Masonic Temple which had been used in the days of the Female Academy. As soon as possible a new two story brick building was erected on the same site. This building was used until 1927 when it became inadequate to meet the educational demands of the rapidly growing school district. Thus plans and specifications were made for a new building which was erected at a cost of $90,000.

Wonderful educational progress has been made during the thirty years that the beloved Prof. L.B.Reid has been superintendent of the Houston High School. The school now has an average of five hundred and fifty pupils and employs sixteen well qualified teachers. Every department is well organized and fully equipped to give the best training possible to the pupils. The college work of graduates from the Houston High school attest to its very high standard.

Mrs J. N. Strickland
HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
CHICKASAW COUNTY

Canvassers:
Hubye Cook,
Mabel Calvin

Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Supervisor:
Mrs. J.W. Strickland

August 27, 1936

Supplement to Assignment 11, Schools of Yesterday

Buena Vista: The first school building at Buena Vista stood where the home of Mr. Jack Pulliam now stands. It was a large two room frame building and was operated until 1885. The date of its establishment can not be determined.

" The Buena Vista Normal College was established in 1885 and a charter was issued in the same year. It was very prosperous for a time under J.S. and L.T.Dickey of Kentucky, one of whom is still connected with the Bowling Green Business College. In 1887 and 1888 the attendance of pupils was three hundred and two, and the faculty numbered nine. Beside the regular curriculum, music and art was taught. It's magic growth rests on the fact that it offers superior advantages and equal merit to any in the south. Neither money or labor has been spared in maintaining the elevated position of the Buena Vista Normal College. Young men and women who want an education and are willing to study and work for it, can find here the advantages and aid wanted. The charges for board and tuition have been placed at the smallest figure that can be afforded. Board $7.00 to $10.00; tuition $2.00 to $4.00 per month. Prof.W. S. Burkes, the president of the institution is an active, energetic, industrious and thoroughly equipped educator. The college is under the following board of directors: Dr. J.T.Parker, Dr. J.T.Murdock, Capt. J.L. Pulliam, Dr. W.S. Williams, Maj. L. C. Sugg, G. T. Stillman, A. J. Aycock, A. A. Thompson, J.Y.Ball, J. C. Williams.[1]

The school was patronized from seven states, and from thirty-nine counties in Mississippi. In 1889, however it had retrograded, and the faculty numbered only four. Profs. W. S. Burks, of Texas and W. M. Morrison of Virginia, then leased the property and organized a new faculty. In 1891 Rev. I. A. Smith and Pro. R. L. McDonnell took charge. The standard of the school was raised under every new administration and this school had few equals in the state. The following are a few of the early students who have made outstanding success in life: Admiral R.H. Lee, who went from the Buena Vista Normal college to Annapolis. He was captain of the S.S.Tennessee a few years ago. At one time he was in control of a Pacific fleet. H.S. and C. S.Spraggins, the former is a presiding Elder in Memphis, the later has been serving as Methodist minister in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas for the past twenty years. T. N. Lewis, a prominent lawyer of Okolona.[1]

1. Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. 2, page 345.

In 1908 the Normal College was replaced by the Agricultural High School which claimed the distinction of having been the first school of its kind in the world. There was alarge two story frame building which stood where the present building now stands. There were two dormitories. One for boys and one for girls. C. A. Cobb, now famous in the Cotton Adjustment program was the first principal. There were only two teachers at this time. They were Misses Elise Griffin and Lois Jackson of Noxubee County.(now Mrs. Jack Pulliam). Domestic science, agriculture, mechanics, and other subjects applicable to the needs of rural boys and girls, were taught.

Other principals and agriculture teachers were C. D. Cork, a Mr. Weldon, S. A. Miller, Jeva Winter, S. R. Dean, A. A. Scott, J. Askew, Mr. Loden, Ray Hamilton, and John Pearson.

About ten years ago a modern well equipped brick structure was erected in place of the rambling old two story frame building.**

Egypt School: The first school in Egypt was ½ mile west of town in a little log building. Miss Betty Jarmar is the only teacher that could be remembered.

(continued on page 4.)

1. Interview with Mr. Sam King, Buena Vista.

** a news paper article follows on the next page.

The following is an article copied from the Houston Advocate, published July 10, 1908. It is an account of the establishment of the agricultural high school at Buena Vista.

" Buena Vista was the fortunate contestant for the county agricultural high school, the board of education deciding this question Tuesday. Other towns made a strong fight for it Houlka, Woodland, Parkersburg and Van Vleet all being in the contest.

Something over $8,000 in money and property, we understand, was subscribed by the citizens of the Buena Vista neighborhood. The present high school building will be used after being extensively repaired and improved. Trustees were named for the school as follows: W.A. Wilkerson, L.B. Reid, S. T. King, and J. F. McDonald. "

This school operated around twenty years and in 1903 or 1904 the school was moved into town and a nice frame building was built. Miss Fannie St. John of Brooksville, Mrs. Gates, Miss Garner and Miss Tommie Denly, were some of the teachers at this school.

In 1923 the Egypt school, Chalk Bluff school, and another school located near Ed DeMoville's place were consolidated and a nice brick building was constructed on the site of the old building. This is now an accredited high school with seven teachers. Mr. Coleman was the first principal; he was succeeded by Mr. Denley who has been there about twelve years.

Enon School All schools in the Enon neighborhood prior to 1870 were taught in tenant houses and private homes. In 1870 the old Enon school building stood about on half mile north of the present location. It was a one room log house with crude home made furniture. Funds were obtained through subscriptions. W. D. Couch and Mit Colbert helped organize the school. It was later moved one and one half miles east of the present location on what is now the J.R. Porter place. Several years later it was moved to the present location. The three acre lot for this school was bought from the Couch estate. Mr. Couch practically built the house with the aid of a few neighbors. The Enon church is also located on this lot. The present school building is the third that has been erected on this lot. It is a very comfortable two room frame structure in 1934 under C.W.A. supervision.

Mr. Calvin Abernethy and Miss Mollie Abernethy were teachers in about 1882. Mr. R. H. Couch went to this school in the old building and later taught there. His daughter, Miss Lorene Couch has been teaching in this school for the past eleven years.[1]

McCondy School: All schools taught in the McCondy community were in private homes and in old Providence and Solé's Chapel Churches. this was before 1872. The first building erected especially for school purposes was built in 1872.

1. Interview with Mr. R.L. Couch, Houston, Mississippi

It was near the Chickasaw -Clay line and another was built at Sole's Chapel. These building s were erected by J.Harris Smith, a well known contractor of that period. The one at McCondy was used until 1890 when there was some dissention (over the election of teachers) between the residents of Clay and those of Chickasaw. The Clay county citizens built a house just over the line in Clay and Chickasaw built the residence in which Brock Nieghbors lives at present. This was called the Burkett Institute. In 1922 the agreement was reached that the McCondy community made up of some Cly and some Chickasaw citizens would have a consolidated school. A substantial brick building of four rooms and a large auditorium was erected at a cost of $15,000. Twenty year bonds were floated for this purpose. The school is one of the best rural schools in the state with a corps of four good teachers and a term of eight months free school.

Among the early teachers in the McCondy school were James Beckett Gladney, Jack Carey, and J. C.Miller.[1]

Woodland School: The old Woodland School was about 2 Mi. East of the present town of New Woodland. It was a one room building and some of the teachers were Frank Montgomery, Earl Gilder, SaM Crawford, Miss Bell Hall, Miss Ella Mae Gilfoy. This building was burned and a new one erected about ½ Mi. West of New Woodland, this new location was more in the center of the community. But before the building was finished they taught in the old cumberland Presbyterian Church. After a while this school was moved to New Woodland in 1905 and Mrs. America Childs Pepper was the first to teach in New Woodland.

It was only an eighth grade school until 1916. The following teachers taught in this frame structure in 1905-6 Miss America Childs principal, Mis Norma Montgomery assistant. In 1906-7 Mr. Finch principal, assisted by Misses Norma Montgomery and Miss Mabel Payne. In 1907-9 Rev J. F. Mitchell Principal, assistant Miss Karenza Davis (Now Mrs Karenza Gilfoy of Jackson

1. Interview with Mr. Lundy Smith, McCondy, Miss.

Mississippi) and in 1909 by Miss Ethel Stevens. In 1909-10 Mr Sargent , principal, assisted by Mrs Sargent. In 1910-11 Mr Jeff Busby, was principal , was assisted by Miss Juanita Cockerell. In 1911-15 Mr Brantl assisted by Miss Della Brantley in1911-12, and in 1912-13 by Misses Ida Beasley* and Emma Brantley Martin. In 1913 Joe Beasley was principal but resigned and term was completed by Mr Powers assisted by Miss Marguerite Lowe and Miss Lotta Kegler. In 1914-15 Mr Powers was assisted by Mrs Marguerite Lowe Powers and Miss Lillian Stevendon.Louis Jones, principa was assisted in 1915-16 by Misses Lillian Stevenson and Bess Ratliff.

By this time the school had outgrown the small frame structure and brick building was constructed at a cost of $7000. It was a two-story stu ture consisting of four class rooms and a hall extending extending north and south and east and west on the first floor. The second floor consiste of a large auditorium with two dressing rooms, a large auditorium with two dressing rooms, large stage, two class rooms, one on the north-west corner and the other on the north-east corner. At this time it had grown to a high school. Teachers in this building were, in 1916-18, George W. Rayburn, principal, assisted by Mrs Karenza Gilfoy and Misses Bess Ratlif and Nora Stevens. In 1918-19, Lester Lewis, principal, was assisted by Mrs Lester Lewis and Mrs Will Abernathy. In 1919-20 A.J.Harrington,was assisted by Misses Dess Norris, Mary Alice Green, Estelle Body and Emma Overall. In 1921-22 A.J. Harrington was again principak and was assisted by Mrs Bess Ratliff Abernathy, Mrs Ella Davidson and Miss Emma Patterson. In 1922-23 Lester Lewis was assisted by Mrs Bess Abernathy, Misses Emma Patterson and Nina Marion.In 1923-24 Fate Hill was assisted by Misses Thel Davis, Birdie Moore and Eula Dees. In 1924-25 Mrs Carrie Magness was princ cipal. In 1925-26 Prof. Hosea Abernathy, founder of Mississippi Normal College, was principal and was assisted by five teachers whose names are not known. In 1926-29 J.W.Breland was principal, and in 1927-28 Tom A

Turner was assisted by five teachers. During the winter of 1930 a Smith Hughes building was erected and it became an affiliated high school . Mr W.E. Wall was the first principal of the Smith Hughes school and was assisted by four teachers and a home economics teacher, Miss Mittie Bivens. In 1930-33 Dewitt T.Oakes, principal, had as ass istants, W.E.Wall, Smith Hughes teacher, and Miss Mayfield, HomeEconomicsteasher. In 1931-33 Dewit T.Oaks, principal, was assisted by five teachers, with Miss Lucille Barett as Home Economics teacher.

In 1934 this building was remodelled. Bonds were sold and one wing added at a cost of $10,000. Another wing is under construction under the P.W.A. Present plans are to have this building completed October, 1936, when the total value of the building will be $35,000. This building will care for 500 children and is one of the leading consolodated schools in the county.

In the near future a teacherage and athletic field will be added at a cost of approximately $7,500.

J.H.Crestman, has been the efficient principal in1933-36. His effort have been untiring to make the school one of the best in the state., W.E.Wall, was the SMith-Hughes teacher and Miss Robbie Sue McElwrath, Home Economics. He had a corps of eight teachers with W.E.Mosley, Smith-Hughes teacher and Mrs Mosely, Home Economics.[1]

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1. Interviews with Mrs Barn Hill, Mar Felton Thompson, Mrs Maggie Middleto and Mrs D.H.Davidson, Woodland.

Ridge School was a small one room building, located about six miles n north of Houston, on the Kate Johnson place. It was organized by W.D. Reid, Dan Johnson and T.J.Johnson. Some of the earlier teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Cheese. One characteristic of Mr Cheese's teaching, was he did not believe in corporal punishment. He held that if a child was properly trained at home he would not need corporal punishment. Other teachers were W.D.Reid, T.J. Hamilton, Miss Hattie McJakin, L.W. Hamilton, Carl Gilder, Tom Saddler and Tom H.Johnson.

In 1875 this school was consolidated with the Holliday school, in 190?, it in turn was consolidated with the Wesley Chapel School and a building erected across the road from Wesley Chapel church. In 1927 Wesley Chapel school was consolidated with Houston High school.

Anchor In the year of 1922 Anchor school was formed through the consolidation of the Hickory Bluff, Griffin and Johnson Creek schools. Leaders in the consolidation of theses schools were E.F.Harrington, Albert Jennings, R.E.Dendy, J.EDd Dendy, Tom Griffin, B.Lancaster, M. M. McQuarry and others. John Kellum and Jim Helms were contractors for the building. Bonds were issued to pay for the construction of the new building which is located about one mile west of the E.F.Harrington stor and G.M.and N. R.R. It is a modern two-story frame structure and is well equipped.

When it was first consolidated it had a faculty of four teachers and was a ten grade school. T.E.Saul, of Montpelier , was the first principal of the new s hool. During the past fe years the high school pupils have been transported to Woodland and only eight grades wer taught.

There is a nice and convenient teacherage on the campus, which is greatly appreciated by the teachers.

Hickory Ridge school was first on Joe Blissard's lot about three fourths of a mile east of the present location. It was a one room structure with benches for seats. Miss Carrie Roy, Joe Harris, and Walter Morgan were some of the teachers. The old building was finally sold at auction. The Blissard boys bought it at a very low price. Fred Pearson gave a lot for the new school building. The county furnished the lumber and a hired carpenter, Mr. Brown, to build the house. They bought a few desks but some benches are still in use. It is a two teacher school with from forty to fifty pupils enrolled every year.[1]

1. Interview with Jim Clark, Houlka, Mississippi

Mrs J. W. Strickland.
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

CHICKASAW COUNTY

"SCHOOLS OF YESTERDAY -

Supplement #11

THE FOUNDERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI NORMAL COLLEGE were Hosea B. Abernathy and wife, Sallie Garrett Abernathy, natives of Pontotoc County, who received their early education in the schools of that county and were later graduated from the University of Lebanon, Ohio.

In 1884 they organized the Mississippi Normal High School at Troy, Pontotoc County,-In 1888 they came to Houston, Mississippi and established the first Normal School in the State.

Citizens of our town who were instrumental in procuring the services of these educators and who went in a body to see them were: Judge W. S. Bates, Will White, Dr. J. S. Evans, W. R. Davis, Dr. W. L. Walker, P. W. Shell, and H. L. McAlster.

This school was located on the present grounds of the Houston High School. Two large two-story frame buildings were erected to house the grade pupils of the town and the community and furnish class rooms for the college students, as well as an auditorium of seating capacity for 1000. These buildings were heated by box-wood heaters. The windows were sufficient to afford plenty of light by day and large reflecting kerosene lamps furnished lights for the night entertainment. One room contained a well ordered library, part of which is still intact. A large two-story dormitory was used for the girls, and the boys boarded in private homes. Tution could be paid in live-stock, produce, wood, eggs, and milk. Board including lights, fuel, washing, and furnished rooms, per month, were $8.50; Teacher's department tuition, was $3.00 per month; Junior Scientific year, tution $3.00 etc. Maxuimum salary for county teachers was at that time $45.00 per month. The girls were required to wear uniforms, thereby reducing costs to a minimum of $25.00 per session.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Canvassers:
Mabel Galvin
Elma Holloway

Historical Research Project
December-17-1936

Supervisor:
Mrs. J.C. Hightower.

SUBJECT: SCHOOLS OF TODAY.
Assignment #19

1. PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM:

1. Names of County Superintendents;

Colonel A.J. Jamison was the, first County Superintendent. He served immediately after the Civil War, during Carpet-bag days. The exact date and length of his administration could not be obtained.

Judge J. Beckett Gladney followed Colonel Jamison and until about 1886 they alternated each other.

Prior to 1890 all County officers were appointed by the Governor and for only a two year term. After the Constitutional Convention of 1890 the terms were extended to four years and the office of County Superintendent was made elective. The exact salary of each Superintendent is not known but up to 1890, forty-five dollars was a good salary,as there had been very little money for school purposes since the war.

Up to 1908 the County Superintendent did not have an office. So none of his records were preserved. But in 1908 a new courthouse was built and a room designated as the office of the County Superintendent along with the other County officers.

Dr.J.T. Parks, Buena Vista, Mississippi, served as Superintendent from 1886 until 1888. T.C. Ross, Okolona, Mississippi, from 1888 until 1890. Then Mr. J.A. Wilkinson, Houston, Mississippi, served from 1890 until 1892. Mr. Wilkinson died in July of 1892 and the office was vacant from July to November of that year, when Mr. W.A. Wilkinson, son of the late J.A. Wilkinson was appointed, at a salary of fifty dollars per month. He served from 1892 to 1898.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Mr. Sam T. King of Buena Vista served from 1898 to 1900. Resigned before the end of the term because of a low salary.

Mr. H.B. Abernathy, of this county served from 1900 to 1908.

Mr. R.B. Waldrop of Houston, became Superintendent in 1908 and served until 1912, with a salary to begin with of fifty dollars per month, later raised to eight hundred dollars per year by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Waldrop secured for Chickasaw county the first Agricultural High School in the world. This was located at Buena Vista and founded in 1908.

Mr. George D. Riley, served as county Superintendent from 1912 to 1924, with a salary ranging from one hundred to one hundred fifteen dollars per month. Mr. Riley was an extremely popular Superintendent and was noted for high salaries paid to his teachers.

From 1924 to 1928, Mr.John M. Pearson served as county Superintendent, and like his predecessor was noted for good salaries, and his untiring efforts to bring about better buildings, and consolidation. He probably did more than any other Superintendent has ever done along this line for he paved the way, and despite criticisms he succeeded in doing what he started out to do. The Egypt Consolidated Smith-Hughes school was founded during hid administration and a nice new modern brick building was built and three bus routes established. He was also instrumental in helping them establish a splendid library. The movement for a ninety thousand dollar brick school building was begun for Houston during hid administration. A great deal of credit for our beautiful school buildings and substantial small ones over the county goes to Mr. Pearson.

Mr. W.L. Norman of Houlka, served from 1928 to 1932. Both Mr. Norman and Mr. Pearson were a bit unpopular at one time on account of their drive for consolidation. Mr. Pearson established the first consolidated schools in the county at Anchor, Van Vleet, and McCondy. Mr. Norman eagerly and persistently followed this movement. Through his efforts Okolona and Houston were made city consolidated

schools, by combining with small schools nearby and the establishment of bus routes and buses for the transportation of the pupils.

Mrs. J.C. Beasley, who was elected in 1932 and is now serving her second term as Superintendent, has whole heartedly advocated consolidation and has been successful in her efforts, however it has not been so hard for her as for her two predecessors, because the people had, in a measure become educated to the fact that consolidation was better for them, by the time that Chickasaw's first woman officer began her administration. Each of the last three Superintendents have made drives for better libraries for the schools, better buildings, better equipment and sanitation and the result of their efforts will be noted in discussion of Topic Five.

Interviews with:
Mrs. J.C. Beasley
Mr. B.M. Smith
Mr. W.T. Johnson
Mr. W.A. Wilkinson.

2. HOW COUNTY SCHOOLS FINANCED:

Chickasaw County gets her share of the Sixteenth Section Fund and of the Chickasaw School Fund as per Section 210 and 211 of the State Constitution. Since 1892, the"Common School Fund" is an annual appropriation of the Poll Tax of two dollars collected in the county and an additional sum from the General Fund in the State Treasury to maintain the common schools for our county. Our Separate School Districts are permitted to levy an additional tax to maintain their schools for a longer period. Our Public School System is maintained by County and State taxes. It was inaugurated by our present Constitution and set on foot by a recent act of the Legislature. The Equalization Fund is a fund that is sent out to each county according to the number of school children.

3. TYPES OF SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY:

a. In Chickasaw County there are two City Consolidated white schools, Houston and Okolona. Two Rural consolidated schools, Van Vleet and McCondy and three Vocational High Schools, Houlka, Woodland, and Egypt. Then there is one three teacher school, while there are six two teacher schools and six one teacher schools.

In the negro schools thirty three of the one teacher type; fourteen have two teachers, while one school has three teachers. The eighth grade is the highest taught in any of these schools. Houston and Okolona each have a separate school district, each consisting of six teachers and eleven grades.

b. NO OTHERS:

c. For three years adults both negro and white, in some sections of Chickasaw County, have been greatly benifited intellectually through attendance at classes held by the E.R.A. and the W.P.A. teachers. The usual literary subjects, handicraft and house-hold training, workers' education, and even music are taught. Classes are taught at Okolona, Houlka, Buena Vista, Woodland, and Enon. Many people over the county, espacially teachers, continue their education each year by taking correspondence courses and attending E.R.A. and W.P.A. schools.

4. LATER DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTY SCHOOLS:

a. Improvements are constantly being made in accordance with new tendencies in education and the standards of instruction are rapidly rising. In Chickasaw's rural communities is perhaps, our greatest problem in bringing educational advantages within reach of all. The problem has been met and solved by means of consolidation. The county school withone or two teachers is giving way to a system with larger and better schools to which transportation is furnished at public expense. This law was first passed by the Legislature in 1910.

b. Operating in a more advanced field are the County Agricultural High Schools. No one measure of our Mississippi laws has done more to stimulate intellegently conducted agriculture and rural household arts, than that which has founded and improved the Agricultural High Schools. Not only have the boys and girls of both races felt the benifits of their instruction, but also the adults of both sexes. Among the functions of the system; are the following; to stimulate, through extension work, agricultural activities, encourage improvement of farm and home life. They all give a standard four year course of instruction in addition to the vocational training of a valuable nature. Smith-Hughes Schools are taking the place of our Agricultural High Schools in Chickasaw County. The Smith-Hughes act which was passed in 1917 gave Federal aid and was secured for vocational education in these schools and the boys are taught agriculture, manual training etc., while the girls are given a course in home economics.

c. We have atleast five schools in Chickasaw County which are giving the girls a four year standard literary course along with the Home Economics. This Economic Course comprises, cooking, planning and serving meals, sewing of all kinds and other general house hold duties.

d. In facing the problem of education, Chickasaw County has to consider her negro children and adults. We have the difficulty of providing adequately trained teachers for them, as so many have had no special training which is needed for their work. Through private and public schools for them, aided by summer Normals provided by the State, the number of prepared instructors is being increased. Special emphasis is being stressed on vocational and economic training in the industrial , domestic and agricultural arts. Chickasaw County has the " Industrial Institute"at Okolona for our negro students. It offers courses in Education,

Music, Commerce, Trades and Industries along with regular High School and Junior College Work. The Home Economic instruction of this Institution enables the negro girls to become self-supporting in that field of work. This school proposes to give the students full advantages of a practical and substantial training.

5. NAMES AND LOCATION OF THE SCHOOLS IN COUNTY:

a. Houston High School is located in Houston on Highway number eight. It is a three story steam heated brick structure and was constructed at a cost of ninety thousand dollars. Adequately equipped with fire escapes and other modern conveniences. The Science Laboratory is not fully equipped but is above the average. There are two Music rooms equipped for teaching class piano as well as individual lessons. A large auditorium and seats with stage equipment such as drop curtains, and scenery. The Home Economics Department is well equipped. Other properties consist of three pianos, five type writers, water fountains, and ten indoor toilets. It has a High School Library, a built in Library in each room and also in the High School Study Hall and all are good. There are six Public School buses bringing children into Houston and quite a number of private cars bringing them in.

b. The Elementary grades, are supervised by three teachers. The Grammar grades are supervised by four teachers. The Junior High Grade is supervised by four teachers. The Senior High grade is supervised by seven teachers.

c. The special courses taught are; Home Economics, Shorthand, Typing and Book-keeping (first and second year), Music, Piano and Voice.

d. The Houston High School has two Literary Clubs, a Debating Team under the direction of Miss Jamie Wingo. A Boy Scouts Organization under the direction of Mr. Henry L. Wilson. A Girl Scouts Organization under the direction of Miss Mary Elizabeth Haman. Supervised Play ground activities.

The Okolona High School is located on Highway Twenty Three, about two blocks from the business section of town. It is a modern two-story building made of brick; erected at a cost of approximately eighty or ninety thousand dollars. It is situated on a corner lot with paved streets running on two sides with an entrance from each street. It has a large auditorium with good seats and also a piano. The school is equipped with desks for pupils, desks for the teachers and also a splendid library. It is heated with steam heat and is well equipped with water fountains, indoors toilets and lavatories. Most of the pupils live within walking distance, however those of the rural sections are brought in on the Public School buses. The enrollment is about six hundred. Elementary, Grammar, Junior High and Senior High are taught. A new department has been opened this year to the High School students. It includes training in Dry goods, Grocery and Drug Store trade. Home Economics is taught in the school and this department is well equipped. There is no music taught in connection with the school except the band. A commercial course is open to the Junior and Senior High School students. This includes short-hand, typing and bookkeeping. Okolona School has no e extra curricular activities except supervised play-ground activities, however a new Gym building is under construction. It is located on the campus and is nearing completion at an approximate cost of eleven thousand dollars. A teacher's Home is also nearing completion. The Faculty meetings are held once a month. The Cafeteria has just been opened. Okolona's play-ground and campus is one of the most beautiful in the state and is bordered with stately shade trees.

a. Woodland Consolidated School is a Vocational school with eleven teachers on the facualty. The main building is a one story brick structure, with furnace heat and was partly built by the C.W.A. and later finished by the W.P.A. It consists of eight class rooms, a large auditorium and library. The Vocational building is located on the campus and is composed of two class rooms, Science Laboratory, kitchen and large living room. The buildings are well equipped with lights, water and indoor toilets. Private cars and five public buses are used to transport the children to and from school.

b. The grades are Standard Elementary, Grammar, Junior High and Senior High.

c. Special courses taught are; Household Arts, Domestic Training, Manual Training, Music, Typing and Book-keeping.

d. Woodland school has school Clubs and Dramatics.

a. Egypt Consolidated school is a Smith-Hughes School, situated about nine miles south of Okolona. It is a one story brick building with furnace heat. Two class rooms used for the Home Economic classes and a study hall in the basement, also one recitation room. On the main floor is the auditorium, four class rooms, library and reception room combined. A Manual training building is on the campus, where the boys have their vocational classes. The water is from a deep well pumped by a gasoline pump, permiting drinking fountains and sanitary toilets. Private cars and three buses transport the children.

b. Grades; Grammar, Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High.

c. Household Arts, Domestic Training, Manual Training, Music, Vocationl agriculture.

d. Boys Hi-Y's, Literary Clubs, Supervised Play ground activities.

a. Houlka Consolidated School is a Smith-Hughes School, situated ten miles north of Houston. It is composed of two brick buildings, one a two story building, heated with heaters the other a new one story building with steam heat. The two buildings furnish an adequate number of class rooms as well as vocational rooms. Both are well supplied with water and lights also sanitary toilets. They have a good Library for High and Grammar School.

b. Grades; Elementary, Grammar, Junior High, and Senior High.

c. Special courses taught are; Household Arts, Domestic Science, Manual and Vocational Training and Music.

d. Houlka has Literary Clubs and supervised play-ground activities.

a. Van Vleet is a Rural Consolidated School, located ten miles northeast of Houston and ten miles southwest of Okolona on the G.M.& O.C. rail road. It is a one story brick building, composed of study hall and auditorium combined, and class rooms. The teacher's Home and Lunch room are both built of brick and all buildings are well supplied with lights. The school has out door toilets. Two transportation buses take care of the pupils who are transported to and from school.

b. Grades; Elementary, Grammar, Junior High and Senior High.

c. Music and Commercial work are taught as special courses.

a. McCondy School is a Junior High School, located on the county line of Clay and Chickasaw counties. It is a nice little one story brick building composed of a large auditorium with good seats and a piano, four nice large well ventilated class rooms with heaters. Two small room libraries. Private cars transport some of the children and some of them walk. There are four teachers.

b. Grades; Grammar and Junior High and Elementary.

a. Buena Vista Grammar School is centrally located in the county and is ten miles east of Houston. The school building is a modern one-story brick building, heated with heaters. It is composed of a large auditorium with seats and a piano, adequate class rooms for twelve grades and home science and vocational equipment, as this school at one time was an Agricultural High School.

b. Grades; Grammar.

THREE TEACHER SCHOOL:

a. Thorn is a three teacher school, located eight miles west of Houston. It is a three room frame building, painted and has adequated number of windows and heaters. Has large play ground, and basket ball courts. The building was remodeled by the C.W.A. and is now in good condition, well equipped with desks for pupils and desks and chairs for teachers. And has a small library.

b. Grades; Elementary and Grammar.

TWO TEACHER SCHOOLS:

a. Anchor School is located seven miles south west of Houston, near the G.M.& N. railroad. It is a two story frame building, is painted and is in good condition. It is well heated with wood heaters. Has a teachers home near the campus. Has large play ground and basket ball court. Has small library. Pupils walk to school.

b. Grades; Grammar.

a. Enon School is located nine miles south east of Houston, is a modern two room building. It was remodeled and painted by the C.W.A. The partition between the rooms can be raised upward and both rooms thrown into one when desired. Has adequate windows and is heated with heaters. Has convenient locker for books and lunches, and has built in library, a few years ago it was considered splendid.

No books have been added to the library lately. The school has two teachers. Pupils walk to school.

b. Grades: Eight.

a. Macedonia School is located seven miles south east of Houston, on the road from Houston to Trebloc. It is a two room frame building, painted and has large windows and good heaters. The building was remodeled by the C.W.A. and has lunch room annex. It is equipped with desks for the pupils and tables and chairs for the teachers, but has no library. Public and private transportation.

b. Grades: From the first through the eighth.

a. Martin School is located ten miles west of Houston near the Chickasaw and Calhoun county line and about one and one half miles south of Thorn. It is a modern two room frame building. Remodeled and painted by the C.W.A. Each room has a heater and several large windows. Equipped with pupils and teachers desk. The school has large level play ground. Pupils walk to school. No library.

b. Grades: Course of instruction from the first through the eighth

a. Pyland school is located five miles west of Houston and about one and one half miles north of Highway number eight. The school is an old two room building, unpainted and not in very good condition. Heaters are used to heat the building. It has no library. Pupils walk to school.

b. Grades: From the first through the eighth.

a. Center Hill School is located four miles north east of Houston, on the road from Houston to Van Vleet. The building is very small and built of rough lumber, not ceiled, unpainted and only has two windows. It is heated with heater, and has home made seats. No library. Children walk to school. One teacher school.

Attendance does not exceed ten pupils

b. Grades: From the first through the eighth grades are taught.

a. Hall Siding School is located three miles west of Houston, on the G.M. & C.C. rail road. It is a small building only one large room but is in good condition. It is ceiled but not painted. Has good heater and good desks, but no library. It is a one teacher school with an attendance of twenty five. Has large level play-grounds. Children walk to school.

b. Grades: From the first through the eighth grades are taught.

a. Bluff Springs School is located three miles south of Houston, on the old Starkville road. It is a small building only one large room, is painted on the outside, ceiled inside, heated with a heater. Has no library and the pupils walk to school.

b. Grades: One teacher school, and teaches from the first through the eighth.

a. Hickory Ridge School is located about seven miles north west of Houston, and about two miles north of Thorn. It is composed of only one large room, and is not painted. It is equipped with heater and desks for the pupils. Has no library. Has small play-grounds. This is considered a one teacher school but at times, requires two teachers. Pupils walk to school.

b. Grades: From the first through the eighth.

NAMES AND LOCATION OF NEGRO SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY:

a.The following negro schools are of the one room, one teacher type. The buildings are small, unpainted and in some cases uncoiled. The only equipment is a stove for heating purposes, long benches and desks, some of which are homemade. All have from two to four windows. Some are of the shutter type, however and have no window panes in them.

Bluff Springs is about half way between Old Houlka and Van Vleet and is located on that road.

Buggs School is three miles north of Old Houlka, just off Highway number fifteen.

Callahan School is west of Woodland.

County Line School is located north of Houlka , on the Chickasaw and Pontotoc County line.

Crawford School is located about two miles north west of Houston, on Dr. J.R. Williams farm.

Cross Roads School is located near Anchor.

Gates Chapel School is located at the O.B. Abernathy Corner about four miles south west of Okolona.

Old Houlka School is located about two miles east of Houlka.

Midway School is about seven miles west of Houston.

Miller Line School is located in the corner of Chickasaw county near the line of Chickasaw, Lee and Pontotoc Counties.

Moore School is located six miles north of Houston.

Mount Union is located north of Okolona.

Nelson School is west of Buena Vista, just off the Highway number eight, from Houston to Buena Vista.

Palestine School is located near Van Vleet.

Poplar Springs School is located near Okolona.

Prairie Mount School is located on Mr. Earl Anderson's farm, south of Okolona.

Rhodes School is located about four miles east of Houston near Mr. John Rhodes' home.

Rob Reid School is located at the railroad crossing at Old Thelma, on the G.M. & N.R.R.

Ross Hill School is located near Ross Hill, which is about two miles west of Van Vleet on the Houston and Van Vleet road.

Russell Branch School is located west of Buena Vista.

Schooner Bluff School is west of Houlka.

Shady Grove is about three miles south of Van Vleet on the Houston and Okolona road.

Sparta School is located at Sparta.

Sycamore School is located east of Houston near Mr. John Chenault's Farm.

Center Hill School is located between Van Vleet and Okolona.

Clemen Creek School is located near the Rhodes Chapel Community.

Hope Well School is located on Mr. Will Small's farm about five miles south of Houston.

Pearsall School is located on Mr. Alec Gordon's place about seven miles south east of Houston.

Accident School is located near Old Shiloh Church, about three miles east of Old Houlka.

Atlanta School is about two miles beyond the little inland town of Atlanta.

Barton is three miles north of Houston or about a mile north of the Houston and Okolona Road.

Berry Line School is located on the Chickasaw and Pontotoc County line.

These are the two teacher negro schools, all are larger, better buildings than the one teacher buildings and some are painted. However the equipment consists mainly of heaters, benches, pupils desks and teachers tables and chairs.

Gillispe School is located south west of Egypt.

Clark School is located on Highway number twenty three, about four miles south of Okolona.

Hope Zion School is located about three miles south east of Hall Hill.

Macedonia School is located about two miles beyond Hope Zion School.

Patterson School is located about south west of Egypt.

Shackleford is located between Van Vleet and Okolona.

Red Bud School is south of Ed De Moville's home which is about two miles west of Egypt.

Pleasant Plains School is about two miles east of McCondy.

Red Oak is in the Shakerag Community about two miles north east of Egypt.

Wilson Branch School is near Van Vleet.

Woodland School is in the negro section of the town of Woodland.

New Houlka School is located in the town of Houlka.

Drake School is located near Egypt.

Chapel Grove School is south west of Okolona.

Pleasant Grove is a three teacher Junior High School. It is located about one and one half miles north of Buena Vista. The building is a modern three room frame building painted white with lots of windows. It has a large level playground, with a basket ball court.

Houston High School is located in the negro section of the town of Houston, near the Kraft Cheese Plant. There are six teachers and ten grades are taught. It is a two story brick building, having three class rooms and principals office downstairs with the auditorium and three class rooms upstairs. The equipment consists of pupils' and teachers' desks, heaters, fire escapes and a fair library. There

are only a few volumes but they are good. The library is located in the principal's office. The teachers are all College or Junior College Graduates except one and some good work is done here. Except for the basket ball goals there is no playground equipment. The children walk to school.

a. The Okolona Negro School is a modern brick building located in the negro section of Okolona. Their grades include only the Grammar School. No special courses are taught in this school as the pupils have the advantages of the Industrial College located in Okolona.

a. The Okolona Negro Industrial College was founded in 1902 by W.A. Battle. It is rated as a Class-A. Junior College. Courses in Education, Commerce, Music, both vocal and instrumental, Dramatics, Trades and Industries along with regular High School and Junior College instruction are taught. The present enrollment being about two hundred. Much progress has been made in the building trades. Many of the buildings on the grounds are the handiwork of the students from the Trades Department. Each year students from Okolona are sent to sister institutions of the American Church Institute for negroes to initiate construction of new buildings. The girls receive special instructions in Home Economics a practical training which gives them a better chance in life.

6. RELATED ACTIVITIES :

a. Chickasaw County has for a number of years realized the importance of Parent-Teachers Association. Most all of our larger schools have the Association, they are encouraged by the County Superintendent to do so, as it is an impossibility for parents and teachers to contact each other in any way. Houlka, has perhaps, the oldest Parent-Teachers Association in Chickasaw County, being organized in 1922.

b. All the schools have bi-monthly faculty meetings, since these meetings stimulate and help each teacher, as he tries to solve his own problem. Each teacher helps the other by having general discussions of these problems as they arise.

c. Most all of our A and B Schools and a few of the smaller ones, both white and negro schools have Cafeteria Lunch-room service. A few who have discontinued the service hope to have them again this Winter, as it is a great assistance to the children both financially and physically.

7. TEACHERS OF TODAY:

a. In the first place, changed living conditions, makes the teacher more fit, both mentally and physically. The teacher is surer of himself, it enables each teacher to have more time to privately think, plan and study. Each teacher must use tact and diplomacy in dealing with certain problems that are sure to arise. Today every teacher shall have a transcript of College Work on file in the office of County and State Superintendent of Education. To teach in our A. Grade School one must be a graduate of a four year Standard College. In order to teach in a B. Grade School a teacher shall have had two years of College Work. A, C. Grade School, one year.

11. PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN COUNTY:

a. A, Negro Junior College is located in Okolona. It is owned by a Company of Northern Men, and they now furnish the money with which it is run. The school consists of an Administration building, President's Home, new Class-room building, laundry and Dormitories for both boys and girls. The Administration building and the new Class-room building are built of brick, the others are wooden buildings.

The importance of this school is the fact that it helps the negroes to be self-supporting and at the same time be trained for their special line of work as they teach a full course of Literary work, Vocational, Music, and Commercial work.

c. Houston has a small Kindergartenx Class, organized this fall, with a class of twelve pupils. It is supervised and taught by Mrs. Otis Putnam. She has converted one room of her home into a class-room for this purpose.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Personal Observation

Interview with County Superintendent.

Mrs. J. C. Hightower

Mrs. J.C. Hightower
County Project Supervisor.

Surp #19

(D)

STORY OF MISS FAIRY GOZA

It has been said that "teachers are born, not made." This can truthfully be said of Miss Fairy Goza. She was born on November 19, 1775, about six miles east of Houston, and has spent more than forty years of her life teaching school, thirty-four of them having been in the Houston public schools.

She attended her first school at old Wakahoota, located about four miles west of Houston. This was a little log building with split log benches, but nevertheless it furnished a firm foundation for "Miss Fairy" as she is familiarly called. After attending various other county schools she entered the Mississippi Norman School, where she graduated in 1896.

It was in the fall of this year that she began her teaching career, her first school being Concord, a one-teacher school where she taught for two years. Other country schools which thrived under her leadership were Pearsall and Pleasant Ridge in Chickasaw and Slate Springs in Calhoun.

In 1903 she began her career of teaching in the Houston public schools. One of the things of which Miss Fairy is justly proud, is the fact that she taught for two years in the Mississippi Norman College with Prof. Abernathy, noted educator in Mississippi. For the past thirty years she has served as primary teacher in the Houston schools, and during this time has spent several summers in school at Knoxville, Tenn., and the Univesity of Mississippi at Oxford.

Now at the close of 1936-37 session, Miss Fairy has resigned on account of her health. Nearly every day one hears the words "How she will be missed", for during these years she has been the "ideal" for hundreds of little boys and girls beginning their school lives. Not only has she taught them reading, writing and arithmetic, but she instilled into their young hearts and minds many traits that aided the parents in laying the foundation of their young lives as well. To these she was more than teacher - she was Comforter, Counsillor, and Peace-maker.

Tears have given place to smiles by her cheerful, assuring manner. To the many hundred childish eyes she was beautiful. But her interest in these little tots did not stop when they left her room, but followed them on through their scholl life and still further into the business world, on into family circles, whichever the case may have been. She has touched countless hundreds of lives scattered throughout the United States, and in many instances has taught the second generation, all rising to call her blessed.

PERSONAL DATA-L. B. REID

Born December 27, 1866.

Family: Old Pioneer stock from South Carolina, who moved into the county and bought land from the Indians, 1835. Gather served during Civil War - was wounded and captured at Gettysburg. He escaped from federal prison at Fort Deleware six weeks after his capture.

Religion: Presbyterian.

Entered Mississippi State College (then A. & M. College) in 1881, and was graduated in 1885. Served as acting Major

of the Battalion in the military organization of the college.
Married on August 29, 1888, Miss Ella Butler of Starkville.
Children: Four daughters and one son.
First teaching position: Assistant teacher in the Preparatory Department of A. & M. College.
Taught in various Mississippi schools, including New Albany,
Spent sixteen years in the teaching profession in Texas, most of that time in the Tyler City School System.
Returned to Houston, Mississippi in 1906 and became superintendent of the Houston City Schools, serving in that position for thirty-one years.
Married on August 7, 1927 - Miss Alice Campbell, of Sherman.
Mason. Has served in various positions in the school organizations of the state.

PROF. L. B. REID RETIRES

On June 1st, 1937, Professor Leland Baskin Reid will complete thirty-one years of service as superintendent of Houston Public Schools and retire to private life.

The editor of The Times-Post was discussing Professor Reids retirement with one of our younger generation a few days ago. He said: "Professor Reid is a genius. To have served continuously for thirty-one years as superintendent of the same school, with all the cross currents that beset our educational system these days, and come through honored and beloved by all the citizenry, the man must be a genius of the highest qualities."

And that expresses the sentiment of the people of Houston. He has the respect and love of the entire community and the people regret that he is leaving the place which he has given the best years of his life.

At the end of this month, Professor Reid will also end fifty-one years as a school man. Before and after graduating from A. & M. (now State College) he taught in Starkville, Texas, New Albany, and other places. Thirty-one years ago he came to Houston (he was born and reared within a few miles of this place) and assumed his duties as superintendent of the local school.

During these years he has watched this school grow from a small one to a large one. He, no doubt, had his ups and downs, but he carried on. Today the Houston school is recognized as one of the leading grammar and high schools of the South. Students from this school are rated high by universities and colleges which they attend after graduation. Hundreds of boys and girls have gone out from this school and are now prominent in the professional and busines world of today. Several of the teachers in the local school received their high school education under Professor Reid. He has at all times held the love and respect of the members of the faculty and student body, past and present.

Professor Reid is a school man. He is recognized by the school men everywhere and as one of the outstanding educators in the State. He made education his life work. He loved it, and he made a remarkable success.

When I asked what he intended doing after his retirement, he said: "Well, I have a little farm up the road which I badly neglected. Maybe I can get up there a little more often and see about it."

Professor Reid, the people of Houston say unto you, "Thou hast wrought a good work. May the days to come bring you the peace and happiness which you so richly deserve.

Education

Chickasaw County

Sec. 1. An Act to incorporate the Male and Female Academy of Houston, in the County of Chickasaw.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, that James Loughridge, Thomas N. Alexander, Thomas N. Martin, Amor R. Moore, George W. Thornton, Winfield S. Featherston and Uriah S. Williams br, and they are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name and style of the Houston Male and Female Academy, and by that name they and their successors shall be capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, in all actions, plaints, suits, matters and causes whatsoever; and they and their successors may have and use a common seal, and alter the same at pleasure, and shall be capable of acquiring and holding real and personal estate, by donations or purchases for the benefit of said institution; and they and their successors ma y make such by-laws as they shall deem expedient for the election of their officers, and for the election and admission of new members for the government of the affairs of said institution, and for the promotion of morality, virtue and learning among the students; and finally may do and perform all other acts for the benefit of said institution which

are incident to bodies corporate and politic, not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of this state.

Section 2. Be it further enacted that said trustees shall annually elect, out of their own number, a president, secretary and treasurer, who shall severally perform the duties prescribed by the president and treasurer.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, that the first meeting of said board of trustees, shall be held in the town of Houston, on the first day of March next, and if a majority of said trustees fail to meet at that time, any three of said trustees may call a meeting by ten days advertisement, previous to the time of said meeting.

Section 4. Be it further enacted that said board of trustees shall hold regular meetings twice in each year, but the president may call a meeting whenever he may deem it expedient; a majority of said board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; in case of the death of resignation of any of the members, the president may at any time appoint a successor.

Section 5. Be it further enacted, That this act may be altered, amended or repealed at the will of the Legislature, with or without the consent of the Corporation.

Secion 6. Be it further enacted that this act takes effect from its passage.

Approved Jan. 24, 1844

Ref: Laws of Mississippi 1844.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Mrs. Maud Harrington Hearne, daughter of Mr. W. A. Harrington of Houston, was graduated from the old Mississippi Normal College under Professor H. B. Abernathy, though Mr. Harrington does not remember the date. During the next two years she taught in the southern part of the state; he does not remember the name of the place, either. She then taught two years at Bluff Springs, Chickasaw County. After that she, with Mr. Huggins of Calhoun City, taught the school at Okolona. It is interesting to note that Okolona at that time, had only a two teacher school. During this time she attended various summer normals. The summer before she married she went on an excursion trip to Yellowstone National Park, California, and other points in the west.

In 1907 or 1908 she was married to Mr. D. M. Hearne. After that she did very little teaching except substitute work in Houston. She died August 15, 1917.

Canvassers:
Mabel Calvin,
Mattie Lee Buchanan,
Elma Holloway

Historical Research Project

Chickasaw County

October 15, 1936

Supervisor:
Mrs. J. W. Stricklan

Subject: Agriculture---Horticulture

Assignment #17

I. Importance of Agriculture in the county:

Since 75% of the population of Chickasaw County is in the rural sections, agricultural interests are naturally the concern of the people of the county. This 75% of the people with only a few exceptions are entirely dependent on the soil for their livlihood. Vegetables from their gardens, bread and meat from the corn and hogs which they have raised, and syrup from the cane patches form the chief foods of the farmer's diet. Cottpn, the cash crop, pays the taxes, repairs leaking roofs, and broken floors, buys clothing, and in some instances a new automobile for the farmers.

A bumper cotton crop such as we have this year, increases the buying capacity of the men and women on the farm. Since 75 to 80% of the merchants products are so consumed his business is naturally better during prosperous seasons; time and experience has proven that when the farmers have a crop failure they do not buy and when there are successful crops they do buy. Merchants say that during the fall of 1930-31-32 nothing except the necessitied of life was sold to the farming class of people because of short crops and low prices; however, that in the fall of 1933 their sales rose considerably, because the country people had done without so long until they had to buy. This was a fairly good crop year and thanks to President Roosevelt the price of cotton rose.

Very little outside employment on the farm is afforded to outsiders in this county. This is probably due to the number of tenant

farmers and also to the fact that there are only a few large plantation owners. The small two- horse farmer can take his family and gather his crop while his neighbor with one to two hundred acres in cultivation has tenant families with enough force to make and gather their crops. The approximate acreage of farmland in the county is 223 147 acres while the average farm is from 80 to 100 acres in size.

The grouth of summer and winter legumes such as Austrian winter peas, Hairy vetch, soy beans, lespedesa, and cow peas, is being practiced by the farmers of this county as a means of conserving the soil. Especially has this been practiced this year, as a result of he "Soil Conservation Act". A little terracing is done on badly washed lands, though to no great extent. Not as much of this is practiced as should be done.

Corn, cotton, peas, beans, sorghum, and sweet potatoes are the crops best adapted to the county. Peas, beans and quite a bit of cotton are grown on the hill lands, while corn and cotton is raised in the bottom lands. Sweet potatoes are especially adapted to the flatwoods area west of Houston. They also do well on the clay loam soil of the Pontotoc Ridge. This year Mr. A. H. Cook, a progressive farmer residing in the flatwoods area is thoroughly convinced that cotton is not the only money crop and has the "goods" to prove it in a large yield of sweet potatoes. He planted three acres and from one of the acres he has dug 370bushels, 310 of which are eating potatoes; the remainder seed potatoes. He is going over this patch a second time and expects to get many more. From the three acres he feels sure he will harvest 1000 bushels of potatoes, and hopes that the crop will bring him $1000. The potatoes are of the Nancy Hall variety and were set out the 5th day of May. On three acres of the same kind of land he planted cotton which has yeilded two bales. He used a

commercial fertilizer, mixed with cotton seed meal for both the cotton and potatoes.

11. Early History of Agriculture:

More agricultural progress had been made prior to the coming of the white man than is commonly supposed. Most of the Indians in this section lived in settlrd villages and practiced agriculture. The first Indian settlement in this county was at the old Indian Agency where old Houlka now is. The presence of the various mounds in the county indicate that there were other settlements. Beans, squashes, pumpkins, gourds, sunflowers, and tobacco were raised but Indian corn, or maize as it was called, was the chief crop. The Indians practiced seed selection, combatted weeds, and sometimes manured land with fish shells. The earlier tribes used forked sticks for eradicating weeds. The union of two such sticks with a leathern thong made a rude mattook or hoe while a larger implement made a plow. The early white settlers had an even harder time than the Indians. The Indians were merely hunters, fishers, and fighters, and depended as much on hunting and fishing for their livlihood as on agriculture. Consequently they did not clear very much land. But the white man being more energetic and more desirous of things other than a mere living set out to clear the land on which to plant a variety of crops. This was very hard because of the swampy nature of some of the land and the lack of implements other tham the broadaxe. The Indians then showed the white settlers how to burn the branches and underbrush so as to expose the earth to the sun, how to break the land with a hoe, to fertilize the land with fish, and most important of all how to plant corn. Four grains of corn and two beans

were dropped at four foot intervals into openings made with an axe or hoe. If possible a fish was placed in each hill. Wheat, tobacco, and various other crops were soon planted, though the wheat failed to produce much grain because of the high temperature and very rich earth. Oxen and crude plows were soon brought into use for breaking and tilling the soil, though the soil was so rich that very little tilliage was required to make the crops grow abuudantly. Cotton was not raised as extensively in the county in the days of its infancy as now because gins were not as numerous as now and much of the cotton had to be picked by hand.

111. Cotton:

In the early days just after the formation of the county, there were not very many people, but the majority of those who were here owned large tracts of land and from twenty-five to one hundred slaves. These plantation owners never did any work themselves but had the slaves to do it. The planting, tilling, picking and in some instances the ginning of cotton, the chief crop, was done by slave labor. Quite a bit of time was required to break the land for a large field of cotton with the rude, ox-drawn plows, and more to drop the seed by hand. Today the land is prepared in the winter or spring with large burster plows suitable to the type of land. For instance, a larger plow is required for bottom lands than for hill land. About April the first planting begins with improved planters, some of which put down two runs at the time. It is then hoed and cultivated with two or four row cultivators at intervals throughout the summer until about July 15th. Not all farmers in the county have cultivators, and only a few have the four row type, but these who do not,use side harrows or steel plows instead. Blooms appear from June 5th to 10th and open boles around August the 1st. It is then picked by hand and ginned with

electrically operated gins. Picking begins from August 10th to 20th and ends from October 1st to November 1st depending upon the locality and crop abundance. Marketing is done on the competitive basis. The farmer takes his sample from one buyer to another until he finally sells to the highest bidder. Ther were 11,000 bales harvested in the county in 1936.

IV. Corn and Forage Crops:

The prosperity of hundreds of farmers in the county is due to an abundant harvest of corn each year. The very fadt that "bread is the staff of life" shows the importance of corn. It constitutes bread for people and animals. It was the chief crop of the Indians and early white settlers, and ranks equally in importance with cotton today. It is consumed at home being used for human and livestock feed. This county produced 600,000 bushels in 1935. The yield will be slightly lower this year (1936). Very little surplus corn is raised and all sales are made locally.

The lime in the soil of the prairie belt makes it especially adapted to the growing of legumes and forage crops. Some alfalfa is grown in this section but the principal hay crop is Johnson grass. In 1935 there was shipped from Chickasaw County 165 carloads of hay, 145 carloads from Okolona and 20 carloads from Egypt. Some of this was alfalfa. Since dairying has become of such importance more of the hay is used locally than ~~grx~~ in former years A fair estimate of of the hay produced in the county would be 300 car loads.The hay shipped from the county was grown in the eastern part of the county.[1]

The western part of the county produces sufficient hay for home consumption and some is sold locally but none is shipped from that section.

Quite a number of farmers use corn stalks and fodder as a forage crop, and some have the entire stalk and ear ground which makes excellent feed,

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1. Interview with S.E.Adams, of Adams and Neubert, Okolona.

others use peanuts with vine and nuts ground together, which is said to be good daiby feed. Clover and other legumes are grown to some extent.

V. Truck Farming:

Cantelopes, watermelons, and sweet potatoes comprise the largest amount of truck farming in this section, however many of the small farmers are adding to this variety. Beans, Irish potatoes, peas and turnips are grown for the market. With the exception of sweet potatoes local truck farmers are dependent upon the towns and villages of this section for sale of their products.

Many of the farmers have their own dry kilns for curing sweet potatoes, and these ar shipped to northern markets in cooperative cars which are sponsored by the County Agent.

Every farm home and almost every urban home has a garden and they cultivate almost every kind of vegetable grown in the south, the most important of these being beans, irish potatoes, onions, radishes, turnips, tomatoes, cabbages,carrots, and butter beans. Most of the products are used at home, however the local markets are furnished during the growing season.

Housewives are very diligent in canning surplus fruits and vegetables for winter season. Especially is this true of resettlement clients who were furnished jars and cans by the resettlement administration. The workers saw to it that the clients canned surplus products. In addition to canned products many families have dried fruits and vegetables and are saving a good supply of peas and beans for the winter season.

VI. Poultry and Livestock:

The census of 1935 showed 6, 117,000 chickens on the farms of this county. Approximately 20% of these produced are sold on various markets. Mr. J.H.Simpson, grocer of Houston buys chickens and takes

them to Memphis to sell. Swift and Co. and local stores also buys a great deal of the produce. No geese, ducks, or guineas are raised except for home use, and very few at that. A great many turkeys are sold in the fall. They are shipped to northern markets in cars arranged for by the County Agent.

Livestock production is confined mostly to home needs. According to the 1935 census there were 20,154 cattle on the farms of the county. Within the past year 20% of those have been sold at the auction barn of Weaver and Hill. Livestock is brought from all parts of the county and sold at public auction to the highest bidder. This gives the farmer an opportunity to market his surplus livestock at a good price.

There are two cheese plants in the county, Kraft and Phenix Co. in Houston and Wilson at Okolona. The two cream stations are the Swift and Co. at Houston and the Carnation Plant in Okolona. Approximately 126,000 pounds of butter fat are sold to these plants annually. Many farmers depend upon their cream or milk check for a living through the summer months. 341,561 pounds of butter were made on the farms of Chickasaw in 1935. A great deal of this was sold on local markets.

There are very few sheep and goats raised. In 1935 there were about 9,433 hogs raised. They are raised for home use, only about 10% being sold on markets.

VII. Rural Home Improvement:

The farm homes in the county 75 to 100 years ago were principally of split or hewn logs with stick and dirt chimneys and shuttered windows. Screens had never been heard of, and it was only by practicing perfect cleanliness both inside and out that flies were kept out. In most cases they were allowed to swarm at will, as the people had not been educated to the fact that flies were carriers of disease and death. In case one did want to kill out a few a trap was made by taking a jar or glasses ~~and~~ of water and covering them with a piece of cardboard with a hole cut in the center and baited underneath with molasses or some other sweet and sticky substance. The flies then went under to taste the sweet and fell into the water. Mosquitoes and gnats were kept off only by making smokes and using mosquitoes netting. No one ever thought of removing stagnant water or digging drainage ditches. Malaria was 75% more prevalent than it is now.

Lighting facilities were extremely bad, homemade tallow candles being the only dependence for light. Few people had cooking stoves and the large open fireplaces with pots swinging from iron rods placed across the fire place, and huge ovens and skillets with iron lids were found in the kitchen of every home. Fire even had to be kept the year around because there were no matches. If a housewife accidently let her fire go out she either had to borrow from a neighbor or start it from a flint rock. Clothes were handmade and many of them were spun and woven at home. Cloth and ready made clothes were so high in price they could not be bought by the average farmer. Sewing machines were equally as high in price. The home made cloth was dyed with a dye made from the bark of different trees. Soap was made of lye water, derived from wood ashes and grease. When boiled together half a day this made a brown jeely-like substance with very good cleansing qualities. Water was drawn

from a well or cistern with a windlass.

There were no telephones or newspapers and news travelled slowly. Letters were the only means of conveying news to friends and relatives in distant or even in adjoining counties. These were received only once or twice a week.

Transportation was either horseback or in log wagons. Okolona was the chief town of the county 50 to75 years ago and all farmers in this section (Houston) bought everything in Okolona. Twice a year trips were made to Okolona in wagons and enough supplies were purchased to last until thme for the next trip to be made. It took two or three days to go there and back. Today with the good roads and automobiles the trip to Okolona and back from Houston requires little more than an hour. More than half of the farmers in the county have automobiles today and only a few roads in the county are impassible even in the winter. Many of the farmers have trucks and transportation of their products is not the problem it was 75 years ago.

Driving through the county over the improved roads of today one sees many well kept farm homes, painted and screened, with neat farm buildings, deep wells, and in many instances electric lights, thanks to T. V. A. With telephones, radios, and daily mail delivery communication on the farm is about as good as in the city now. Within the past three or four years sanitary toilets have been erected, under government supervisbon, for the farmers who wanted them and who could afford to buy the small amount of material it requires to erect them.

This ap lies principally to farm home owners. Tenants' houses all over the county still have room for improvement. Not more than 25% of the tenant houses are screened.

VIII. Modern Agricultural Agencies:

The work of the County Agricultural Agent is two-fold: First he must teach the farmers through demonstration, both method and result, better ways of farming; also how to deal with farm problems in an organized manner. Second, the County Agent represents the department of Agriculture in Chickasaw County in the administration of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The present County Agrn$ has been here about four years and has been very beneficial to the county. He is cooperative , ambitious, and interested in the problems and welfare of the farmers.

The purpose of the Home Demonstration Agent's work is to organize 4-H Clubs and foster better home-making in every place. She also has legislative influence in promoting different types of work in the County, thereby bringing about better government. The meetings of the 4-H clubs and Womens Demonstration Clubs furnish diversion in a social way from the routine of home life and encourages the people to find pleasure in and enjoy rural life.

The 4-H Club is an organization for rural boys and girls from the ages of ten to twenty years. It purpose is to promote better living, teach cooperation and better understanding of home life and to recognize and use the products they have to an advantage. The girls are given training in home making and the boys are trained in the handling of farm problems. Woodland, Thorn, Houlka, Van Vleet, McCondy, Houston, and Egypt have organized 4-H clubs which meet once a month under the supervision of Miss Oswalt the Home Demonstration Agent and Mr. Carpenter, the assistant County Agent.

Woodland has a vocational school under the Smith Hughes Act in which both Home Ecconomics and Agriculture are taught. Houlka has the

same and Egypt has only the Home Economics department.

The Okolona Fair was held during the week of October 14-19. It is the only fair in the county and this is the first time it has been held since the depression. There is a movement on foot to make it an annual affair. The purpose of this fair was to put before the people of the county a demonstration of the progress made in the different phases of life. Important methods of food preservation and better preparation of food were taught by illustration. Different kinds of handwork and handicraft were shown to encourage people to use the materials they have at hand to a good advantage. The importance of producing food for livestock was stressed. Soil conserving crops, such as peanuts, alfalfa, peas, and soy beans was shown. The various farm products showed a diversified system of farming. Probably the two most interesting features were the horse show, the purpose of which was to create a desire for better livestock, and the flower show. This showed the proper arrangement and use of flowers inthe home and the care of potted plants.

Horticulture:

The soils and climate of Chickasaw are adapted to a wide variety of shrubs and flowers. As a whole the home makers of the county are flower conscious and practically all urban homes have flowers of various kinds and many have been landscaped and the arrangement of flowers and shrubs is very pleasing. Some of the shrubs most commonly seen are: of the decidous variety, flowering almond, crepe myrtle, coral berry, hydranga, cape jasmine, spirea, althea, wygela, snow ball, lilac, and others, among the evergreens are the arbor vitae, juniper, abelia, privet, and box wood.

The rose is the most widely cultivated flower, and the dahlia is possibly second in popularity. Others that are grown extensively are, hibiscus, hollyhock, chrysanthemums, several varieties of lilies, narcissus, and other bulbous flowers. Innumerable annuals such as petunia, marigold, salvia, phlox, pinks, larkspur, zenia, verbena, shasta daisy, periwinkle, canterbury bells, snap dragons are grown every year by the flower lovers of the county.

We do not have a nursery in the county.

The rural home owners, in a number of instances, take a great interest and pride in the beautification of their yards. While the rural housewife has not had a surplus supply of cash for the buying of expensive shrubs and bulbs, she has through the assistance and encouragement of the Home Demonstration Agent, exchanged cuttings and bulbs until many homes have beautiful shrubs and blooming plants. The hardy annuals are grown profusely and even the colored tenant families have at least one bed of blooming plants. Some have flowers from early spring when the violet and jonquils first make their welcome appearance, until late fall when frost nips the gorgeous marigolds and chrysanthemums. The rural yards are rarely landscaped indicating that the busy house wife has planted the flowers or shrubs as they were available and as she had

time. Some of the rural homes that are beautifully lanscaped are the DeMoville, Pulliams, Lowery, Ed Dendy, Dr. Davis, Dr. Guinn, Savely, Marion, and Carlisle places. Ther remains a great deal of work to be done along this line.

South Mississippi is becoming one of the largest producers of nursery stock in America. The climatic conditions with its abundance of rainfall makes it one of the best sections of the country forthis line of business. However not many nurseries have been established and this industry should be encouraged due to the fact that every farm should have an orchard to provide fruit for its own use and a surplus for market. At the present Chickasaw County has no nursery.

At this time few farmers in the county have a vision of the importance of orchards, however,the few that have orchards that are paying investments have encouraged their neighbors to plant orchards for themselves. This county, especially the Pontotoc Ridge , is well adapted to orchards and their importance should be stressed more. The farmers not only need nursery stock but they need orchardists who can instruct them in the care of their orchards after they are once planted.

Several years ago Mr. D. F Arndt who lives near Van Vleet,encouraged by the production of a few fruit trees which were planted in his garden, conceived the idea of planting an orchard for commercial purposes. His orchard is located on the pontotoc ridge and consists of several hundred trees of the Elberta, Belle of Georgia, and Hale varieties. The trees grew well and with good care and some fertilizer soon began to produce a large quantity of delicious fruit. Now the demand for Mr Arndt's fruit is so great that he rarely ever has to gather and carry it to market, his customers coming from miles around and buying the fruit there at his home. He also has a limited amount of apples, pears, and grape vines which produce equally as well as his peach crop, however his peach crop is his main source of income. It netted about $600 this year. One has but to view Mr. Arndt's orchard at harvest time to determine that no better fruit can be grown in this section of the country than in the hill section along the Pontotoc Ridge of Chickasaw County.

Several other farmers in the county have nice peach orchards. They are L.M. DeMoville, Egypt, Preston Carter, Morris Ashby, and Kenneth Atkinson at VanVleet. They keep their orchards well spr ayed and well pruned and always have some fruit to sell after all that is wanted is used at home. Mr. J H. Hester who lived three miles south of Houston has seventy-five apple trees. They are very productive and net a nice amount of cash to him every year.

There is only one Garden Club in the county. It draws its membership from the town of Okolona. Their activities are varied and very interesting. A flower day is observed every year This year on flower day an illustrated lecture was given at the theatre on May 25th.In the afternoon of the same day the different beautiful gardens and lawns in Okolona were visited and judged Those entering the contest were Mrs. R. L. Neubert who won first place, Mrs Hansell, second, Mrs. J.T. Lyles, Mrs Tom Gregory, and Mrs S.C.Jones. The garden club enjoyed a garden pilgrimage in May of last year when the beautiful yards and flowers of the town were on display. This club also holds two flower shows each year. One of the beautification projects sponsored by the members is a vacant lot on Main street in Okolona which is very attractively kept by them. It has been an outstanding scenic spot in the city this year.

All of the Federated Woman's clubs in the county, which are about seven in number, are very interested in the promotion of all civic projects. They have at least one program a year encouraging the raising of flowers and shrubs. Exchange days are set aside in the fall and the members exchange cuttings, shrubs and flower seeds. The Twentieth Century

Club of Houston holds a flower show every spring at which time prizes are given for the best displays. The Culture of Houston has as its aim this year the beautification of the new city park. Each member is working diligently on this project. As a climax to the years work a May Day festival at the park is planned.

The O.H.and C.C.Railroad employees at Houston under the supervisorship of the president,Mr. Ethridg e, have started a park and it isfast becoming a beautiful scenic spot of Houston.

Mrs J. W. Strickland

Mrs J. W. Strickland, Supervisor Historical Research, Chickasaw County

Sources of information;
J.C.Barrett, Farm Agent

Miss Oswalt, Home Demonstration Agent

Our State, Holton.

Mrs S.C.Jones, Okolona

Mrs Mabel Adams , Okolona,

Pres. of Clubs.
County Ext Assoc.

Hoofed Animals: Although sheep and goats are not raised extensively in the county, there are few. The meat of both ~~are~~ is edible while the wool from sheep brings from fifty to seventy- five cents per pound. Quite a bit of kid and mutton is sold locally. There is no demand for the milk of the goat.

Cattle are valuable for their milk and meat. Chickasaw County is one of the best dairing centers in the state and a great number of beef cattle are raised. There is a cheese plant at both Houston and Okolona which takes care of about one hundred thousand gallons of milk monthly, amounting to about $12,000. This is practically the only source of income to the farmer through the summer months, and whereas, he used to go to the bank and borrow money to carry him through the spring and summer months, he can now live comfortably without worrying over having to pay back borrowed money. There is always a ready sale for cattle on foot especially yearlings from nine months and older. Several buyers in the county haul cattle to Memphis, Tennessee and thus make a quick turnover and can afford to pay good prices to the farmers. Market price of beef cows is about four cents per pound.

The marketable facilities for hogs in the county is about the same as for cattle. More than 25% of the farmers are now raising hogs for sale, in addition to plenty for home use. Most of them use whey from a cheese plant to feed their hogs and in this way only buy about one half as much feed is required. Hogs bring about nine or ten cents per pound on foot.

Horses and mules are valuable as work animals. Only a few high bred saddle horses are found in the county. Due to the fact that land is very hilly and rows are short the tractor is not used to a very great extent in the county. Therefore horses are of greater value on the farms. They are comparitively scarce and the prices are high.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Bibliography:

J. C. Barrett, County Agent, Houston, Mississippi

Dr. Clytee Evans, M.S.C.W., Columbus, Mississippi

Dr. J.R. Priest, Houston, Mississippi

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Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Canvassers
Miss Mabel Calvin
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Historical Research Project
January-11-1937

Supervisor
Mrs. J.C. Hightower

SUBJECT: INDUSTRY

Assignment Number - 20

A. County's Most Important Industry, or Industries:

The Kraft-Phenix Cheese Corporation, located in the south western part of Houston on the G.M. & N. rail road, was erected in 1928. Built with local capital raised through subscription by the business men and citizens of Houston and surrounding territory. It was supported so well by the people until on August 1st, 1932, milk receipts had attained a thirty day average of over thirty thousand pounds daily. Then the Kraft-Phenix Corporation paid off the stockholders and assumed full control of the plant in September of that year.

At the peak of the season, namely during spring and summer months, thirteen persons are employed with an annual pay-roll of approximately ten or twelve thousand dollars. Around eight hundred patrons furnish approximately fifty thousand pounds of milk daily. The principal product is cheese, which is shipped to northern and eastern markets. Very little is sold locally.

This is the largest and most important industry in Chickasaw County, more people are benefitedd from it than any other one industry. To the people on the farm it means cash every two weeks, without it our rural people would not have but very little ready cash during the summer season and would probably have to go in debt for supplies during the spring and summer. And during the depression, this was practically the only source of cash money for the farmer, as the proceeds from his crop was used to pay debts, such as taxes etc. This industry has not only meant cash to the farmers but has increased the value of their dairy herds.

As the farmer has been educated to the fact that milk from thorough-bred cows, brings greater proceeds than from scrub cows and for that reason has sold his scrub stock and bought thorough-bred cattle. In fact the people of Chickasaw and the adjoining counties feel that this Industry has been a life saver for it has meant a daily sustenance for many of them.

Intensive dairying has always been encouraged and abetted in the Prairie section of Chickasaw County. It has brought into Okolona, milk and cheese plants and other by-products plants of the dairy and poultry industry. The Wilson Packing Company is located in Okolona, and was originally founded by the farmers and local business men of Okolona and the surrounding territory. It was operated on a co-operative basis originally, but in 1936 this plant was purchased by Wilson and Company, which is one of the largest Packing Houses in the United States. The principal products of this plant is the manufacture of cheese, and the market for this is nation wide.

In addition to the Wilson Packing Company's Plant in Okolona, the Carnation Milk Company has installed a large receiving plant in which all milk purchased by them in this area is reconditioned and sent to their larger plant in Tupelo, Mississippi. The product of the Carnation Milk Company is condensed milk and the market for this is almost world wide.

It is estimated that there are fifty employees, who earn their livlihood for themselves and their families from these industries. The estimated pay-roll for both is approximately thirty six thousand dollars annually. These industries contribute a great deal of benefit to the community. These benefits are not confined solely to the weekly and monthly pay-roll to their employees, but more essential is the pay-roll to the patrons of these plants who furnish some thirty thousand pounds of milk daily.

The first Cotton Compress was founded in Houston in the year of 1906, operations were begun in the fall of 1908. It was built by the Newberger Cotton Company. The town of Houston gave the site and paid the taxes for the first five years. It was a frame building and was located in the western part of town at the intersection of the O.N. & C.C. and G.M. & N. rail roads. With a Mr. Vanlandingham as the first superindent.

Later this compress burned, and in 1925 a new and modern compress was built on the old site with a capacity of fifteen thousand bales of cotton. It is now owned by the Mathews Compress Company with Mr. R.E. Burie as local manager. During the fall which is the busy season, about twenty five people are employed, at an average of two dollars per day. The annual pay-roll averages from six to seven thousand dollars.

This is one of the most beneficial aids the County has. For a small amount the farmers of this territory are assured of storage and protection by insurance from fire and theft. Whereas, if they had to carry their cotton home after it was ginned many of them would have no place to keep it other than a shed around the barn and possibly, not even that and then it would be liable to theft, or damage by all kinds of weather. And the local cotton buyers would certainly have no place to store their cotton, were it not for the compress.

B. Private Industries:

The City Ice and Coal Company was incorporated in 1929, with Messers B.H. Baine, G.C. Pratt, E.W. Shots and a Mr. Gibbs, as stockholders. Later, Mr. Shots bought the other stockholders interest and assumed full management. The plant is located in the western part of town on the O.H. & C.C. rail road and operates the year around.

Both coal and ice are sold by the plant, but of course ice is the product manufactured. The plant also has a cold storage room open to the town and county that means so much to the farmers, as well as all other citizens, in storing their perishable produce such as meat etc., at a very small cost.

Ice is delivered by the plant to the citizens of Houston and the surrounding towns and communities in the county. Sometimes it is almost impossible to supply the demand, since Houston has just the one ice plant.

To those who do not have electric refrigeration, the ice plant is almost a life saver. And it is an indispensible necessity to the communities of the county which depends on a regular ice box for the preservation of perishable foods. It is also very essential to cold drink stands and fountains, as they are wholly dependent on the ice obtained from this plant.

Four people are employed regularly at this plant with extra help as occasion demands. The pay-roll amounts to about four thousand dollars annually.

The Cotton Gin owned by Mr. Cecil Dossett, of Houston, is located about three blocks west of the Court Square in Houston, on Highway number eight. It was built in 1924 and was operated for the next six years by Mr. Joe L. Davis. It was idle for the next two years and in the summer of 1933, Mr. Dossett bought the gin and is still operating it.

B. Private Industries: (continued)

During the busy season, about four months in the year, August, September, October, and November, seven men are employed at an average of two dollars and fifty cents per day. As there are no employees after the ginning season is over, this constitutes an average pay-roll of about three thousand dollars per year.

This Gin, during the fall of 1936, ginned one thousand seven hundred and twenty two bales of cotton. About twelve hundred dollars per week was used to buy seed.

The Cotton Gin, in Houston owned by The Hattiesburg Compress Company, is located near the Houston Compress and was built in 1933. This is a modern electric gin and is operated each season by Mr. W.A. Dendy who has been operating cotton gins in Chickasaw county for a number of years. Six men are given employment by this gin during the ginning season, with extra help used during the busiest part of the season. The annual pay-roll being approximately two thousand dollars. One thousand six hundred and twenty nine bales of cotton were ginned during the season of 1936, at this gin.

The Cotton Gin at Buena Vista, was built in 1920, by Mr. W.A. Dendy, of Houston, who operated it continuously until 1932. In 1933, Mr. Cecil Dossett, present owner bought this gin and has operated it since. Du ring the ginning season, five men are employed at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents per day. Seven hundred and forty six bales of cotton were ginned during the season of 1936. Most of this cotton is hauled and stored at the Compress in Houston.

B. Private Industries : (continued)

There are two gins at Houlka, one owned by J.W. Caffey, of Winona, and the other by the Okolona Gin and Brokerage Company of Pontotoc, Mississippi. The Caffey gin was built by the late Mr. D.A. Box, in 1929 and was operated by him, then after his death, his wife assumed the management of it until 1934. It is located about a hundred yards west of Main Street in Houlka.

The other gin was built more than thirty years ago by Mr. Will Andrews, of Houlka, and later rebuilt, on the same site by the Okolona Gin and Brokerage Company.

Woodland also has a cotton gin, built about twenty five years ago by the late Mr. Barry Bays. It is now owned and operated by a Mr. Russell, and is located on the south side of town on Highway number fifteen.

The Cotton Gin in Van Vleet, was built about thirty years ago by the Tupelo Oil Company. It is located near the G.M. & G.C. rail road. Mr. H.B. Carter who lives in Van Vleet, operates this gin and employes four negroes as helpers.

Egypt, Chickasaw County has a gin, which is owned and operated by Mr. J.A. King, of Egypt, who is one of the largest land owners in the County.

The Lumber Industry has always been a source of income and employment for a large number of people of Chickasaw County. In the year of 1870, the late Mr. D.D. Tabb, established a saw mill and gin eight miles south west of

B. Private Industries : (continued)

Houston. He bought large tracts of timber, cutting, sawing and shipping extensively to northern and eastern markets. At that time he operated three to five mills at one time. He had thousands of cross-ties cut and shipped to northern markets, and since no books were kept, it is impossible to estimate the extent of his operations, however he employed an average of thirty to forty men all the time.

Mr. Tabbs son, Jim P. Tabb, went into partnership with him in the year of 1908, and operated the business until 1912. Then they moved to Houston and Mr. Jim P. Tabb assumed full control of the business. He, in turn continued in the lumber and cross-tie business until his death in 1933, when he was succeeded by his son Jim Hugh. The three generations having operated this business since 1870.

There is now, no out-put except to local markets in the lumber part of the business. However the Tabbs have made the cross-tie industry quite a factor in this county, and continue to ship cross-ties to all parts of the country. The cross-tie industry meant quite a bit indeed to the laboring class of people during the recent depression when they were unable to secure other employment.

Mr. J.E. Dendy, with his father and brothers, has operated a saw-mill and planer, since 1903 on their farm six miles south of Houston. Their mill has been quite an asset to the community, in that they have paid cash to the farmers who owned tracts of timber and have given employment to a number of people who other wise would not have been employed. They employ from twelve to fifteen men daily and the average wages paid is about one dollar per day.

B. Private Industries: (continued)

The Toomer Lumber Company, was organized in 1912, in Houston, with a saw-mill and planer. A, Mr. Higginbotham originally owned it and was then purchased by Phillip and Ashton Toomer. It is located in the western part of Houston, at the intersection of the G.M. & N. and O.H. & G.C. rail roads. This mill has furnished employment to an average of forty persons, with an annual pay-roll of about thirteen thousand dollars.

In Okolona is located the plant of Adams and Neubert, known as "The Okolona Brick and Tile Company". This plant produces larger quanities of brick and tile than any plant in this part of the state. The brick being used for building material and the tile for under ground drainage for farm lands. On account of the excellent quality of clay in this section of the county, this plant has gained state wide recognition, for the quality of its products and shipments are made to all sections of Mississippi as well as to the adjoining states. They employ about thirty workers and the estimated pay-roll is about four thousand dollars annually. The plant is of special benefit to local farmers who are able to obtain tile for under-ground drainage for their farm property at reasonable prices which greatly enhances the value of their farms as well as their production.

Located in Van Vleet is a handle factory owned and operated by, " The Dyer Handle Company." This is one of the few factories located in the South which manufactures high grade hickory handles from raw material. They make a specialty of manufacturing axes, picks and hammer handles and various other kinds. The market for their products is almost world wide in that most of the

B. Private Industries: (continued)

manufactured articles are exported to South American, England, Germany and other foreign markets. This factory employs about fifteen men and the annual pay-roll including raw material purchased amounts to twenty five thousand dollars or more annually. This factory is of special benefit to the county, in that it gives part time employment to many farmers living in the rural area, as well as constant employment to the regular hands employed at the factory.

The Borden Manufacturing Company of Okolona, comprises a well equipped black smith shop and foundry operated by Mr. E.L. Borden. This company caters to the manufacture of truck and school bus bodies and express trucks for the Southeastern Express Company. Begining in a small way, Mr. Borden has increased the capacity of his plant until now, he manufactures these products for a large territory in Mississippi. His express truck business is carried on in nearly every Southern State. This plant employs about six men regularly and gives employment to possibly ten others during the busy season. The pay-roll of this plant amounts to about four thousand dollars annually. This plant is of special benefit to the community in, that almost any repair may be made here without the necessity of shipment to other points.

At this time there is only one wholesale establishment located on the east side of Chickasaw County, that being the L.W. Richardson Wholesale Grocery Company, located in Okolona. This company serves Okolona and the surrounding territory and is an asset to the merchants in this area. They employ about five men at an estimated annual pay-roll of six thousand dollars.

B. Private Industries: (continued)

The Boyd Wholesale Grocery, was incorporated in 1932, with Mr. Marvin Boyd as sole owner. It is located on the west side of Court Square of Houston. He handles all kinds of staple groceries, canned goods, and feed stuffs. Two trucks and three salesmen are on the road all the time, and ten counties are serviced by this grocer, namely; Chickasaw, Clay, Webster, Oktibbeha, Choctaw, Attala, Montgomery, Calhoun, Carroll and Grenada.

Mr. Boyd started in business with only a small stock and one truck, he, himself, his wife and one employee, did all the work. Since then, he has more than doubled his stock, has added another truck, (both trucks being of the closed steele type) and he has increased his employees to six, not counting himself of course. In the near future he expects to add another truck and driver. The annual pay-roll for this firm is around three thousand dollars.

The Justice Company, wholesale grocers, was established in 1919 by Mr. C.R. Justice, of Houston, and a few other stockholders. At that time the main wholesale house was located in Houston, while branch houses were located in West Point, Calhoun City and Maben. Now however the main wholesale house is in West Point and Houston and Calhoun City are the branch houses and the one at Maben has been discontinued. The Houston warehouse and office is located in the western part of town about one half mile from the Court Square, and is near the G.M. & N. rail road. The present owners are; Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Justice, now of West Point, Mississippi, Mrs. J.A. Evans, Houston, Mississippi, Mr. W.J. Ray, of Van Vleet, Mississippi, Dr. J.T. Brand, of Prairie, Mississippi, Mr. and Mrs. Felix Rutledge of Houston, Mississippi, and Mr. C.C. Clark, of West Point, Mississippi. This firm handles all kinds of staple groceries, canned goods and feed stuffs. Markets for this firm are thirteen counties, namely; Monroe, Chickasaw,

B. Private Industries: (continued)

Clay, Webster, Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Pontotoc, Lee, Calhoun, Lowndes, Yalobusha, Grenada, and Union. At present five employees are on the regular pay-roll for the Houston branch, but the annual pay-roll varies as extra employees are used during the busy season of the year.

The Bank of Okolona is a new institution, having been chartered in 1931. This institution replaced the Okolona Banking Company, The Commercial Bank and Trust Company and The Merchants and Farmers Bank. All of the three last named were forced to liquidate in 1930 due to the depression. The Bank of Okolona began business under very adverse circumstances due to the fact that the populace had lost so much money in the three closed banks, as well as the fact that on account of the depression and small agricultural crops produced in this area during the years of 1931,32 and 33, retarded the deposits of the Bank. However, with better conditions and restoration of confidence of the people which was greatly enhanced by the creation of the Federal Deposit Insurance, the Bank has shown gradual increase. The Bank is located in a beautiful building on the corner of Main and Silver Streets and is equipped with the most modern fixtures and furnishings. This bank was organized with a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars, with Mr. J.E. McCain as President. The directors being Dr. J.C. Luper, R.C. Stovall, George Shelton, J.E. Edens, and J.E. McCain

In November of 1903, a bank called The Houston Branch of The Okolona Banking Company, was established in Houston on the southwest corner of the Court Square across from the Houston Hotel. Mr. W.A. Tabb, of Houston, was made cashier, a few years later he bought for the town of Houston, Okolona's interest and it was then operated under the name of The Chickasaw County Bank,

B. Private Industries: (continued)

with Mr. A.M. Harley, as President and Mr. W.A. Tabb, Cashier. In 1907 a new brick building was erected on the north side of Court Square and it was occupied by this bank. In 1917, it sold out to The Bank of Grenada.

The first Bank in Houston was established in September of 1903, by Mr. A.M. Harley, who has been in the banking business in Houston continuously since that date. The officers were; Mr. N.B. Crawford, president and Mr. A.M. Harley, cashier. It was located in an old frame building, on the east side of Court Square, and was called The Bank of Houston. Several years later it was sold to The Bank of Grenada, but was still known as The Bank of Houston. It continued under this name until 1917, when it was consolidated with The Chickasaw County Bank, and from 1917 to 1920, Houston had only one bank. Mr. J.T. Thomas, of Grenada being president, Mr. L.B. Bays, of Houston, cashier, Mr. A.M. Harley, and Mr. W.E. Scott Sr., of Houston Vice-Presidents. In 1920 it was bought and reorganized by Mr. J.T. Thomas of Grenada. Mr. Thomas was president and Mr. L. B. Bays, was cashier. Mr. Bays served in this capacity until his death and was succeeded by Mr. J.L. McCracken. Several years later Mr. McCracken was succeeded by Mr. A.M. Spencer. Mr. Spencer served in this capacity until the bank was reorganized. This time Mr. Ashton Toomer was president, Dr. V.B. Philpot, vice-president and Mr. R.E. Atwell, cashier, and Mr. N.B. Woods, assistant cashier.

The Bank of Houlka is a branch of The Bank of Houston, with Mr. G.C. Turner as cashier, and Dr. J.M. Hood and Mr. J.E. Cobb as directors. The capital stock of The Bank of Houston, is $32.500.00, with a surplus of $5.500.00,

B. Private Industries: (continued)

and it is a member of The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In 1920, The Houston State Bank was organized with Mr. Jim P. Tabb, as president, and Mr. A.M. Harley as cashier. It was located in a brick building on the south east corner of Court Square. In November of 1930, this bank moved into a beautiful new two story brick structure, erected for this bank, by the late Mr. Jim P. Tabb, and it will ever be a monument to his memory. It is located on the north west corner of the Court Square and this bank is still operating with Mr. A.M. Harley, as president, Mr. Jim Hugh Tabb, as vice-president, and Mr. Fred Dulaney, cashier, Miss Louise Evans, assistant cashier and Mrs. Fred Dulaney, assistant cashier and book-keeper. This being one of the few banks that did not close its doors during the recent depression. The Capital Stock of this bank is $50.000.00, with a surplus of $12.701.11, liabilities $663.167.28 and assets $663.167.28, and it is a member of the Federal Insurance Corporation.

B. Private Industries: (continued)

Not the least important among the negroes of Chickasaw county, is Walter Stith, who is principal of the Tri-County Industrial Colored School located near Chickasaw Switch, on the O.N. & C.C. rail road. He has perfected a formula for the manufacture of both toilet and laundry soap. He uses cotton seed oil as a base for his product which has thus far, met with the approval of all, who have seen and tried the soap. With the assistance of one helper and very crude machinery, he can manufacture one thousand bars of laundry soap, (15 oz) size, per day. He can sell this at forty cents per dozen bars and realize a very nice profit. The scope of his versatility is shown in the experiment he is now making with paint, which he aspires to manufacture on a large scale. For four years he has worked on his paint formula, and now has a fairly good paint which can be sold for one dollar per gallon in most any color. A white paint is sold for one dollar and twenty five cents per gallon. Material is furnished him by the Standard Oil Company. The white citizens of the county are very much interested in this negro and hope that he can perfect a formula in which the lime rock, which is so abundant in the Prairie section of Chickasaw county, can be used to make a crude barn paint.

In the rural sections of Chickasaw County, agriculture is the chief industry. Cotton, corn and forage crops are the chief agricultural crops. Statistics show that there were eleven thousand bales of cotton harvested in Chickasaw county in 1935, and six hundred thousand bushels of corn. There was shipped from Chickasaw county in 1935, one hundred and sixty five car loads of hay. One hundred and forty five being shipped from Okolona and twenty from Egypt. The

B. Private Industries: (continued)

census of 1935, showed six million, one hundred and seventeen chickens on the farms of Chickasaw county, and twenty thousand, one hundred fifty four head of cattle on the farms of the county and nine thousand four hundred and thirty three head of hogs. They are raised mostly for home use, as only about ten per-cent are sold to markets. Farmers are more independent now, than they were several years ago, due to the increased number carrying on a dairy business. This industry is fast becoming one of the most important industries in the county.

Working hand-in-hand with the Banking Industry of Houston are the merchants, making possible an excellent business and Industrial Activity from the stand point of trade advantages.

C. Public Industries:

Originally, the Power Plant of Houston was owned by the town and was located just south of the O.N. & C.C. rail road. In 1924 the city voted unanimously to sell the Plant and all equipment to the Mississippi Power Company, for a cash consideration of more than twenty thousand dollars. They also granted this company a twenty five year franchise. Under the agreement made, the City retained the water system, and the electric power for pumping the water, furnished the city was to be supplied by the Mississippi Power Company, at about three cents per kilowatt.

C. Public Industries: (continued)

The local office of the Mississippi Power Company is located on the north side of Court Square. Two men are employed regularly, with extra help called when needed. The annual pay-roll being about three thousand dollars. Electricity furnished by this company has meant much to the town of Houston and surrounding territory. Efficient power has been furnished to run any and all kinds of machinery or lighted proposition that has been established in or near Houston. Lights, electrical equipment and appliances mean as much or possibly more to a community than any other one industry from the standpoint of luxury and convenience. It really is a luxury. To the town of Houston it means well lighted streets, homes, churches, and all Public and Business establishments. The women especially enjoy electrical appliances, as it makes house keeping a joy instead of a drugery. These appliances are reasonably priced and so is the rate of current and some of the appliances are priced within the reach of a large number of the homes.

Okolona's water department is owned by the town, and the water is furnished the town from deep wells, located at the Plant. It is distributed over the city by means of a net-work of water mains, supplied from a high steel tank.

The town of Okolona gets electric current from T.V.A., at a very low rate to the consumers. This feature should encourage the settlement in our community of large industrial manufacturing plants. About ten men are employed in Okolona's water and power systems with an annual pay-roll of about seven thousand five hundred dollars.

C. Public Industries: (continued)

The village of Woodland and surrounding rural communities get their electric current from an independently owned company, known as The Tri-County Power Company. The Plant is located in the business section of Woodland, near the G.M. & N. rail road and is operated by Mr. Walls, of Woodland.

The Mississippi Power Company supplies the little town of Houlka with electricity, with an extension of the line from Houston. The equipment and lines are maintained by the employees from the Houston office of the Mississippi Power Company.

The electricity for the small villages of Van Vleet, Buena Vista and Egypt is furnished by the T.V.A..

Houston's first telephone system was installed in 1896, by a Mr. Mosely. This was a privately owned company, and there were only two or three phones in operation. In 1905 or 1906, Dr. J. Rice Williams, of Houston bought it, but soon afterwards sold it to the Cumberland Telephone Company. Later it was consolidated with the present Southern Bell System. Their offices are located on the south side of Court Square, upstairs over the C.A. Davis Grocery Store. Five persons are employed, with Miss Maude Raglin as manager of the Commercial Department and Mr. J.L. McBride manager of the Plant Department for the entire county. The annual pay-roll for this office being approximately five thousand dollars.

C. Public Industries: (continued)

Okolona is served by a net work of telephone and telegraph lines operated by the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company and is one of the latest types. Their offices are located on Main Street upstairs over Ligon Drug Company. There are four people employed in this office, with Mr.J.L. McBride of Houston, being manager of the Houston and Okolona offices. Construction work by this Company during the year gives employment to a large number of linemen, operators and common laborers.

Okolona and surrounding territory is served by the main line of the Mobile and Ohio rail road. A, round house and small rail road shops are located in Okolona, which is a relay between Meridian and Jackson, Tennessee. The Okolona, Houston and Calhoun City rail road also serves Okolona and territory. It is a short independent line running from Okolona to Calhoun City, in Calhoun County and intersects the M. & O. rail road at Okolona. It traverses a good farming and forestry area and does a good business in the transportation of agriculture and forest products as well as furnishing a convenience of travel for the public. The benefits to communities derived from these arteries of commerce are beyond expression in word. In that they make it possible for shipment and receipt of raw and manufactured products to and from all parts of the nation as well as the accomodation afforded for travel.

In January of 1904, a branch line of the Mobile and Ohio rail road was built through Houston, running from Okolona to Houston, and later the line was extended west from Houston to Calhoun City, in Calhoun County. For nearly thirty years, it did a flourishing business, but due to the recent depression

C. Public Industries: (continued)

and a general slump in business, it ceased functioning in 1933. Very soon afterwards Mr. W.N. Ethridge bought this line and it was incorporated under the name of Okolona, Houston and Calhoun City rail road. At present, it provides four motor trains daily, through Houston from Okolona to Calhoun City, and two steam mixed trains that carry passengers and freight. The depot of the O.H. & C. C., is located north west from Houston's Court Square, about four blocks away. This line maintains it's General Office, and also it's repair shops in Houston, with a limited number of workmen employed in the shops. Mr. W.N. Ethridge, is President, Eugene B. Ethridge, Vice-President and General Counsel, W.N. Ethridge Jr., Vice-President and Secretary, Mr.R.L. Howell, Auditor and General Manager, Miss Orin Ford, Assistant Auditor and Car Accountant, and Mr.R.G. Wharton, Superintendent and all are citizens of Houston.

The O.H. & C.C. rail road also has a subsidiary Bus Line, which opened up new territory to Houston in November of 1936. It is known as the Normis Transport Company, deriving it's name from the two words (North Mississippi). It opera tes one motor service each way, daily from Aberdeen, in Monroe County, through Gibson, Egypt, Buena Vista, Houston, Vardaman, Derma, Calhoun City, Graysport, Grenada and Charleston and then returns. It is moderaly equipped for this kind of service.

With the Normis Transport Bus Line installed, Houston has fourteen transportation services in and out of town each day, thus making it possible for the people of Houston to have connection to all parts of the country.

C. Public Industries: (continued)

The Gulf, Mobile and Northern rail road was built through Houston, and Chickasaw County in 1905. Their depot for Houston was located one half mile west of the Court Square, with a Mr. Ford as their first local station agent. This rail road operates through trains from Mobile, Alabama to Jackson, Tennessee, and from New Orleans through Jackson, Mississippi to Jackson, Tennessee. There are four to six freight trains operated on this line daily. Two modern gas-electric trains and two of the famous Rebels provide daily passenger service on this rail road. Mr. Henry Wilson being the present, capable station agent in Houston, with his son Henry Jr., as freight clerk and Mr. Weeks as night agent.

The Gulf, Mobile and Northern rail road operates a Bus Line through Chickasaw and adjoining counties, known as the Gulf Transport Company. This Company has a modern bus going north to Pontotoc, in Pontotoc county in the morning and south to Ackerman, in Choctaw county in the afternoon.

Says the Times Post, a Chickasaw County Paper, located in Houston. " This road with the facilities offered by the O.H.& C.C., and the Normis Transport Line provides direct connection with the Mobile and Ohio rail road in Okolona, and the Illinois Central in Grenada, or the equivalent of three north and south routes to the great manufacturing and wholesale sections of the north and the great sea ports of the Gulf Coast.

The Charter of Incorporation of Houston Coca Cola Bottling Company was given March 4th, 1908. Names of the incorporators were: C.C. Clark, of West

C. Public Industries: (continued)

Point, Mississippi, Hugh Smith, of Meridian, Mississippi, and W.G. McGill, of New Albany, Mississippi. The location to be in Houston, Mississippi with a capital stock of five thousand dollars. In 1912, Mr. Clark bought the interest of the other stockholders and assumed full control of the Plant, and has operated it continuously since that date. The Coca Cola Bottling Company has prospered under the ownership and management of Mr. Clark and is now housed in a new brick building located about one half block east of Court Square. This Plant is equipped with the most modern machinery available for the manufacture of Coca Cola and other soft drinks. The capacity being eighty five cases per hour, making it possible for this plant to supply Chickasaw and Calhoun counties with Coca Cola and other drinks manufactured by this type Plant. Seven people are employed regularly, with extra help during the summer season. The annual pay-roll being about ten or eleven thousand dollars. Mr. S.U. Hodges being the present manager and Miss Agatha Hill book-keeper.

D. City and County Chambers of Commerce:

The organization of the Okolona Chamber of Commerce was completed October 1st, 1934. Okolona showed her first inclination to emerge from the lethargy in which she had been floundering in the past four years, when the Okolona Chamber of Commerce was organized. The business men of the town banded themselves togethar in a civic organization whose object was to make Okolona a better place in which to live and work, and not only Okolona, but her environs.

To this end considerable time was spent in procuring the service of a secretary experienced in Chamber of Commerce Work, who could see the needs of a community like ours and help us realize our civic aspirations. So finally, Mr. Joseph L. Bowles, native of Augusta, Georgia, came to us from South Carolina and on the following Monday entered upon the duties of Secretary of the Organization.

There are two outstanding things that the Chamber of Commerce has tried to do, and that is, first help the farmers find a market for their products and second to help the retail merchants get more business by extending Okolona's trade territory.

The Okolona Chamber of Commerce at one of their meetings voted on, bringing T.V.A. to Okolona, as one of its activities. Application for power was made by Okolona and a financial survey made on September 10th and 11th of 1935.

The Chamber of Commerce was glad to announce that Okolona had been chosen as headquarters for the recreational area lying between Pontotoc, Houston and Okolona, known as the Natchez Trace Forestry, Pasture, Recreational Area and Game Preserve and officially called Mississippi Project A-2.

A list of accomplishments credited to the Chamber of Commerce in her first two months were as follows: Retail survey, dairy survey, housing survey, game preserve headquarters.

The Chamber of Commerce has brought more publicity for Okolona than any other organization known. Visitors to the city from every section of the state have something to say about the " come back " Okolona.

The Houston Chamber of Commerce came into existence just as many other Chambers of Commerce have been born; the result of the need for an organization devoted to the advancement and progress of the town. Previous to April of 1935, there were several organizations in Houston of which the Houston Exchange Club was probably the leader. This Club, in the course of it's activities, had accomplished much for Houston and in seeking further advantages felt it's limitations, as all Civic Clubs are limited in the scope of their activities.

Naturally, the membership of the Exchange Club, like all Civic Clubs is limited and has certain proscriptions that make them unavailable to general community membership. The Houston Exchange Club was composed of the outstanding leaders of the community. Sensing the need of their town they quickly decided that a Chamber of Commerce was much needed. Then followed a canvass of the leaders of the Town and a large measure of success responding to this move, the Ch amber of Commerce was organized. A Constitu tion was adopted and a form of Government was set up. It was composed of a Board of Directors who in turn elected the following officers: President, W.N. Ethridge; First Vice-president, D.M. Hearne; Second Vice-president, J.H. Tabb; Treasurer, Ashton Toomer; and Secretary, J.S. Hickman. But Secretary Hickman could only devote part of his time to the work and then was overtaken by a very serious illness which resulted in his withdrawal from all kinds of activities.

It now became evident that the services of a full time Secretary were required by the Chamber of Commerce. Then a Committee was formed to secure pledges and guarentees of a fund sufficient for this purpose. This was done and

D. City and County Chambers of Commerce: (continued)

th e Chamber of Commerce of the United States was contacted so as to secure the service of a trained man. These negotiations resulted in the employment of Secretary F.M. Holbrook who took over the work on July 6th, 1935. Headquarters were opened in the City Hall where space had been kindly donated by the Municipal Government in a most friendly spirit of co-operation.

At this time the W.P.A. of the Federal Relief was planning projects for the employment of Relief Workers. The Chamber of Commerce devoted it's entire energy to planning and securing projects that would be of the greatest general public benefit and of a lasting nature. In the Chamber of Commerce, plans and drawings were made for a Grammar School, Vocational School, City Hall, Street Paving, Airport, Municipal Park and a Swiming Pool. Effort was devoted to securing a Cold Storage Warehouse. The Chamber of Commerce also undertook the task of securing a new concrete bridge on Highway Fifteen, over the O.H. & C.C. railroad just north of the Houston Hospital.

This Organization was now a veritable bee-hive of work. At one time there were more than twenty people and volunteer workers in the Chamber of Commerce working under the direction of the Secretary in the preparation of estimates and materials for these projects. Farm to Market Roads were urged on the County Board of Supervisors by the Chamber of Commerce. In this manner th ey secured approval of all but one of these projects.

In the meantime the question of paving the Highways of Mississippi had developed to a point where a program was submitted by the Citizens Highway Committee and funds were provided by the Federal Government. In the scramble to get paved roads, Highway Fifteen was entirely omitted. The Houston Chamber of Commerce accepted the invitation of a group from Pontotoc and joined with them in organizing the Mississippi Highway Fifteen Association. Officers of the Houston

D. City and County Chambers of Commerce: (continued)

Chamber of Commerce were elected officers in the new Association. Aided by the Houston paper, The Times-Post, the Chamber of Commerce was in the van in completely organizing the Counties along this Highway. Another and most important project that commanded the attention and efforts of the Chamber of Commerce was the Natchez Trace. This has received extraordinary support of the Houston Chamber of Commerce and it's officers have journeyed to Washington at their personal expense in the interest of this great Parkway.

The Houston Chamber of Commerce has been in existence nineteen months and points with pride to a long list of accomplishments which have redounded to the benefits and progress of Houston and Chickasaw County. Through it's efforts it put on the Chickasaw County Centennial Celebration in July of 1936. This was a three day celebration and it brought eighteen thousand visitors to Houston. The entire County rallied to the support of the Chamber of Commerce and made the Centennial a huge success. Permanent achievements include a new concrete bridge on Jackson Street over the O.H. & C.C. railroad; Municipal Park; Airport; Cold Storage and Warehouse; Swimming Pool; Farm to Market Roads; and the placing of Highway Fifteen on the State Paving Program. These have been accomplished and other of it's projects are to be started in the near future. It is now negotiating for a new manufacturing plant. Houston has received an enormous amount of publicity through the Chamber of Commerce and letters of commendation have been received from all over the State of Mississippi and from many points in other states.

ASSIGNMENT #20 INDUSTRY

Information received on this Assignment from personal interviews and from

The Times Post.

Mrs. J. C. Hightower

Mrs. J.C. Hightower, Supervisor
Chickasaw County.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Canvassers
Miss Mabel Calvin
Miss Margaret Shell
Mrs. Elma Holloway

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
March-12-1937

Supervisor
Mrs. J.C. Hightower

ASSIGNMENT # 25

Subject : TRANSPORTATION

1. OLD ROADS :

Natchez Trace :

The earliest and most famous of the public highways which traversed the state of Mississippi was the so called Natchez Trace. Its origin and history is interesting.

All the vast region extending north and east of the Natchez District for nearly five hundred miles to the distant white settlements on the Cumberland River in Tennessee; and to those on the Oconee in Georgia, was undisputed Indian territory, with the single exception of the limited area on the Tombigbee and Mobile Rivers, to which the Indian title had been extinguished by France and England in former years. The Natchez District was remote and difficult of access. Intercourse with the U.S. was by the laborious ascent of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to the Kentucky, and Tennessee settlements, or else over the lonely Indian trace which led for five hundred miles through the lands of the Choctaws and Chickasaws, to the Cumberland River. Consequently soon after the organization of the Territorial Government of Mississippi, the Federal authorities empowered General Wilkinson, then in command of the United States troops at Natchez and Fort Adams, to enter into certain negotiations with the Indian tribes south of Tennessee, one of the principal objects being to obtain the Indians consent to open public roads and mail routes from the settlements of the Natchez District, to the frontier settlements of Tennessee and Georgia. In pursuance of these plans, the Treaty of Chickasaw Bluffs was concluded October 24th, 1801, whereby the Chickasaws conceded to the United States the

Natchez Trace : (Continued)

right " to laycut, open, and make, a convenient wagon road through their land between the settlements of Mero District in the state of Tennessee, and those of Natchez in the Mississippi Territory; and the same shall be a highway for the citizens of the United States and the Chickasaws." Also the Treaty of Fort Adams, concluded December 17th, 1801, with the Choctaws, whereby that nation consented " that a convenient and durable wagon way may be explored, marked, opened, and made through their lands; to commence at the northern extremity of the settlements of Mississippi Territory and to be extended from thence, until it shall strike the lands claimed by the Chickasaw nation; and the same shall be, and continue forever, a highway for the citizens of the United States and the Choctaws.

In November of 1801, General Wilkinson asked the Assembly through Governor Claiborne to immediately appoint Commissioners to mark a route for a permanent highway from Grindstone Fork by way of Fort Adams to the line of demarcation, whereupon he would build the road. The road from the National boundary to Natchez was laid out in 1802.

April 21st, 1806, Congress appropriated the sum of $6,000 for the purpose of opening the road through the Indian country in conformity to the above treaties. This appropriation was followed by another appropriation of $ 3,000 in 1809, which sums were used to convert the old Natchez Trace from an Indian foot and bridle path into a usable wagon road. Thus the ancient trail leading from the section about Nashville was established as a National Highway in 1806, connecting the white settlements that had sprung up in the Spanish, French, and later the English territory on the lower Mississippi.

In 1815, a committee of Congress, appointed to inquire into the expediency of repairing and keeping in repair, the road from Natchez to Nashville,

Natchez Trace : (Continued)

reported in favor of an appropriation for that purpose.

The Natchez Trace crossed the Tennessee river a few miles below the Muscle Shoals at " Colbert's Ferry," and thence pursued a southwestern course through the country of the Chickasaws and Choctaws, to the Grindstone Ford, on the Bayou Pierre; thence ran south and west to Natchez; South of Natchez it followed the general trend of the river to the line of demarcation.

Much history has been compiled concerning the Indian trails which were used prior to the coming of the white man. In the forty-second annual report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, published by the Smithsonian Institute is an artiale headed " The Natchez Trace." It begins: " When the whites first came into middle Tennessee they found an Indian path or trace running from the former Indian settlements around Nashville to the Chickasaw towns about Pontotoc in northern Mississippi, where it connected with trails leading to all sections of the Southern United States. The middle Tennessee whites called it the " Chickasaw Trace, because it went to the Chickasaw towns, but later it was known as the Natchez Trace." As early as 1796 or 1797, however it was a post road.

The old Chickasaw Trace and later the Natchez Trace passed from Nashville through the following points in Tennessee, near Belleview, Davidson County; near Liepers Fork, in Williamson County, near Leather-Wood in Maury County; through Gordonsburg, in Lewis County; near Victory in Wayne County. It then passed into Alabama. At or near Dart, in Lauderdale County, the Natchez Trace left the old Chickasaw Trace near Alsboro, in Colbert County, and thence passed into the state of Mississippi, where it went through Tishomingo, Saltillo, and on to the mass of Indian trails and Chickasaw towns in Pontotoc County. Here the old Tennessee-Chickasaw Trace ended, but it connected with other Indian trails leading to all parts of the United States.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 23

Natchez Trace : (Continued)

Leaving the Chickasaw region in Pontotoc County, the Natchez Trace continued on to Natchez over another Indian Trail, passing through or near the following towns; Houston in Chickasaw County; Mathiston in Webster County; French Camp in Choctaw County; Kosiusko in Attala County; Thomastown in Leake County; Canton in Madison County; Clinton and Raymond in Hinds County; Port Gibson in Claiborne County; Washington in Adams County, to Natchez. When the Indians agreed to let the United States Government cut the Trace through their country it was understood that the Indians had the first claim to put up taverns and control ferries over the rivers along the way.

A well founded tradition has it that General Jackson's command, when on his march to the defense of New Orleans in the latter days of 1814, passed along this line to Natchez and camped for the night in an old Indian field in Chickasaw County, finding a nearby luscious spring on the road leading from Pontotoc to Houston. The old field, soon after the close of the war of 1812, became a part of the farm of Louis Isbell, a pioneer settler of Chickasaw County. The command, marching south, followed the Natchez Trace, crossed Houlka Creek at what was then known as McLaughlin Ford just above the John C. Holliday turnpike passing through the Adam K. Craig farm, thence crossing Pettigrew Creek, and marching along the ridge skirting the western line of the corporate limits of the town of Houston, and through the farm of Robert Dulaney south of Houston.

In 1917 the Society of Daughters of the American Revolution erected monuments at intervals all along the Natchez Trace. The boulder in Chickasaw, stands on the southwest corner of the Court Square in Houston and has the following inscription carved thereon:

This monument marks the Natchez Trace through Chickasaw County by the Treaty of Pontotoc in 1832. The Chickasaws ceded to the United States Govern-

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 23

Natchez Trace : (Continued)

ment their lands east of the Mississippi in 1801 - 1802. The old Indian trail was converted into a wagon road and became known as the Natchez Trace. Over it from the older Southern States came our pioneer fathers to plant a new civilization. De Soto crossed the trail in his march through the lower south and fought and lost the battle of Chicaco, near the town of Red Land. Presented to the citizens of Houston and Chickasaw County by Mississippi Society of Daughters of American Revolution, February 23, 1917.

Gaines Trace Road :

It is not generally known that the famous Gaines Trace road passed through Chickasaw County, however, this is the case, and Old Houlka was its southwestern terminus.

About the time of the widening of the Natchez Trace into the National Highway, General E.P? Gaines and his brother George S. Gaines, blazed out the way for trade by pack horses over the Gaines Trace, which led from " Colberts Ferry," a few miles below Muscle Shoals on the Tennessee river to St. Stephens on the lower Tombigbee. It then followed the backbone of the country by a straight shoot to Cotton Gin Port in Monroe County, about eighty or ninety miles. At Cotton Gin Port this road crossed the Tombigbee River, and thence southwest uniting with the Natchez Trail at the Chickasaw Agency, near the present site of Old Houlka, about the boundary line between Pontotoc and Chickasaw Counties. Another branch turned southeast through the prairie, running not far from Baldron and West Point to Waverly in Clay County and St. Stephens on the Tombigbee.

This Gaines Trace road now continues due west to New Houlka and on through Chickasaw into Calhoun County. That Old Houlka was the original terminus, however, is borne out by Lusher's map of 1835.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 23

(Continued)

Gaines Trace Road :

Major Gaines, in his Reminiscences of Early Times in the Mississippi Territory, written for the Mobile Register, says; "In October 1810, I received instructions from the Secretary of War to proceed to the Chickasaw Nation and endeavor to obtain permission of the Indians to open a wagon road from Colbertis Ferry to Cotton Gin Port, on the Tombigbee and make arrangements to transport the goods thence to St. Stephens. I set out immediately, in obedience to my instructions, had an interview with the leading Chiefs of the Chickasaws, who objected to opening the wagon road, but promised facilities and safety for the transportation of goods for the Choctaw trading house, on pack horses, at a very moderate expense. Lieut. Gaines, by order of the War Department, had six or seven years before this time, surveyed and marked out the road I was instructed to open."

After purchasing his supplies, Mr. Gaines says; " I then returned on horseback to Colbert's Ferry, on the Tennessee, made arrangements for receiving and packing the goods to Major Pitchlyn, at the mouth of the Ostibbeha, below Cotton Gin Port. I proceeded to Major Pitchlyn's and with his aid arranged for transporting the goods down the Tombigbee to St. Stephens.

(Mississippi - Vol-11)

(Jeff Busby's Article on the Natchez Trace)

(Centennial Edition of The Times-Post in 1936)

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 23

1. OLD ROADS :

About three miles north of Houston, on what is now Highway fifteen, there was at one time a toll bridge, built by Mr. Henry Halliday. Another toll bridge or turn pike was located about three miles east of Houston on Highway number eight, in Houlka bottom, it was then known as the Aberdeen road, and was built by Mr. Bill Williams. This pike was built like a railroad trestle, due to the fact that Houlka bottom overflowed to such a great extent. A small fee was charged for each team and horse back rider who crossed these bridges and the funds received, were used for the upkeep of the bridges.

It is not known exactly when these bridges were built, but they were built before the Civil War.

In order to avoid the payment of this toll, a road was built, by which travel could be directed away from the toll bridges. This road began at what is now the Walter Alexander place, about four miles north of Houston, going through Houlka and Sokolohoma Creek bottoms by the Charles Evans place, then to Ervin Calvin's place thence due east from there to Mount Olive Church, and running in a southeastern course to the Aberdeen road. This road is not now in existence, it having been abandoned nearly thirty years ago.

There were two old stage coach routes which operated in Chickasaw County in the sixties, but nothing definite could be obtained about them, except that one operated in the western part of the county, and the other in the northeastern part of the county, and this one went through the Prairie Mount vicinity and on into Aberdeen and along this route there were taverns for the entertainment and accommodation of foot, horseback and stage coach travelers.

A road which ran from Buena Vista to Pontotoc was probably established before the county's beginning; since it was named for an Indian, Simon Burney, living in Chuqu atonchee bottom. Burney was a large landholder and a leader in

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 23

1. OLD ROADS : (Continued)

his community. This was called the Barney Road and ran from Buena Vista through Sycamore in a northwest direction by the old Asbury Church on by the Witches Dance, which is about two miles southwest of Van Vleet, and from there almost due north to Pontotoc. This road was at first only an Indian trai l, but as time went on, improvements were made and it finally became a good road, as far as good roads went in those days. This road was also abandoned but a small part of the old road is now included in the local road, running from Highway number eight , northward to Van Vleet, a distance of about eight miles.

The present Houston and Okolona road was called the Fulton road for this road, as long and out-of-the-way as it was, was the only one by which Fulton could be reached.

11. THE PRESENT HIGHWAYS OF THE COUNTY :

From small Indian trails, the road system of Chickasaw County has developed into a network of highways and good local roads. In the early days of the county the roads were worked principally by slaves and after the abolition of slavery by the negro tenants of the farm owners. For instance, every man living on a certain road sent his men out to work on the road two or three days per month. They were supervised by road overseers, appointed by the Board of Police, later called the Board of Supervisors. For a short time the roads were worked with convict labor; h owever, this did not prove to be satisfactory, and was abandoned.

The importance of land highways and roads has been enhanced, with the expansion of the railroad systems of the State and counties, river transportation having been placed in the background of modern means of communi cation and commercial agencies. The rapidly increasing use of the automobile by the pleasure

CHICKASAW COUNTY.

Assignment #23

11. THE PRESENT HIGHWAYS OF THE COUNTY: (Continued)

seeker, the business man and the farmer, has tended to call attention to the State and its public men to the necessity of keeping in line with the good roads movement which has attained a National activity.

Chickasaw County was not one of the first to show the most enterprise in the improvements of her highways, however, at present, Chickasaw is divided into five road districts, called beats. Each beat has a road supervisor, elected by popular vote for a term of four years, who attends to the upkeep of the roads and bridges in the county; each hiring a crew of men to work the roads in his beat.

The Board of Supervisors in Chickasaw County is composed of five members namely; J.C. Alford, Houston, Beat One; C.E. Chrestman, Houlka, Beat Two; E.A. Anderson, Okolona, Beat Three; W.R. Doss, Houston, Route, Beat Four; and J.E. Dendy, Woodland, Route, Beat Five. Mr. J.C. Alford, is President of the Board.

Other than C.W.A., F.E.R.A. and W.P.A. funds, there are no Federal and State appropriations for roads in this county. The total amount of such funds cannot be learned. All money from the Relief Agencies has been expended on local and farm-to-market roads. The patrolmen and other workers on the highways are paid from the state maintenance funds.

No county bond issues or appropriations have been made since 1929. The county roads are supported by taxation and automobile license funds.

In 1931 the general maintenance fund in Chickasaw County amounted to $80,956.21; in 1933, $ 35,212.30; in 1934, $ 46,936.28, and in 1935, $ 37,754.62.

United States Highway forty-five, traverses only a few miles of Chickasaw County, and this is the only National Highway in the county. This is a branch of the main highway and extends from Shannon to Macon (in Mississippi). It runs from the Lee County line, a few miles north of Okolona, to Monroe County line,

11. PRESENT HIGHWAYS OF THE COUNTY : (Continued)

southeast of Okolona, and is well graded, well drained and graveled and is about twenty feet wide.

Other highways are number eight, fifteen and twenty-three, these are State roads. Highway number fifteen runs from the Tennessee line southward into Alabama crosses the counties of Tippah, Union, Pontotoc, Chickasaw, Webster, Choctaw, Winston, Neshoba, Newton, Jasper, Jones, Perry, Greene, and George. It is graveled and in good condition, however there is quite a bit of construction underway at present on this road, it is included in the $42, 000,000 paving bill program passed in 1936.

Highway number eight runs from Aberdeen to Grenada, a distance of about ninety miles or more. This is a good, graveled road about sixteen feet wide, well drained and is graded often. Some of the bridges, especially those in Chuquatonchee bottom, are not very good.

Highway number twenty-three runs from Egypt to the county line north of Okolona and is a branch of U.S. Highway forty five. This road runs through the prairie section of the county and is very pretty, being a broad, level, graveled road which is kept in good condition and has good concrete bridges.

The secondary roads of the county are, in general, not very good. A few are graveled and in good condition. Some are good dirt roads with native gravel ; while a number of them are dirt roads and are not passible during bad weather.

The Gulf Mobile and Northern Railroad operates a bu s line through Chickasaw and adjoining counties, over Highway number fifteen, known as The Gulf Transport Company. The bus serving this county runs from Pontotoc in Pontotoc County, to Ackerman in Choctaw County, making one round trip daily. A modern, comfortable bus is used and good connection is provided with the Illinois Central railroad at Ackerman, also with the Tri-State bus which runs from Columbus through Ackerman to Jackson.

11. THE PRESENT HIGHWAYS OF THE COUNTY: (Continued)

The Normis Transport Company operates buses through Chickasaw County, from Charleston in Tallahatchee County to Aberdeen in Monroe County. This line is owned and operated in connection with the Okolona, Houston and Calhoun City Railway. It was established in December of 1936, and provides direct connection with the Mobile and Ohio railroad in Egypt, and the main line of the I.C. railroad in Grenada and the branch line of the I.C. at Aberdeen. The Normis Transport line gets its name from the two words " North Mississippi." The buses are all new and up-to-date and one round trip is made daily.

111. RAILROAD PIONEERING IN COUNTY :

Before the building of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad through Chickasaw County, all its marketable products and the purchased supplies were transported on wagons to and from the Tombigbee River at Aberdeen a distance of about thirty miles. The travel of her people was either on horseback, on wheeled vehicles, on boats, or old fashioned stage coach, as the distance the person wished to travel might direct the choice of the mode of travel. Great privation was suffered by the people from the formation of the county up to the building of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad for the want of transportation and travel.

In 1848, Honorable John J. McRae, (later, Governor of the State) came to Houston as agent and advocate of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad th en in its infancy, and explained to the people the purpose of the company and asking the cooperation and assistance along the line of the contemplated route, representing to the people that the road would be built somewhere through this county west of the Bigbee River. Governor McRae appointed R.G. Steele, James Gillespie and

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 25

III. RAILROAD PIONEERING IN COUNTY : (Continued)

T.N. Martin, commissioners for the railroad company. They were to open the books for subscription for stock in the railroad company and to call meetings of the people at such times and places as they deemed proper, and with the books, meet the people, and solicit subscriptions for capital stock in the company.

T.N. Martin, being editor of the only News Paper published in Chickasaw County at that time, appointed times and places for the meetings at various places and through the paper urged attendance of the people.

Reverend R.S. Gladney of Chickasaw County was a gentleman and scholar of no little distinction in this county and had a short time before, toured Europe, seeking and obtaining information in reference to the utility and cost of building railroads, and their benefit to the people as a means of transportation and travel, and was an interesting public speaker, he was held high in the esteem of the people and they had great confidence in him, so the commissioners would procure his presence at these meetings and get him to address the people in behalf of this proposed railroad enterprise.

The first meeting was at Okolona. This little town was a place of wealth, of taste and of leisure, and a place where the wealthy farmers of the surrounding country were accustomed to meet for pastime and pleasure, as well as to transact business. However it was with difficulty that they could get enough people to assemble to justify the speaker to address them. They were inclined to ridicule the idea.

However, the advocacy of a railroad was continued, and its construction before that time, commenced at Mobile, was continuously extended in this direction until a change was effected in the minds of the people and a few years later, by a vote of the people, Chickasaw County subscribed for, and by taxation paid $80,000 to aid in its building.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 25

III. RAILROAD PIONEERING IN COUNTY : (Continued)

Just four years after Honorable John J. McRae made his speech to the people of Chickasaw County in behalf of railroads, Prairie Mount, a little village settled by Littleberry Gilliam, six miles northwest of the present Okolona was incorporated, but at this time the permanent survey of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad was made and word spread forth of the new road, consequently Okolona had its begining there, as two homes and a salon sprung up. Prairie Mount began its march back into the wilderness as its residents moved out to the greater advantages of transportation facilities. Okolona flourished, but with the decay and death of Prairie Mount, the ambitious town plat was re-annexed to the plantation as the railroad was completed six miles to the east in 1859. The Mobile and Ohio Railroad skirts the eastern boundary of Chickasaw County, and as soon as it was completed Okolona began to grow, becoming a rival cotton market. As early as 1860, it commanded the wagon trade of the county, where cotton growers either shipped or sold their products to foreign markets. A round house and machine shops are located in Okolona, however the main shops are maintained in Meridian.

During the Civil War, the commerce on this little railroad was virtually paralyzed. All the bridges and trestles were destroyed north and south of Okolona and the depot was burned there during th at time.

After the war the road was rebuilt, and Okolona had direct connection with St. Louis on the north and Mobile on the south. Being on the trunk line, it receives the full benefits of the fast freights and passenger train service.

In 1903, a branch line of the Mobile and Ohio was extended from Okolona to Houston. An attempt was made to build this road some twenty years before this time. The road bed was completely built from Okolona to Houston, but on account

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 25

111. RAILROAD PIONEERING IN COUNTY : (Continued)

of insufficient funds, the line was not finished. General W.F. Tucker was president and at the time of his death the company owed him from ten to fifteen thousand dollars. His widow collected about seven thousand dollars of it and was promised the right-of-way. However, she did not get a clear title to that effect, and never realized anything from it. Years later, Judge J.W. Buchanan came down from Memphis and secured from the stockholders of the railroad the right-of-way and road bed and sold it to the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

In November of 1903, the trains over this road ran into Houston on temporary rails. The construction company had contracted to reach Houston by this date and in order to fulfill the contract, they operated on temporary rails.

In January 1904 it became a permanent road. Later, it was extended west from Houston to Calhoun City, in Calhoun County. For nearly thirty years it did a flourishing business; however, in 1933 it ceased functioning, due to the depression and a general slump in business.

Soon, Mr. W.N. Ethridge, of Houston bought this line, and it was incorporated under the name of Okolona, Houston and Calhoun City Railway. At present this line provides four motor trains daily through Houston to Calhoun City and two steam mixed trains that carry passengers and freight. The General Office and repair shops for this line are located in Houston, with a limited number of workman employed in the shops. Mr. W.N. Ethridge is President, Eugene B. Ethridge Jr. Vice President and Secretary, R.L. Howell, Houston Auditor and General Manager, Miss Orin Ford, Houston, Car accountant, and Mr. R.G. Wharton, Houston, Superintendent.

Another railroad that traverses Chickasaw County and Houston is the main line of the G.M. & N. railroad (Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad). The his-

111. RAILROAD PIONEERING IN COUNTY : (Continued)

tory of this line which now operates trains from Mobile, Alabama to Jackson, Tennessee and from New Orleans La. through Jackson, Mississippi to Jackson, Tennessee; from its birth in 1869 to its present stream lined trains it presents a romatic and adventuresome story. Its founder, Colonel W.O. Faulkner of Ripley, Mississippi, wrote the famous book, " The White Rose of Memphis," and used a portion of the proceeds to finance the construction of this road. Its construction gave to the United States its first narrow-gauge railroad to be operated for freight and passenger service. From a small and difficult beginning the construction of this road went forward gradually, in the face of almost unsurmountable difficulties. The people along the right-of-way donated food and other necessities of life to the convict labor, first used upon the project, Many reverses were endured.

It was not until the year of 1905, that the gap between Newton, Mississippi and Pontotoc, Mississippi was closed. This included twenty-five miles of railroad across the western part of Chickasaw county. There are three stations located within the county on this railroad, Woodland, Houston and Houlka.

This line operates from four to six freight trains daily. Two modern gas electric trains and two of the famous stream lined Rebels provide daily passenger service on this railroad.

There is no navigable stream in Chickasaw County, but back in the early days before the building of the first railroad through the county, all of its marketable products and the purchased supplies were transported on wagons to and from the Tombigbee River at Aberdeen a distance of about thirty miles. At the river the produce was loaded on flat boats and carried in this manner to a good market. The Yalobusha river was also navigable and was used by the settlers of

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 23

III. RAILROAD PIONEERING IN COUNTY : (Continued)

the county. This incident is told by Jeff Busby, of Chickasaw County and Houston. " Old Benela or Keas Bridge as it was later called, was located on a point on the Yalobusha River which was considered near the head of navigation but was very hard to cross during the rainy season. A man by the name of Keas had built a bridge across the river in the late forties and from the bridge, the place took its name. Thomas J. Enochs was the first postmaster when the Post-Office was established in 1851. Long before the Civil War, Mr. Enochs built a flat boat at Keas Bridge and loaded it with cotton. When the rainy season came on, he carried the boat down the Yalobusha, through what is now Grenada, and Greenwood, into the Yazoo River, down the Yazoo river, into the Mississippi river and then to New Orleans, where he sold the flat boat and the cargo of cotton. On his return home to Benela, he was called " Captain Enochs," a title he bore the remainder of his life.

Thus, Chickasaw has no navigable streams, but with the three railroads crossing the county as they do, and with the facilities offered by the Gulf Transport Bus Company and the Normis Transport Company, direct connection can easily be made to three north and south routes to the great manufacturing and wholesale sections of the north and the great sea-ports of the Gulf Coast, to say nothing of passenger service that is afforded.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 23

Information for this Assignment was obtained from the following :

Chickasaw Centennial Edition of The Times-Post. (1936)

Mississippi, Vol-II.

Mr. Reuben Davis, Houston, Mississippi.

Mr. J.C. Alford, Houston (President of Board of Supervisors)

Mr. Wilburn Davis, Houston (Deputy Chancery Clerk)

Miss Mattie Lee, Buchanan, Okolona, Mississippi.

Historical Map of Mississippi compiled by Federal Writers Project.

Mrs. J.C. Hightower

Mrs. J.C. Hightower, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County.

Chickasaw Co. Rail Roads

(1)

An Act to incorporate the Grenada Houston & Eastern R. R. Co.,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi that R. D. Crowder, G. W. Lake, B. C. Adams, J. J. Gage, A. S. R oss, Nathaniel Howard, J. L. Davis, P Filman, John B. Ross and R. Rochardson of the county of Yalobusha, Aliston Woodwarf T. T. Enochs, R. D. Petree, A. M. Reasons, L. Brasher, and C. A. Lewis, of the county of Calhoun. John L. Atkinson, J. M. Thompson, T. S. Evans, Simon Myers, T. N. Martin, B. P. Owens, J. L. S. Hill, A. K. Craig, R . G. Steele, J. T. Griffin, T. M. Blackwell, J. B. Gladney, and W. F. Walker, of the county of Chickasaw, T. M. Rogers, L. F. Galloway, and A. J. Gillespie of the county of Monroe

Route Grenada, Pittsboro in Calhoun County. Houston to Alabama line through Yalobusha, Calhoun, Chickasaw and Monroe Counties.

Capitol Stock not to exceed $6,000,000 shares of $50 each.

Subscription could be paid in labor.

13 directors.

Chickasaw County

Historical Research Project

Supplementary Material on Transportation Assignment # 23

Old Stage Coach Route

An old stage coach route ran about one and one half miles west of Okolona in the early days. It came from Aberdeen, through Egypt, across the prairie to the home of a man named Lansford who kept the "stage stand", this being about two miles south of the town of Okolona. The"stage stand" corresponded to the present day bus station. There the horses were fed and watered or exchanged as the occasion demanded, passengers rested and refreshed themselves, and tickets were bought, etc. From Lansfords it ran in a northwesterly direction to Pontotoc. One trip was made daily over this route. Parts of the old road bed can still be discerned—they are gullies, twenty feet or more deep.

It is interesting to note that about this time (in the 40's and 50's) there was no water in Okolona and the people hauled their drinking water from Okolona Lake, now known as Chambers Lake,three miles west of Okolona. Cattle were driven to the Tombigbee River, a distance of twelve miles, twice a week for water.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Historical Research Project
November-6-1936

Canvassers:
Mabel Calvin
Elma Holloway
Mattie Lee Buchanan.

Supervisor:
Mrs. J.W. Strickland.

Subject: Fine Arts; Practical Arts and Crafts.
Assignment # 16

1. Division of Fine Arts.

A. Literature.

1. Novelists Dewitt Morgan, pen name (Deck Morgan)

Novelist, Playwright and Sports Writer.

The following quotation is a criticism from the " New York Evening Sun."

" Mr.Morgan writes of the bobsled racing at Lake Placid with the same bitter relish that the last generation wrote of war. The author has handled deftly the pace of his novel with an unexpectedly vivid quality." The stories have speed and vigor. The author has the gift of portraying character so clearly and realistically that they move across the page as actual individuals, because of his understanding of human emotions and his deep feeling for social contrasts. The author knows how to describe in brief paragraphs whole episodes of exciting winter sports and he has a fine opportunity to display his knowledge of human character and social adjustment.

Mr. Morgan son of Dr. and Mrs. D.F. Morgan, was born May 7, 1907 in Okolona, Mississippi. He graduated at an early age with honors from the Okolona High School. During his last two years in high school he originated and edited a school paper. After graduating there he attended Tulane University, New Orleans La. two years. From there he went to George Washington University where he received an A.B. degree. While there he wrote the following short stories ; Viking, Horizon Blue and Red Rocket.

He studied abroad, taking courses at Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Rome. He also traveled extensively, spending a winter in Switzerland in the Alps. While there he wrote the novel Winter Carnival.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Within the last few months three of Mr. Morgan's stories have been published serially by the N.E.A. Syndicate; namely Cruise to No Where, Resort Hotel and Trans-Pacific Flight.

Mr. Morgan has returned from Europe and will spend the winter with his parents. While here the young author expects to finish another novel. He also wrote a play, Death at Dawn which will be produced in New York City this winter.

S. Historians Mrs. Dunbar Rowland (Eryn Rowland)

Mrs. Rowland contributed verse and stories to newspapers, later devoted much attention to Historical Writings; Was assistant in Mississippi State Department of Archives and History for fifteen years. She was active in preservation of Historical Landmarks of Mississippi and in War work during the World War. She served as State Historian and in various Patriotic Societies.

Mrs. Rowland was born near Okolona, Mississippi, daughter of Major Benjamin B. and Ruth Rowland Moore, descendent on maternal side of John Rowland of Eghan, England, who came to Virginia in 1635. She was educated principally under her father who was a classical scholar and educator. She married Dunbar Rowland of Jackson, Mississippi.

In 1925 Mrs. Rowland wrote, (Andrew Jackson's Campaign Against the British), in 1927 (Varina Howell wife of Jefferson Davis). She also wrote numerous (Historical Monographs).

S. Poets Mrs. Josie Frazee Cappleman.

Mrs. Josie Frazee Cappleman, nationally known poetess and one of the early leaders in organization of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, died Nov-28th, 1936, at her home in Little Rock.

Mrs. Cappleman was one of a group of Okolona, Mississippi, women who organized the Mississippi U.D.C. She was a native of Kentucky, was reared in Okolona, Mississippi, later moving to Arkansas.

She was honorary life president of the U.D.C., Arkansas division; honorary life president of the Authors and Composers Society of Arkansas, of which she was a charter member; past president of the Past Presidents' Club,Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs; poet laureate of the National League of American Penwomen and of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Arkansas.

COPIED FROM THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL; SUNDAY NOVEMBER-28, 1936.

A WORD AND A SMILE:

By - Mrs. Josie Frazee Cappleman.

Only a smile, but I held it
The live-long day in my heart;
Only a word but my soul was stirred
And formed, of lifes' purpose, a part.

Only a smile, but it softened
The hurt and the pent-up pain;
The sky looked blue humanity true
So I started all over again.

Softly the hours slipped onward,
Swiftly the dull work done,
While over again came the sweet refrain;
A word and a smile make the sun.

The night closed in, and I counted
The deeds of that dragging day;
They numbered a score, mayhaps multi-more
But a word and a smile smoothed the way.

And methought, if on every morning
Each being would bear in mind;
To tender some cheer to a heavy heart here,
What boon to burdened mankind.

S. Poets Joe H. Ford, Jr.

This information was copied from the book;

THESE ARE THE DREAMS:
By - Joe H. Ford, Jr.

Joe H. Ford,Jr., son of a prominent Houston, Mississippi, family entered Washington and Lee University at the age of fifteen. After a meteoric high school career and honors as a pianist, he began his college term. He was soon noted as the most voracious reader and intensive scholar of his class.

His contributions to class work and college publications showed a talent and imagination that gathered about him a coterie of the finest minds in the student body. His perseverance and versatility pointed to a brilliant career in the literary arts.

A stroke of fate interrupted his career, when on May 27th, 1934, Joe H. Ford Jr. was moved to take his life.

After his death so great a number of unpublished poems of high literary value were found among his possessions, that a group of his closest friends realized more fully the tragedy of his departure and were desirous of publishing the best of his verse in book form as a memorial and tribute to him.

FROM THE INTRODUCTION :

Joe Ford Jr. lived, a character that may be called phenomenal, a life that may be termed meteoric. In his eighteen short years of existence that placed him in the first ranks through three years of college, he was able not only to take into himself a full image of the early years of the talented mind, but to leave us a beautiful yet sad representation of those puzzling and all too complex days of the transition to manhood.

But somehow as the youth was being submerged in the man, troubled by the pain of worldliness and the agony that is commonplace existence, Joe Ford Jr., with a soul too keen and a spirit too sensitive for the torments of a world that he so passionately enjoyed and suffered, took his last leave and " fled like a wisp away."

A mind that constantly showed itself superior to those of his comrades gave to this young poet an intensity of observation, a deft art of thinking and a profoundness of feeling that must express themselves in his work.

The reader will be struck first by the dominant, ever-present mood of pessimism. The mood varies in force from tender melancholy to depths of despair. And yet they are essentially of the spirit of youth. Despite the prevalent note of gloom, they are filled with exhurbance, undisciplined fancy and excesses of emotion that usually characterize the youthful spirit. This young poet sings of love and longing, of hope and dreams, just as all youth sings of these things.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF HIS POEMS :

Requeim

Let no man shed a tear!
Gone I am - or so I hope,-
To weep no more,
To die no more,
Rise no more,
And sweetest-
Live no more!

---

(1)

Bitter, life. Yet nothing bitter
To recount
Melancholy temperament
A forced gaiety.
A good life, but a live one,
so they're told.
Success and love
(What everyone strives for)

(2)

With blindly groping fingers
Beckoned Death
For sake of others dear to me I
Lived, a farcical optimist
But open, hoping arms
Resisted me, Without resisting Fate.
Til last my prayer's answered. I shiver.

(3)

Cold delicious fingers
Touch my heart, Caressing,
My eyes, they close themselves
In peaceful rest
Forever.
Ha! Let Men Weep!
Ah! In envy-
For Death is sweet
And no man hopes for memory.

"Ashes Have Killed The Coals"

Ashes have killed the Coals,
And gray has covered fire;
Darkness, with its folds,
Has deadened my desire

Days and years have fled
I cant remember when
The dawn was flushed with red;
And now the years are thin.

There is not much to tell
Gray has covered fire
And darkness with its hell
Has deadned my desire.

" All To Gain "

All to gain, and nothing to lose!
What would I give could I but fuse
My heart with thine and all the world,
And lie beneath my green grave curled!
And so, My friend, I leave with this,
And all I ask is but a kiss
Of death from out the grave.

5.
Miscellaneius

Mrs. Lois Jackson Pulliam, Buena Vista, Mississippi. (Song Writer)

Mrs. Pulliam was born in Noxubee County, Mississippi. Her educational facilities were limited, but through hard study and perservanance she acquired a variety and abundance of knowledge envied by many. In 1913 she came to Buena Vista to teach in the Agricultural High School. Shortly afterwards, she married Mr. Jack Pulliam and has lived at Buena Vista ever since. She has written several songs, two of which have been published. She has also written two novels which she has offered for publication, though, as yet neither of them has been published.

The following is one of Mrs. Pulliam's Songs.

" Will You Answer " Yes or No ? "

SONG...Will you Answer "Yes or No?"

Words by Mrs. Lois J. Pulliam.

Music by Jack Stanley.

Published by The H. Kirkus Dugdale Co.
(Music Publishers and Dealers)

If I should ask a little bit of love
Would you, dear heart, just answer "Yes or No?"
Or would you turn a cold and heedless ear
And crush the heart that's always loved you so.

Chorus

Oh the question that I ask you,
Will you answer " Yes or No?"
Has time wrought any change in your heart?
If you are the same and ever will remain
We will never from our first old love depart.

Could you just speak one word to cheer my heart,
Can you say "Yes" that someday you'll be mine?
Then never doubt a true and changeless love
That always has and always will be thine.

B. Music

1. Outstanding Musicians

A. Piano Mrs. Laudie Tabb Shell, Houston Mississippi.

Daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. D.D. Tabb; was born and reared in Chickasaw county. She studied music at the Mississippi Normal College located at that time in Houston. Mrs. Shell taught music in Troy Mississippi one year and Houston Mississippi High School two years. Afterwards teaching for a number of years in her home.

A. Piano Mrs. A.D. Harrington, Houston Mississippi.

(before her marriage Estelle Winter) was born and reared in Houston Mississippi. Honor graduate of Conservatory of Music at Cincinnati. She taught piano in the Houston High School for a number of years; now has private class at home. Mrs. Harrington is very active in civic and religious affairs; now pianist at Baptist Church in Houston.

A. Piano Mrs. Bess Hill, Houston Mississippi.

(Formerly Bess Mabry of Kosiusko Mississippi) Graduate of Mississippi State College for Women, also studied music in Montreat North Carolina under Mr. and Mrs. Crosby Adams. She is now teaching voice and piano in Houston High School and has been for the past twelve years.

A. Piano Mrs. Charles H. McCraine, Houston Mississippi.

(Formerly Virginia Clark from Ellisville Mississippi) Mrs. McCraine is a graduate of Ellisville Junior College and also graduate of the Conservatory of Music at Cincinnati. For the past seven years she has taught piano in Houston. About five or six years ago she married Mr. C.H. McCraine who is at the present time County Attorney.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

A. Piano Mrs. Katherine Mc Elroy, Drew Mississippi.

Mrs. Mc Elroy daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Evans Goza of Houston, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Houston High School, Blue Mountain College and Conservatory of Music of Cincinnati. Mrs. Mc Elroy taught piano in Drew for several years later marrying a man from Drew. She is a neice of Mrs. A.D. Harrington and considered a genius in music.

A. Piano Mrs. Erma Rhodes Davis, Houston Mississippi.

Mrs. Davis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rhodes who live near Houston where she was born and reared. She is a former pupil of Mrs. A.D. Harrington, having graduated and also taken post graduate work under her. Later she studied at Conservatory of Music at Cincinnati under Mr. Paulz, though she is not a graduate. She has had ten years experience teaching at Vardaman, Longview, and Buena Vista Mississippi.

A. Piano Brooks Haynes, Houston, Mississippi.

He is the son of Mr. I. M. Haynes, of Houston where he was reared. Brooks is a graduate of Houston High School, Wood Junior College, Mathiston, Mississippi and also of Millsaps College specializing in music at each place. At present, he is head of the Music department of Wood Junior College and is only about twenty three years of age.

A. Piano William Allen Tournwall, Houston, Mississippi.

William Allen son of Mr. P.A. Tournwall of Houston is a very talented Musician, though has never taught. He was born and reared in Houston and received his piano training here. After graduating from Houston High School

he attended Wood Junior College at Mathiston, Mississippi where he also studied music. He is now a Senior at Delta State Teachers College, Cleveland, Mississippi and is specializing in music there.

A. Piano Miss Mattie Montcastle, Okolona, Mississippi.

Miss Mattie Montcastle was born and reared in Okolona and was the niece of the late Mr. and Mrs.C.M. Savage. Specializing in music she attended Conservatories in the United States and Europe. In addition to her preparation, she spent five summers in study. During the summer of 1898 she studied at the Conservatory of Cincinnati, and the summers of 1914-15-16 at Columbia University, and the summer of 1920 at the American Conservatory of Music. Miss Montcastle went to Mississippi State College for Women as assistant in piano in 1904, and with the exception of the years of 1909 and 1910, served continuously with the music department. In 1909-10, she was abroad and studied in Berlin under Levine and Friedman. She took her regular work from Carl Stasny, New England Conservatory of Music, also studied under Mr. Hauchett, of Brooklyn; Mr. Sherwood of Chautauqua, New York, always putting her career first and never married. She could interpret the productions of music masters, ancient and modern. She became an authority at Mississippi State College for Women, in music instruction and technique. Miss Elizabeth Thames, one of her pupils was awarded a scholarship to the College of Music, in Chicago or the Conservatory of Cincinnati, this being the highest honor awarded by the Federated Music Clubs of Mississippi. In 1930, at the close of school Miss Montcastle asked for a years leave of absence on account of ill health, and on January the thirty first of 1931 she died from a heart attack.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM MRS. C.P. DAY, OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI.

A. Piano Mrs. R.E. Priest, Houston, Mississippi.

Mrs. R.E. Priest, was Teresa Bradley of Aberdeen, Mississippi. She finished High School there and graduated from Pennsylvina Conservatory of Music in Philadelphia. Studied pipe organ, piano and voice for two years under Virgil in New York City. She is also accomplished in violin and does pen and pencil sketching and oil painting. She taught piano in Aberdeen High School, piano and voice in Buena Vista Normal College for several years. Later she married Dr.R.E. Priest soon afterwards moving to Houston where they have made their home since. Mrs. Priest has been active in the civic affairs of Houston for a number of years.

A. Piano Mrs. J.C. Hightower, Houston, Mississippi.

Mrs. J.C. Hightower, was Fay Oliver of Ackerman, Mississippi. Finished High School at Ackerman, studied piano and voice in American Conservatory, graduated under private tutor Koenig of Chicago. Studied at Sophie Newcomb College, New Orleans. Has taught piano and High School History also Glee Club in Egypt, Mississippi and Buena Vista Agriculture High School of this County for several years. In 1927 she married Mr. J.C. Hightower, and since that time has made her home in Houston, where she has taken an active part in the religious and social activities of the town.

B. Violin Miss Husie Kirby, Houlka, Mississippi.

Miss Kirby is a talented violinist and orchestra teacher. She plays all stringrd instruments and horns. She studied in Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and has done quite a bit of study in New Orleans. She has taught in Buena Vista, Houston and Houlka, Mississippi. And at this time is teaching Public School Music in Houlka.

C. Organ Mrs. D.F. Morgan, Okolona, Mississippi.

Mrs. D.F. Morgan, wife of Dr. D.F. Morgan, was the daughter of E.H. Jones, of Carthage, Mississippi. She was reared at Carthage, finishing high school there. She attended school at Cumberland College for Young Women at Lebanon, Tennessee, Northeastern Conservatory at Boston and did summer work in New York City. She taught piano at Carthage, Hickory and Okolona, Mississippi, and also at Grapevine, Texas. Not only does she play the piano, but the pipe organ as well. Mrs. Morgan composed the music to our State Song " Mississippi ". She has composed other music though has not offered any for publication. Collecting Negro Folk Songs and Spirituals is her hobby. For the past thirty eight years she has lived in Okolona. These are the oroginal compoditions which have been used in concert work, namely

1 A GARDEN SYMPHONY (Cantata for Women's Voices)

(1) Lilacs and Cherry Blooms (Chorus
(2) Flower Bells (Chorus)
(3) The Lark (Solo)
(4) Fountains (Chorus)
(5) Hummingbirds (Chorus)
(6) Iris (Solo)
(7) Ballad of the Shadows (Chorus)
(8) Hosts of Summer (Chorus)
(9) Torch of Flame (Chorus)

2 - " Mississippi "- Words by Perrin Holmes Lowery,.....M.F.W.C. Club Song. (Published

3 - " Nocturne" - Awarded first prize in State M.F.W.C. Contest.

4 - " Pastorale" - Pagent depicting Rural Life. (Musical)

5 - " Legends" - Musical Settings.

6 - " Song Collection"

(1) A, Vision
(2) Whispers
(3) A, Tryst

7 - Anthems.....(Organ Compositions and Arrangements.)

8 - Negro Spirituals....Unpublished and harmonized by the negroes who have had no training. (Recorded in eight part arrangement).

B. Music

2. Bands.

Houston and Okolona both have a band. Houston's band is young,only about two years old. It is composed of about thirty-five members, under the direction of Mr. De Wells Barton. It is composed of both school boys and girls, also some prominent business men.

Much interest and enthusiasm has grown and rapid progress has been made. Plans are being made for entering the State contest which is held each year in Jackson. Their uniforms are very striking and Houston as a whole is very proud of them and they are looking forward to the time in the near future when they can boast of the State's best.

The Okolona School Band was organized in the fall of 1934 with thirty-five members, under the direction of Mr. Frank Heard. The band was composed of boys and girls of the High School and great progress has been made. For two years they have entered the State band contest which is held in Jackson each year. This year they expect to enter again. Mr. Heard went to Vicksburg and Mr. Mc Bride came to Okolona. The band regretted so much to give up Mr. Heard but they rallied to Mr. Mc Bride quickly and are making fast progress. These boys and girls are given private lessons free of charge and their uniforms are becomingly tailored in maroon and white.

B. MUSIC

Other Musicians who have contributed quite a bit to the Musical, Social, and Religious life of Houston are:

Miss Orin Ford
Mrs. J.Rice Williams
Mrs. Turner Ray
Mrs. Scottie Sue Tabb Holbert
Mrs. Joe H. Ford
Mrs. V.B. Philpot
Mrs. W.F. Patch
Mr. and Mrs. Ashton Toomer
Mrs. Felix Rutledge
Mrs. C.K. Alexander

C. PAINTING:

1. Mrs. W.C. Stewart, Houston, Mississippi. (Artists)

Mrs. W.C. Stewart, wife of the Baptist Minister has made Houston her home for the past thirteen years and is a talented Artists She studied art under a private tutor, Miss Hall, at Seminary Hill in Fort Worth, Texas for two years. She has had private classes in her home studio for several years. Her paintings are both original and reproductions. The Twentieth Century Club had an Original Program last year and Mrs. Stewart painted a beautiful picture for this program which she called " Over The Jordan." Some of her pictures are real treasures and she prizes them very much.

1. Mrs. J.R. Chenault. (Artist)

Mrs. J.R. Chenault was Miss Cora Turman, daughter of Mr. Naze Turman of Houston, Mississippi.. Mrs. Chenault was one of Houston's most talented artists. She received her early education in Houston and about 1880 entered the Industrial Institute and College now Mississippi State College for Women at Columbus, where she studied art. In 1890 Mrs. Chenault had a nervous collapse and was bed-ridden until 1903. Thirteen years she lay in bed and dreamed pictures and painted them.

At her death two years ago, she left quite a valuable collection of paintings. Several pictures were valued at quite a good price.

1. Mrs. A.M. Harley, Houston, Mississippi. (Artist)

Mrs. A.M. Harley has some beautiful oil paintings. Her work consists of copies of well known paintings; among them are "The Falls of Minnehe;" "The Grand Canyon" and a "Mountain Stream." All are large pictures and handsomely framed. There is a small reproduction of " The Old Mill Stream " in water colors and a charcoal copy of " The Dangerous Coast;" which is very pretty with the right lighting. Mrs. Harley attended the Mississippi Normal College in Houston, where she studied art under Miss Julia Chandler. She continued her education at the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College. Later she taught dress-making at Mississippi Normal College. She has been twice married, first to a Mr. Roane and later to Mr. A.M. Harley, banker in Houston.

1. Miss Nora Griffin, Houston, Mississippi. (Artist)

Miss Nora Griffin daughter of the late Mr.J.T. Griffin, was born and reared in Houston where she has lived practically all her life. She studied at the academy of Art in Cincinnati. She had some very good paintings, but unfortunately, they were burned several years ago when her sister's home burned, and she now has only one. Although she has probably lived her three score,and ten, she makes a very effecient librarian at the Carnegie Library of Houston.

1. Mrs. Malvern Davis, Houston, Mississippi. (Artist)

Mrs. Malvern Davis studied art at Buena Vista Normal College about 1885. She has only a few paintings, most of them on canvass, but they are very pretty. All are painted from natural scenes. One, a picture of a lake, is framed and won second place at the Chickasaw County Fair in 1909. Mrs. Davis lives near Houston.

1. Mrs. Iris Huffman De Barge, Houston, Mississippi. (Artist)

Mrs. Iris DeBarge has some good oil paintings, five of which are completed and nicely framed. All of them are made from natural scenes and are are direct copies of different landscapes as the artist saw them.

This is a natural talent Mrs. DeBarge possesses, as she has not taken over half dozen lessons in art, taking those from Mrs. W.C. Stewart while attending High School in Houston.

After her marriage about six years ago she moved, with her husband to Port Arthur, Texas, where most of her pictures were made. More than a year ago her husband died and she came back to Houston to make her home with her parents.

1. Mrs. Carl Garner, Buena Vista, Mississippi. (Artist)

Mrs. Garner has several oil paintings which she has done. All of them are copied from some picture, maybe a post card or a magazine picture. A waterfall from a picture post card is very good. A large painting of her Grandfather, L.C. Suggs, was made from a small photograph.

Mrs. Garner attended the old Buena Vista Normal School and studied art under Miss Olivia Steele.

1. Mrs. Clyde Crump, Houston, Mississippi. (Artist)

Mrs. Crump studied art under Mrs. W.C. Stewart. She has a few oil paintings she did, all copies from small pictures. One, a snow scene, of a lonely road with tall pine trees on each side with a small stream of water in the foreground and to the side of the road is especially good.

1. Mrs. Frank King and Miss Anna Bell Pulliam of Buena Vista, also have a few paintings of their own.

11. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts:

A. Handicraft

1. Wood Carving.

Mr. Clarence Bowles, Houston, Mississippi.

Mr. Bowles is very good at wood carving. He makes swings, magazine racks, what-nots, and all kinds of small ornaments. He is also especially good at making toy furniture for children and often at Christmas time makes complete sets, carving and painting them until even the most unappreciative child cannot help but be proud of these sets. He is a cripple and cannot get about except with crutches, thus his reason for working with small articles. Mr. Bowles is a World War veteran, and has a wife and three children.

1. Wood Carving.

Mr. Connie Smith, Houston, Mississippi, Route.

Mr. Smith can take a piece of plank and carve anything from it, cats dogs, houses, airplanes or most any small article. It is as easy for him to take a piece of wood an inch in thickness and width (with any desired length, of course) and carve a chair from it as common whittling would be for most people. He has a violin which he made except the strings. It has a very good tone, is varnished and can hardly be told from a "store-bought" article. This young man is about twenty one years old, is a farmer and lives about five miles east of Houston. He has only a grammer school education.

1. Wood Carving.

Richard Bean, Jr., Buena Vista, Mississippi.

Mr. Bean is expeptionally good at wood carving, having studied it in the Agricultural school at Buena Vista. He can take an embroidery design and carve it on wood ju st by looking at it. He has lived at Buena Vista all his life, is

about twenty four years old and a graduate of the Agricultural High School there.

1. Wood Carving.

James Paden, Houlka, W.F. Davis, Van Vleet, and Claiborne Freeman, Woodland are all exceptionally good at making furniture. They make bed-room suites, cedar chests, kitchen cabinets, in fact almost any thing that one needs to keep house.

1. Wood Carving.

Mr. Will Mabry, Okolona, Mississippi.

Mr. Mabry repairs and makes furniture. One of the unique things he made was a child's desk and chair. He now has a second-hand furniture store where he repairs, paints and makes furniture of all kinds.

1. Wood Carving.

Mr. Wayne Palmer, Okolona, Mississippi.

Mr. Palmer makes furniture and especially lawn furniture.

A.
Handicraft.

Miscellaneous

Mrs. Dan Shell, Okolona, Mississippi.

Mrs. Dan Shell of Okolona does beautiful crochet, embroidery and knitting. She had quite a display of bedspreads, doilies and quilts on exhibition at the Okolona Fair this fall.

5. Miscellaneous.

Mrs. Mamie Henly, Okolona, Mississippi.

Mrs. Henly does lovely embroidery and made the living for her family with her

fancy work. She is now an invalid and is unable to do any work of that kind at all.

5. Miscelleneous.

Mrs. Ritta Shearer, Houston, Mississippi.

Mrs. Shearer has a spinning wheel and cards and spins wool and cotton thread and dyes it, then knits with it. She has an Afaghan that she knitted, spinning the thread from wool and dying it in different colors.

5. Miscelleneous.

Mrs. John,Jenson, Houston, Mississippi.

Mrs. Je nsen has some perfectly beautiful embroidery work. Some of it she did in Denmark before coming to this country. Her cut work embroidery is almost perfect. Much of it was done in Denmark twenty years ago. This same work has only recently become popular in this country. Her "hedebo" and "hardanger" embroidery would probably take a prize over other handwork from anyone in the county.

B. ARCHITECTURE:

1. Ornamental Buildings.

a. Public Buildings.

Chickasaw County's court house is situated in the center of the Court Square, and is an imposing and stately three story structure, made of Ivory colored face-brick, stone and concrete. Lovely shrubs are arranged and grouped in order to bring out the symmetry of the building which makes it all the more ornamental to the business section of Houston.

a. Public Buildings.

The Carnegie Library of Houston is a small but very ornamental one-story structu re of red brick with white trimmings. Itis situated in the center of a beautiful

green lawn with lovely shrubs nestled closely to the building. The appearance is very inviting.

a. Public Buildings.

The Houston School building is very modern, built of brick and stone. A large two-story building with an auditorium on the first floor which seats about five hundred comfortably. On each side of the auditorium are winding stairways leading to the next floor. The many stone steps leading into the building flanked on each side by imposing white columns, looks very ornamental and at the same time is very stately and graceful. The teachers and pupils exhibit much care and pride in the building and it is one of the best in the state.

a. Public Buildings.

The Houston State Bank is one of the prettiest and most costly buildings of its kind in North-East Mississippi. It is a two-story structure of Ivory colored face-brick with trimmings of white stone and marble. The bank occupies the first floor, while the second floor is used for professional offices.

a. Public Buildings.

The Houston Hospital a three story building of about fifty rooms, is built of red brick with white border. It is well kept and spotlessly white inside, with noiseless tread rubber carpets and mats. The lower floor is taken up with reception room, offices, X-Ray room and living room for the nurses.

a. Public Buildings.

The Masonic Building is a two story brick building and due to its plain lines it is very noticeable and adds much to the business section of Houston. The Houston Post-Office is on the first floor, and the Masonic rooms are on the

upper floor. While "The Times Post" printing office is in the basement. The building is located about one block from Court Square.

b. Churches.

The Baptist Church is a two-story red brick building. The auditorium with a seating capacity of about three hundred and a gallery around the front and one side will seat about one hundred and fifty. The walls are of plaster and trimmed with mahogany. The basement and second story are made into Sunday Schools rooms.

c. Homes.

The home of Mrs. Kate Tabb, widow of the late Mr. J.P.Tabb, is by far the most expensive and picturesque home in Houston. It being a large two-story model built of ivory colored face-brick with a green tile roof. The terraces and steps are of white stone. The grounds are beautifully laid out with walks, shrubs and trees, while a tennis court occupies a portion of the grounds on one side.

c. Homes.

Mr. and Mrs. C.H. McCraine have a very neat and ornamental little brick home, built of cream colored face-brick trimmed in white. The yard is terraced and is very attractive. Small shrubs adorn the grounds and many pleasing flower beds border the house.

c. Homes.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Atwell is charming. It is bu ilt of rust brick mingled with black and white pin-head mingles and is one of Houston's most modern homes, with small grounds but beautifully laid out and the choicest of

small shrubs hugging closely. It really is distinctive looking.

c. Homes.

The lovely English-type home of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Scott Jr., is the loveliest and prcbably the most distinctive type of small homes in Houston. Built of brown brick, casement windows with oak blinds and a lovely Gothic Arched porch on one side. A level beautiful green lawn dotted with large shrubs and big beds of rich red cannas, set off the lines of the house to clear-cut advantage.

c. Homes.

Dr. and Mrs. R.S. Hlue have a winsome Spanish-type bungalow, built with a flat roof and a large patio on the front. It is built of dark red velvet face-brick. The lawn is beautiful with very few shrubs but lovely flower beds adorn it here and there making it resemble a small park.

c. Homes.

The attractive red mottled brick home of Mr. and Mrs. B.E. Moore, is bordered with deep-ivory and brass screening, lovely casement windows and the enclosed porch adds much to giving it an air all it's own.

C. Landscaping:

1.Parks.

Houston has just one municipal park, and it isn't yet complete. It is already a place of beauty however. The grounds have always been known as the Emlaney Grove. It was purchased by a group of business men with Mr. Ashton Toomer (Mayor), Dr. Van Philpot (Superintendant) of the Houston Hospital, and Mr. W.E. Ethridge (President of O.H.&.C.C.R.R.), as a committee to handle the project. These three men have played an important part in perfecting the Park.

It covers approximately twenty seven acres, The American Legion bought fifteen acres adjoining the park and are building an American Legion Hut, and they have allowed the city to incorporate these grounds into the park. A driveway completely surronds the park grounds. Plans are under way for the erection of a convention hall. Grounds have been laid off for a tennis court, slides swings etc., for recreation. The swimming pool is a bit small but is one of the best and is well equipped also a concrete walk surronds the pool. To the left of the swimming pool as you drive in, is the children's wading pool which is surronded by a concrete run-way. Some of the most beautiful shade trees and stately oaks stand on these grounds. Yet enough sunlight filters through to give it the desired amount of sunshine.

1. Parks.

The O.K.&.G.C. Rail road owns a small but well kept park, which is situated on the hill side near th eir station. Beautiful green grass is kept growing there the year round, and shrubs and flowers adorn the park every where. Comfortable seats are spotted here and there over the park and it is relly one of the small beauty spots of Houston.

1. Parks.

One of the outstanding places of beauty and amusement is the Okolona City Park. This place was bought by the Fair Association composed of the business men with Mr. H.S. Wilson at the head. It covers several acres. As you enter,the race track is on the right of the driveway, with tennis courts on the left. Back of the tennis courts, is the children's wading pool, surrounded by swings, slides and other amusements for the little tots. The swiming pool is considered to be the best in this part of the state. The picnic grounds with tables and seats add to the many pleasures enjoyed out there. To the left of the park is

a beautiful lake where there is quite a bit of fishing done. The park is one that Okolona is proud to own and glad to mention.

1. Parks.

A. tiny park or flower garden at the end of the City Hall in Okolona is very pretty and unique. It is in semi-circular shape with a large sign about twelve feet high and eight feet wide in the back ground. At the top of this sign, painted in large letters, is "A Greater Okolona", with the advantages, etc. of Okolona, numerated in smaller letters. In the back ground, behind this sign are zinnias, cosmos and marigolds. On the sides of the cinder covered paths are all colors of touch-me-nots, peri-winkles, petunias, snap-dragons, salvia and numerous others. In the center between the paths is a solid bed of red verbena. This little garden is the pride of Mrs. Ed Elias, wife of the City Clark, who designed, planted and cares for it.

2. Grounds of Public Buildings.

a. Schools.

The grounds of the Houston Public School Building are well laid out. The foot ball diamond is in the back-ground to the right of the building. Immense play grounds in front and on each side for the pupils. About a six foot concrete walk leads up to the front steps of the building from the side walk, and much care and pride has been taken in the selection of shrubs for the grounds. They are rather large and add much to the beauty of the grounds.

c. Courthouse.

The grounds around the County Courthouse are laid off in a square completely surrounded by a raised concrete walk between the grounds and the street. Stately and beautiful oaks are dotted here and there over the grounds. Also a

concrete walk extends from the street to each of the four doors of the Courthouse, which gives an entrance to the halls from each direction on the square. The Twentieth Century Club, has put all the lovely shrubs out, that adorn these grounds. They are arranged very artistically close to the walls of the Courthouse and look very picturesque.

3. Home Gardens.

a. Some of the most prominent Home Gardens are owned by:

Mrs. A.C. George — Mrs. B.M. Smith
Mrs. D.M. Hearn — Mrs. Cleve Doss.

b. Mrs. A.C. George who takes spedial pride in her rose garden, situated in the back and at one side of her Southern-type bungalow. She grows both bush and climbing varieties and the trellis arrangement is well planned. Between the rose garden and the street lies a rock garden and flowers bloom there from early spring until late fall.

b. Mrs. B.M. Smith converted her side, and back yard into one of the loveliest of flower gardens. It is visible all along one side of the house from the street. On entering from the side we notice her walks of brick are well planned and laid out. Beautiful borders are noticeable in early spring of purple Iris and Violets. Later in the season, a border of verbena has taken their place while myriads of snapdragons and petunias will be seen peeping over. A white trellis gate permits entrance to the garden, then attractively planted will be found roses, dahlias, poppies, lillies and numerous other flowers.

Sources of Information:

Direct and Indirect Interviews.

Mrs. J.C. Hightower

Mrs. J.C. Hightower
Project Supervisor, Chickasaw County.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

SUPPLEMENT TO ASSIGNMENT SIXTEEN

ORNAMENTAL HOMES.....HOME GARDENS

#16

HOME OF MRS. R.W. CHANDLER:

The Chandler Home, located on Prairie Street is situated in a large oak grove back from the street. The architectural design is Colonial. The front porch has the large columns extending to the roof. The interior carries out the Colonial or old Southern mode, that of large rooms with tall ceilings. The exterior with its large windows, its roof and anti-bellum appearance makes it one of the town's most imposing buildings.

The home was first owned by Col. J.A. McIntosh, afterwards sold to Mr. Mrs. R.W. Chandler. The home has been remodeled to a great extent but on the south side, there are two of the rooms just as they were when they were first built. These two rooms were built of logs. The entrance to this home stands hospitality open, and one enters to surrender unconditionally to the charm of the place.

HOME OF MRS. W. G. MABRY:

The Mabry Home located on Gatlin Street is situated in a large grove of beautiful trees. The design is typical Southern Colonial with large white columns extending to the roof. It is painted white with red roof and green Ivy is growing on the north side of the house. The lovely green oaks in the yard, gives a pleasing effect and a very restful feeling.

The interior of the house is very nicely arranged. It contains large rooms with much antique furniture. It has a lovely stairway just inside the front entrance. Fine, old Arborvitae shrubs outline the front porch in a stately and unbroken line. Great clumps of violets that had been growing helter, skelter over the yard, were thinned and used with sweet Alyssum and Jonquils for borders on the

lawn. Cape Jasmine bushes on either side of the walk are covered with exquisite blooms for many weeks during the summer. The driveway to the garage is on the south side of the house

The stately trees on the lawn, the foundation planting, and the Box-wood have been growing just as they are for more than half a century. The box-wood is of course pruned as growth requires. The entire grounds are planted with an eye for beauty. The back ground of green, with varying shades and textures, the skill with which varieties are massed, makes possible the inclusion of the many flowers grown.

Shrubs, flowering trees and flowers always give the place color. There is much interest and harmonious beauty to make this a colorful home always and especially restful as shadows deepen and dew falls. There is much more to be found in an old garden than just trees and flowers. There is a sense of peace, of reassurance, of spiritual healing; there is a vague but delightful feeling of companionship.

The original plan is unchanged. On each side of the lawn, there are flower beds and which, like rooms in a house are part of the architectual whole while differing in interior decoration. Of course the walk to the house is edged with ever green balls, to make it prim and precise, and jotted all along are Jonquils to make it beautiful and romantic, so like the spirit of the ante-bellum days. A plentiful supply of evergreens insures permanent green and deciduous trees offer spring newness, summer shade, autumn glory, and lacy winter etchings.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

FINE ARTS**CHAPTER XVII

Mrs. Blanche Edens Chandler, the youngest daughter of James Edward Edens and Hattie Lee Frazee was born in Okolona. June 16, 1898. She received her education at the Okolona High School and Mississippi Synodical College, Holly Springs, Mississippi. She was married, September 18, 1919, to Walter Clifford Chandler and to this union was born three children, Clifford, Jr. Hattie Edens and Walter. The desire for artistic expression developed early in Blanche Edens and during her childhood she whiled away many hours with her brush and pen. She is very versatile and is gifted, both as an artist and a writer, In art she is equally efficient with crayon, water colors and oil; she also does exquisite china painting. Her pictures have taken District and State prizes. For years she served the State Federation of Woman's Clubs as District Art Chairman, during which time she stressed American Art. She Supervised programs, and furnished material for each club in her district, gave lectures in the schools, sponsors art exhibits, wrote and presented art pageants,etc. As the result of these efforts she won the State Art Prize for the best reports submitted.

As a writer she has shown the same versatility --she writes poetry

pageantry, plays, and articles on religious and current topics. As a poet she has received greatest recognition, having been invited to submit a listing for "Who's Who in American Poetry." One of her poems "Small Town" was chosen for American States Anthology--1934; another "A New Year's Message" was printed in the June 1935 issue of the Clubwoman, an anthology of poetry by the General Federation of Woman's Clubs. Other of her poems have been printed in the Woman's Magazine and the Commercial Appeal. She has written many valuable articles for the Baptist Record, American Baptist, and other popular periodicals. Perhaps her best work is an unpublished booklet "Life AS It Seems To Me," which is a practical treatise on her philosophy of life.

Mrs. Chandler could have attained a high position in the public affairs of life had she aspired to do so, but she chose rather the home life, where she devotes her time and talent to the training of her children. She has splendid executive ability, as is manifest in the management of her home and in local club and church work. She is attractive in appearance and is possessed with a magnetic personality. She holds the respect and confidence of a large circle of friends. Her art and literary work are secondary and indulged in

only as a pastime, her chief interest is her home.

The following is the poem published in the Clubwoman, June, 1935. "A New Year's Message"

By B. E. Chandler.

As I look all around me and wonder
Just what the New Year Holds,
I hear a voice saying "Fear Not"
And I know it's the One who moulds
The lives of men and their destiny.
I am afraid to travel alone
The rough, rugged pathway, I trod
Yet I will have sure, safe council,
If I will but listen to God.
I am so weak and sinful
And know not the best thing to do,
But I have a Friend who is loyal,
I have a Friend who is true,
And when I would fail Him and falter,
When temptations spring up anew,
I list to the Voice above,
As it tells me of Jesus love;
And I know I am safe as I go my way,
Living the New Year, day by day.

In the final set-up it will be properly arranged. The person who typed this became terribly interested and rushed in to tell me that she knew Hattie Frogge well. She is Miss Daisy Lester and was reared in Houston, it seems.

This is the article that will appear in the Fine Arts Chapter of the Chickasaw County History - All mistakes of the typist will of course be corrected.

Tribute written by Mrs. Blanche Eedens Chandler, Chickasaw

Dr. J. A. Donaldson, eminent and beloved physician of North-east Mississippi was born in Pontotoc County, October 20, 1877. He received his education at the Pontotoc Male Academy and Sewanee University. His medical education he received at the Kentucky School of Medicine, Louisville, Ky., and Memphis Hospital Medical College. He did post graduate work at the New York Polyclinic. After graduating in June 1899, he began practice in Troy.

In 1900 he married Hester Seale. They contimued to live in Troy until June 1907, when they chose Okolona for their home. It was here that the remaining years of his busy, useful life were lived, where he greatly endeared himself to the many suffering patients to whom he ministered so patiently, and with such knowledge and skill.

As a diagnostician he was unsurpassed. One outstanding cure he brought about was that of a little girl from St. Louis, Mo., who was in a most critical condition with a serious heart trouble. Numerous other cases could be cited. Time and space will not permit mention of more.

He was city health officer for ten years, an office which

he filled in his usual efficient and conscientious manner.

He was patient, gentle and kind, a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was charitable to those in need. He was a student always, his brilliant mind ever alert for new facts and methods, for he was never satisfied with work half done.

He was most courageous in his long fight against the dread disease cancer, which resulted in a serious throat operation from which he recovered. He continued to practice until March 28, 1933 when he passed away at the age of 56.

The following tribute paid him by Dr. C. H. Wheeler, colored physician of Okolona, shows the esteem in which he was held by all his fellow men:

"Again, 'The Grim Reaper,' whose scythe so keen cuts the 'Bearded Grain and the flowers that grow between' has paid a visit to our town and bound and carried away, one of out choicest flowers, in the person of Dr. J. A. Donaldson.

"After an illness of more than four months, during which time ~~the~~ he suffered all the pain incident to a long siege of illness, but while his suffering was intense, he complained

little, bearing his affliction with a Christian fortitude seldom seen in mankind.

"Notwithstanding the fact that his physician, Dr. A. F. ~~Wicso~~ Wicke, did all that was humanly possible for his relief, he lingered long and lost the fight for his life.

"In the practice of my profession in the community, it was my privilege to call in Dr. Donaldson many times for consultation On these occasions he not only exhibited his skill and knowledge of the medical profession, but also displayed a sympathy and consciousness for the patient that few men are able to portray.

"Our community has not only lost a citizen of the highest quality, but, suffering humanity has lost also a most valuable and charitable physician.

"Truly might we say in the words of the Poet,

'His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him, That all nature might stand up' and say, to all the world, This man was a man.'"

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Mrs. H. L. Houseman, formerly Julia Knox, of Okolona, talented artist, designed a pin for the Peyton Literary Society of I. I. & C while a student there about 1887. This society was named for Miss Annie Peyton of I.I. & C. Miss Mary Knox of Okolona, was first president of the Society.

Mrs. Houseman also designed the lovely Mississippi Federation of Women's Club Pin.

She is now a resident of Houston Texas.

She designs and paints her own cards at Christmas-time, fire-screens and Decals things, as a pleasant Past-time.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Historical Research Project

Subject :

The Local Press Other Publications :

Assignment # 21

INTRODUCTORY:

Since the dawn of history man's efforts have ever been to penetrate the unknown, to disseminate knowledge, and to leave a record of his accomplishments.

In ancient times his only media for the transmission to posterity of his knowledge and accomplishments were hieroglyphics carved on buildings and stones which might withstand the ravages of time, and later the parchment scrolls of the Egyptians and Romans.

With the invention of movable types in latter mediavel times, a new medium was discovered. However the progress of printing was very slow at the beginning, and Newspapers were unknown until about the eighteenth century.

Perhaps as much as any other factor, the Newspaper is responsible for the rapid growth of the United States and the development of the country's resources.

With the formation of Chickasaw County the need was felt for a newspaper, and this need was supplied in 1845 when the State Advocate was established by J. Lancaster. Since that time a number of other papers have been established in the county. Very few copies of these old papers are now extant, but it can be said without fear of contradiction that they served their community and county and were of inestimable value in the firm establishment of law and order.

Their problems were great and difficulties appeared almost insurmountable, but they were dedicated to a high ideal, and never swerved from their set path. Of them it may be said; They did their part. " They also served."

March 5th, 1937. G.T. Golson, Editor of The Times-Post.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Historical Research Project
February-4-1937

Supervisor
Mrs. J.C. Hightower

Canvassers
Miss Mabel Calvin
Mrs. Nina Holloway

SUBJECT:

THE LOCAL PRESS-OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Assignment # 21

NEWSPAPERS

THE COUNTY'S FIRST PAPER

The Research Department is not able to locate the first newspaper ever published in Chickasaw County, as the first paper was published in 1845 and no files were kept, but the oldest paper obtainable was an old copy of The Argus, owned by W.E. Scott Sr. published in 1851. Mr. G.W. Thornton was publisher, but was severing his connection with that issue of the paper, and George S. Crasty was assuming the editor-ship. No files were kept at th at time and the condition of this paper, from so much usuage is worn, yellow and badly torn.

This paper was published in the interest of the Democratic Party. It is not only interesting as an old document but for its make-up as well. The page size is six columns wide and each column is nineteen inches long. The width of the columns are thirteen and one half picas (2¼ inches) in contrast to the standard widths of today. They are twelve picas (2 inches) and thirteen picas (2 1/6 inches). Quite a number of items are printed without headlines.

As has been said, the first paper was published in 1845. It was called The State Advocate, and J. Lancaster was the editor and proprietor of the press. The State Advocate was a small sheet and soon proved to be insufficient to meet the growing wants of the people, as a county organ, and to comply with what seemed to be the wish of the people of the county. T.N. Martin purchased the press

CHICKASAW COUNTY

1

1. THE COUNTY'S FIRST PAPER: (continued)

and other material pertaining to the office, and also purchased new types, rules etc., needed to issue a paper of increased size, and in May of 1846, commenced the publication of the Southern Patriot, being himself, its editor.

At the completion of the fourth volume of The Patriot, its editor and proprietor sold it out to J.M. Thompson and J.A. Orr, who as editor and proprietor succeeded The Patriot with The Southern Argus.

The link in succession of editors and publishers is broken and the next link is taken up in 1870, when a gentleman named Rogers, moved his paper from Pittsboro, Mississippi to Houston, and called it The Patriot, His paper did not long survive.

About this time, Captain Frank Burkett was publishing The Chickasaw Messenger at Houston, probably about 1872 to 1876. He moved his paper to Okolona, where it still survives as The Ok olona Messenger.

Houston was without a paper for some time after the removal of The Messenger to Okolona. Then George Foster, one of the finest printers in the state, and a gentleman of great newspaper ability, started publication of The Free South, about 1885, which he continued until about 1889, when he sold it to a stock company, headed by W.F. Mc Alister, a lawyer who acted as editor for a time.

This paper was then sold to Gladney and Ruff, (J.R. Gladney and Valentine Ruff). Mr. Gladney was a lawyer, and was for a number of years, County Superintendent of Education of Chickasaw County. After a short time, he sold his interest in the paper to Valentine Ruff, who made quite a reputation for himself as an editor. He published the paper until 1892, when he went to work for The Memphis Commercial, as it was known at that time. After Mr. Ruff left Houston,

CHICKASAW COUNTY

1. THE COUNTY'S FIRST PAPERS: (continued)

his sister Miss Rose Ruff, ran the paper for several years. The plant was finally destroyed by fire.

Some time after The Free South, a paper was published in Houston called The Houston Reporter. A copy of the paper dated September,21, 1898, carries the name of G.W. Smith as editor and C.C. Thomas as publisher.

The next paper of which we could find any record was The Houston Post. It was established in 1904, with Mr. H. Richard Smith as its editor. He edited this paper for several years, and sold it.

From copies of The Houston Post dated in 1907, W.N. Darden was editor and publisher. In 1908 The Houston Post was succeeded by The Advocate, with W.N. Darden as editor and publisher still.

In 1911, it went into the hands of a Mr. Hardesy, who in turn sold it to Mr. G.W. Williams in 1913.

Mr. E.T. Winston established The Chickasaw County Times in the fall of 1910 and sold it to Mr. G.W. Williams also, in 1912. Mr. Williams consolidated the two papers in 1913 and it was known as The Times Post.

Since 1913, only one other paper has been published in Houston. This was The Houston Hummer, moved here from Houlka, where it was known as The Houlka Hummer with the late Rad Harrell Reed as its editor. It was published in Houston only a short time, and the equipment was sold to Mr. G.W. Williams, who moved it to Vardaman, Mississippi and later to Eupora, Mississippi.

Mr. Williams continued the publication of The Times Post until February, 1924, when he sold it to Murphree Brothers and Company. Mr. Roy Wilson became a stock holder in this company and assumed the editor-ship of The Times Post, later

CHICKASAW COUNTY

1. COUNTY'S FIRST PAPERS: (continued)

buying it from the company. He continued its publication until August of 1939, when he sold it to the present owner Mr. G.T. Golson, of Starkville, Mississippi.

Mr. Golson and family moved to Houston, very soon afterwards and have taken a deep and active interest in the civic, religious and social life of Houston. They have a host of friends who are deeply interested in their continued success.

An early newspaper in Okolona was The Prairie News, established some time in the fifties by Reuben Mason. It was published by different parties until about the beginning of the Civil War. Soon after the war W.C. Widell began the publication of The Okolona News, and continued it a few years as a Democratic paper, when its policies became Republican, and it became known as The Prairie News. It was afterwards purchased by A.Y. Harper, and the name was changed to The States, and it was published several years as a Democratic paper.

In 1876, The Chickasaw Messenger was established by a stock company and Captain Frank Burkett became editor, and about two years later proprietor. The Chickasaw Messenger was succeeded by The Okolona Messenger, and was edited by Mr. W.T. Quinn, until a few years ago, at his death his two daughters took it over, with Miss Ervie Quinn as publisher.

Just a few years after the Civil war, W.J. Lacey published The Okolonian for about a year. And The Okolona Monitor was also published for a time and later The Lancet was published by Z.T. Trice, for a short while. And from 1888 to 1890, The Okolona Times was published by George W. Waller and J.C. Petty.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

11. NAME PAPERS AND MAGAZINES DOWN TO DATE:

The State Advocate.
The Patriot.
The Southern Argus.
The Patriot.
The Prairie News.
The Okolona News.
The States.
The Okolona Monitor.
The Lancet.
The Chickasaw Messenger.
The Okolona Messenger.
The Free South.
The Houston Reporter.
The Advocate.
The Chickasaw County Times.
The Houston Rummer
The Times-Post.

From information furnished by individuals, from reading the editorials of the publishers of Chickasaw County papers, most of them have solidly endorsed the Democratic Party. An early paper The Patriot was published in the interest of the Greenback ticket, a branch of the Democratic Party. It was published by a Mr. Rogers in the late seventies. The Okolona News was published by different parties until about the beginning of the Civil War, according to Memoirs of Mississippi, Volume one. Soon after the Civil War, W.C. Widell began the publication of The Okolona News, and continued it a few years as a Democratic paper, when its policies became Republican, and it was then known as The Prairie News.

As for the local and civil attitude of the papers as a whole, the information obtained was, that they were aggressive and cooperative, also exceedingly friendly and active in local affairs of the towns and the county.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

11. NAME PAPERS AND MAGAZINES DOWN TO DATE: (continued)

QUOTATIONS:

Quotation from The Argus, in 1851 by out-going editor Thomson.

" The friends of The Argus have in its future conductors, Democrats, good and true; and gentlemen every way worthy and well qualified for the discharge of their respective duties, and I hope the same liberal patronage which has been conferred on me, may be continued to them."

" I take great pleasure in introducing to the readers of The Argus, Mr. George S. Crasty, upon whom the mantle falls, and who will in the future preside over its Editorial Department." " What is writ is writ; Would it were worthier?" I have done, Then; Farewell, a word that must be and hath been, a sound which makes us linger, yet farewell." November 10th.

J.M. Thomson.

Quotation from Mr. Valentine Ruff.

" My earliest recollection is of a paper, published in interest of the Greenback Ticket, called The Patriot, edited and published by a gentleman named Rogers. He moved his paper from Pittsboro, in Calhoun county, to Houston, I think in the latter 1870's. His paper did not long survive for want of patronage."

Quotation from The Chickasaw Messenger by Mr. Frank Burkett in 1880.

A. pest'ferous " nigger " politician of this city, we are told, asserts exultantly. " Now that Garfield is elected, the South will be reconstructed again." The probabilities, are that " nigger " will be reconstructed before the business of reconstructing the South has fairly begun.

111. OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS :

" John Sharp Williams " by " Washington "

Copied from The Advocate, dated 1908.

W.N. Dardon, Editor and Publisher.

There are not many men on the minority side of the House, capable of wearing the mantle which John Sharp Williams has thrown from his shoulders. As leader of the Democrats in the House, the brilliant Mississippian forced legislative recognition from the arrogant and autocratic majority, where a man less eminently endowed with the qualities of leadership must have signally failed. That the filibuster which he engineered toward the close of the last session, may have been untimely and to little purpose cannot be counted against him. The legislative value of the minority had been ruthlessly crushed, so far as any constructive powers were concerned. But two courses were left for them, either protest or submission. They chose to protest by means of the filibuster, and John Sharp Williams, as the head and front backbone of the minority, grimly fought it through.

" Three things Mr. Williams had in that abundance which leaders of the " under dogs " in any legislative body must possess if they are to remain a factor in its deliberations. He had personal magnetism, constructive ability and backbone. Backbone is neither the last nor the least. If the next House is as overwhelmingly Republican as the last, the Democrats will be hard pressed to find among them another man with so much of that saving quality as their recent leader possessed. If the next House should be Democratic, John Sharp Williams should be by right of his faith and work its Speaker.

III. OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS: (continued)

Without his wise counsels and unswerving hand at the helm, his party will be handicapped during the session which begins next December, when his resignation takes effect.

FROM
THE HOUSTON ADVOCATE
1908

The Public to Blame:

By W.N. Darden, Editor and Publisher.

Mob violence has furnished the subject for many newspaper articles, especially within the last few years. Nearly all the writers attribute the work of mobs to the proverbial delay of the courts. To one who observes closely however, the laxity or slowness of the law has little to do with lynchings. Usually the person lynched, would not escape the laws' vengeance. The mob victim is nearly always some degraded or vicious brute who would be sentenced to hang if tried in court. Especially is this true in the Southern States. It is a fact however, that men of standing and influence or men who are able to hire a shrewd lawyer, often escape the consequences of crime. So long as this exists, so long will the country be shocked by murders and shooting affrays brought about by real or fancied wrongs. The remedy is in the hands of the public. When the laws are rigidly enforced, when the officials and juries do their duty men will hesitate to lift their hands against their neighbors on trivial pretexts.

III. OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS: (continued)

From

The Chickasaw Messenger whose motto was " Earnest, Faithful and Courageous in Defense of The Peoples' Rights.

Edited by; Captain Frank Burkett, 1880

When the Radical Convention Assembled in Aberdeen, it was conceded on all hands that if a ticket was put in the field, ex-chancellor Frazee would be the nominee, but the wise-acres of the party, Flournoy, Morphis, Bynum and Company, thought it impolite to put out a canidate for congress, and these views were so thoroughly impressed upon the Convention, that even Ju dge Frazee yielded, and the matter was referred to the executive committee. After the October election, these same patriots thought it probable a Radical could be elected in the First District, and then the importance of nominating a man who could carry the " white vote," in the upper counties was brought prominently to the front.

Judge Frazee, it was intimated, had no strength except among the negroes, and Morphis' friends claimed he would just sweep the counties of Tishomingo, Alcorn, Prentiss, Itawamba, Lee and Pontotoc like a whirl-wind. Behold, the result! In Tishomingo he received fifty one votes, Alcorn, six hundred and six, Prentiss, one hundred and sixteen, Itawamba, thirty six, Lee, eighty nine, and in his own county he fell behind the dead-line four hundred and forty seven votes. We heard a darky say a few days since, " Mr. Morphis and Dr. Bynum " pinionated demselves, dat day carried de upper end ob de Deestrict in der britches pocket, but I allus knowed dem white folks war de mos cliveness people a publican politician ebber had any thing to do wid."

III. OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS: (continued)

" Rah, for Morphis, Bynum and Company, and God bless the good and true people of the " white counties " of the gallant old First District.

From
HOUSTON POST
1907

Vardamans' Issue

E.W. Newman of Washington, one of the foremost political writers in the country, in one of his delightful and instructive essays, tells an amusing story of Colonel Spencer G. Dabney, a famous Kentucky character who lived before the Civil War, when a young man, Dabney was called on at a Fourth of July gathering to take the place of the orator of the occasion, who was unable to be present. He consented and made a flowery and patriotic speech of considerable length. At its close an uncle stepped up and grasped his hand and thus delivered himself; " Spence, my boy, your presence is noble and imposing, your language is eloquent and musical, your voice is sonorous and splendid, your gestures are graceful and natural, but what you need is, ideas. If an idea ever strikes you, you'll be a hell-roarer." Some such conclusion must have been reached by many of those who heard Governor Vardaman here last week. Indeed his speech would forcibly remind one of the saying of Talleyrand that, language is used to conceal thought. The main feature of his speech is his advocacy of the repeal of the fifteenth emendment. Upon the desirability of this we are all agreed. Politically, the negro question is settled in Mississippi, and should be allowed to stay settled. Senator George Stood upon the floor of the Senate, hour after hour defending Mississippis' present Constitution. He wanted his state to decide the negro question, politically in the manner divided by her Constitution. All he asked was for the North to let us alone. The plan is working just as well now as when the Constitutional provision first became effective. The negro is completely shut out as

CHICKASAW COUNTY

111. OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS: (continued)

a political factor. Instead of letting this remain the case, Vardaman proposes to put the question of negro suffrage before the partisan north. There is no other way to go about the Repeal of the objectionable Amendment; It must be submitted to the Northern States and their verdict must be accepted. We must appeal to the very man who gave the negro the ballot, to take it away from him. In the face of the fact that the Northern negro voter is a secure Republican asset over which rival factions are now fighting, does any one believe Republicans would favorably entertain a proposition to take away their balance of power in a great number of states? They would not. We say, let General Georges' plan alone. It is doing the work perfectly and will continue to do it, in spite of the predictions of professional alarmists.

OKOLONA MESSENGER.....March-11-1915

Editorial W.T. Quinn, Editor and Publisher.

If War is Hell .....What is Taxes?

We need not wonder why there are so many renters and men who do not care to own property. When taxes " cut'em up" can you blame them? We need not wonder why the tax-payer slowly hobbles to the Court House- pays exhorbitant taxes and slowly creeps homeward - saying " To hades with the whole d---- push!" We need not wonder why the people cuss the officers and the whole County machinery. Every county has too many officers. Less than half could do the work. When officers get enormous salaries for nine months vacation and three months of work, no wonder the people raise sand. But it is the fault of the voter. Th ere is no get together of " This shall be done." The voters cuss this year, then do it over

III. OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS: (continued)

next year. When County warrants have to be discounted as high as twenty and twenty-five per cent, then that county ought to close up shop and get down and out.

" The above editorial was written by The Houlka Hummer, reproduced by The Okolona Messenger and then The Okolona Messenger comes back with this editorial."

" War may be hell, bu t not taxes. Extortion under the name tax, is bad, very bad, but not so bad as war. People do not mind taxation when they receive full value for the money paid, but when collections are made and no substantial benefits derived by those who pay, they should raise a howl and keep it up until the wrong is righted and the public is receiving what is being paid for. Taxes can hardly be said to be high when judiciously expended. For this is what is paid in towards community life and the more of community life the better worth living is that life. Good schools, good roads, good laws properly enforced is what rural communities most need and these should receive liberal but judiciously expended sums. The fact that warrants are at a discount does not mean that taxes are high, rather the opposite unless it means that the business of the County is extravagantly managed. If th is is true, then the citizens should say " a charge must be made." They should not only say this but demand that those asking for office should pledge themselves to permit no waste of public funds and follow up by seeing to it that they abide by the pledge made during the campaign. We would suggest that the Board of Supervisors borrow money on a loan warrant to meet the running expenses of the County. This would save an enormous amount in the run of a year. For now when a bid is made for public work it is made with the idea that there is no cash to pay and bids are made accordingly.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

111. OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS: (continued)

From

CHICKASAW COUNTY TIMES
Dec-9-1910

Good Roads Agitation — Editorial by...E.T. Winston

Good roads and civic improvement have each received a black eye on this side of the creek recently. Houston voters not long since turned down a proposition for side-walk bonds and last Tuesday the beat in which Houston is located emphatically refused to vote bonds for good roads.

My information is that in each instance failure to take the progressive step was chiefly because those responsible for the elections did not deem it necessary to take the body of voters into their confidence and fully enlighten them as to how the money would be spent, were it voted. First one and then another maybe trivial question along this line occuring to the soverign voter, without any authoritative tendency to elucidate the subject, gave the benefit of the doubt to an obligation not incurred.

Our people are pretty well educated into the good roads spirit, and they have willingly gone to greater lengths than a number of counties in the commonwealth and may be persuaded to go still further, but they will insist upon detailed information along the line of progress, and those in authority may rest assured the individual voter will steer for easy water on any proposition to add to the tax burden until this detailed information is forthcoming.

The situation is easily explained when an individual has paid out his own money or borrowed to the limit of his credit to carry on his business, he is going to be very, very cautious how he obligates himself to secure additional funds, even to hold his own; and he will be doubly cautious in borrowing money

111. OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS: (continued)

and adding to his indebtedness to broaden the field of his operations, even though the success of his enterprise may be assured.

After all, " old man peepul " is a mighty safe business man, and give him full latitude on any question affecting his interests and he will much oftener do right than wrong, and in case of doubt he pursues the ever middle ground.

FROM

THE TIMES POST.....July-26-1923

Take Politics Out of Politics .....Editorial by Roy Wilson

There is entirely too much politics in politics. It interferes with efficiency and is expensive to the tax payers. A public official, elected by the people, in order to discharge his sworn duty to those people should fill the job at his disposal with men and women most competent to fill them.

It is to be expected of course, that people of the same political party would be appointed to th ose positions. That would be legitimate politics, with which no reasonable person could find fault. But that is not the way they do it. They resort, instead to political politics.

Once elected to office, they begin to build fences for re-election. And rails of a political fence are composed of appointees who have " delivered the goods " in the past or can do so in the future, at election time.

Thus we see hundreds of thousands of men filling offices where brains are required and only flat heads are in evidence. That is " political" politics, and it staggers the tax payers to pay the bill. There are exceptions of course but they are about as numerous as mosquitoes in the dead of winter.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

III. OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS: (continued)

FROM

THE TIMES POST

March-3-1932

Too Much Government .....Editorial by Mr. G.T. Colson

We saw some startling figures the other day. If they are correct, and we have every reason to believe that they are, since they were compiled by the New York Sun, a responsible newspaper, then we have reached the position in this country where one tenth of all the people are on the public pay-roll.

One hundred persons out of every thousand are tax-eaters! That includes national, state, county, municipal, township and village employees. Add to those the number of pensioners and persons being supported by old age relief funds, in poor-houses, prisons and insane asylums and it is easy to believe, as Senator Metcalf of Rhode Island asserts, that every six people in the United States are carrying a seventh on their backs.

That is the penalty we are paying for our easy policy of letting " Government " do everything. It is because of this enormous host of tax-eaters that the burden of taxation has become almost too heavy to bear. There must be public officials to enforce and administer the laws of course. There is no escaping from a certain percentage of public employees. But the inescapable tendency of our willingness to let professional politics run our public affairs is to increase the number of jobs at public expense. Politicians hold their power by " taking care " of their supporters. We think it is foolish to expect them to change their methods voluntarily. But we also think unless there is a speedy curtailment of the cost of Government, State, National, and local, there is going to be a general uprising of indignant taxpayers who will throw all the politicians, of all parties, out of their jobs and compel them to go back to earning an honest living.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

III. UNUSUAL NEWS ITEMS:

FROM

THE SOUTHERN ARGUS

Published - 1861

This edition of the Southern Argus has complete election returns for Chickasaw county.

List of Canidates

Governor	Jefferson Davis	Henry S. Foote
Sec. State	Jo Bell	James A. Horn
Treasurer	Richard Griffith	William Clark
Auditor	George T. Swann	Daniel R. Russell
Chancellor	John I. Guion	Charles Scott
Chancery Clerk	James T. Simms	J.P. Jones
Judge of High Court of Errors and Appeals	Alexander M. Clayton	R.S. Fisher
Vice Chancellor	A.K. Blythe	Henry Dickinson
Vice Chancery Clerk	Glen C. Moore	William L. Allen
	William T. Cocke	Benjamin L. Cuon
Congress	W.S. Featherston	John A. Wilcox
State Senate	Richard C. Steele	R.F. Fitzpatrick
Legislature	Joh n A. Orr	James McCrory
	William A. Shaw	Uriah Porter
Probate Judge	G.W. Thornton	T.M. Blackwell....Jacob Ault
Probate Clerk	A.E.S. Dumas	William B. Buchanan
Circuit Clerk	A.W. Steele	William M. Moffat...A.F. Miller
Sheriff	William L. Rankin	James F. Walker
County Treasurer	L.W. Galbraith	F.C. Wood
Assessor	James Martin	Joseph L. Flaquskin
	William Lanham	Thomas A. Word.....Newton C. Wright
Ranger	J.W. McManus	A.L. Wright.....Abner Hiland

For other offices the successful canidates only, are named with votes received.

Surveyor	M.R. Carrel	1930
Coroner	A.M. Foster	1928
Board of Police		
District-1	E.J.C. Thompson	773
District-2	James S. Holloway	647
District-3	Joab Ayars	847
District-4	A. Kilpatrick	1049
District-5	J.C. Brooks	868

CHICKASAW COUNTY

III. UNUSUAL NEWS ITEMS:

From
THE HOUSTON POST
1907

Horse Thieves Sentenced:

Five negro horse thieves, constituting an organized gang whose depredations have been carried on for some time near Okolona, were captured a few days ago, and were this week sentenced by Judge Sykes to five years in the penitentiary. The gang was led by a negro preacher, who lived across the line in Alabama. Animals had been missed near Okolona at the time of the persons' visit, and he had been suspected. His indiscretion in borrowing a buggy without the owners' permission, to which he hitched one of the animals, led to his arrest.

Chickasaw Boy Wins Prize:

Mr. A.F. Mecklinberger, of Okolona, won second prize last Friday night, in the annual contest of The Mississippi Oratorical Association, held at Columbus. The first prize went to J.D. Stone, of Mississippi College, Clinton. The A. and M. and Millsaps Colleges were also represented in the contest.

From
THE CHICKASAW MESSENGER

Edited by Frank Burkett in 1880

Arrival and Departure of Mails:

Egypt mail arrives every day (except Sunday) at twelve o'clock, and leaves the same day at one o'clock P.M.

From Pittsboro, arrives Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at seven A.M. and leaves at seven P.M., the same days.

To Pontotoc, leaves Houston, Mondays and Fridays at three A.M., and arrives Tuesdays and Saturdays, at seven P.M..

CHICKASAW COUNTY

III. UNUSUAL NEWS ITEMS: (continued)

Arrival and Departure of Mails:

From Grenada; to Houston, arrives Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at five o'clock P.M., and leaves Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at seven o'clock A.M. each week.

West Point mail arrives Tuesdays and Saturdays, at twelve o'clock A.M., and leaves at one P.M., the same days.

Rates of commission charged for money orders:

On orders not exceeding $15.00.....10¢

Over $15.00 and not exceeding $30.00.....15¢

Over $30.00 and not exceeding $40.00.....20¢

Over $40.00 and not exceeding $50.00.....25¢

Unusual Social Items:

From
THE HOUSTON ADVOCATE
1908

Miss Ola Dorman was the hostess of the Round Dozen Club, Wednesday afternoon April 1st. On being called to order by the President, the following program was rendered;

Duet; Selected- Mrs. Boyd and Miss Cavett.

Study; The Angevins or Plantogenets.

Roll Call and Response.

Anecdotes on character studied.

Song; Some day when dreams come true, by Mrs. Boyd.

Recess:

Reading; Old London - By the Club.

Critics' Report:

CHICKASAW COUNTY

III. UNUSUAL SOCIAL ITEMS: (continued)

Song: I Can't Do The Sum - Miss Cavett.

The Club meets next Wednesday, September 8th., with Mrs. T. W. Hamilton.

Answer the Roll Call, " English Current Events."

FROM
THE OKOLONA MESSENGER
April-27-1916

One of the most unique and thoroughly enjoyable affairs of the season was on the afternoon of April 11th, when Mrs. D.F. Morgan entertained the Lanier Club. This being the regular social meeting many novel ideas were introduced by the charming hostess.

After a short business session the guests were given a hint of coming events by hearing the familiar song " School Days " being sung in an adjoining room. The pupils were first requested to draw a map of Mississippi, locating Okolona. Next a test in English, which consisted of writing an original poem, then an old time spelling match. After this rigid examination recess was announced and a delicious lunch, consisting of many spring dainties, placed in paste board buckets, was handed to each and then fun, frolic, and feasting was indulged in. Next on the program came the " Friday Afternoon" speeches. After which the awarding of the prizes by the judges, Misses Helen Owen, Hilary Ward, and Annie Miller. The prizes were presented as follows: For the best map, Mrs. Donaldson; The best poem, Mrs. Allen; and Mrs. Rosenbaum received the prize for the best speech. At a late hour school was dismissed and each went their way with sweet memories of their childhood.

" School days, school days,
Dear old golden rule days;
Reading and writing and 'rithmetic
Taught to the tune of a hickory stick,"
etc., etc.

III. UNUSUAL SOCIAL ITEMS: (continued)

FROM
THE HOUSTON POST
1907

The Pounding:

It was an enjoyable occasion for the parsonage family on last Friday evening, when so many of our friends honored us with a delightful visit. Among the guests were the distinguished Rev, T.W. Lewis, of Jackson, Mississippi and his noble father J.A. Lewis, now a citizen of Houston. The moments passed swiftly and much too soon, they said " goodnight," the pounding was over. Besides contributing to the social pleasures each guest deposited an offering, every one of which from the smallest donation to the full barrel of flour, was appreciated.

Among these I would like to mention also the things previously sent in; the Christmas turkey, given by Rev. and Mrs. A.P. Sage, being chief of them. That turkey ! It would have satisfied the demands of a royal board. A blessed new year to all.

W.L. Graves.

FROM
THE HOUSTON POST
1907

A party of boys and girls " stormed " Misses Pearl and Lucretia Harris, and had a surprise party Monday night. Miss Pearl met them at the door, and asked them in the parlor and told them to be seated on the rugs and sofa pillows. A jollier more informal party cannot be imagined. It was finally decided to stay up and watch the old year out and the new one in, and to see for themselves, if, as the new year was ushered in, the oxen really knelt in their stalls and horses talked to one another. As no oxen were in sight and no horses near enough to be heard, they are still in ignorance as to whether this is true. While watching the old

111. UNUSUAL SOCIAL ITEMS: (continued)

year out, they sped the time with stories, games and recitations. Misses Irene Reid and Mamie Hill giving several readings which were thoroughly enjoyed by the party.

111. ODD ADVERTISEMENTS:

FROM
THE HOUSTON FREE SOUTH
Nov-8-1889

Garrets, Ralph, Stewart and Company, Dental snuff relieves toothache, neuralgia, cures scurvey, whitens teeth etc.. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. R.H. Snuff, with money in every bottle and jewelry in every can.

For sale by " Foster, The Grocer."

FROM
THE ARGUS
1851

NEW LIVERY STABLE:

" The undersigned would announce to the public that he has opened in the town of Houston a new and comfortable Livery Stable. Where he will keep constantly a supply of horses and buggies for hire. Gentlemen from the country visiting town can have their horses taken care of, fed, watered and curried at small expense, without the risk of broken briddles, lost saddles or run-away horses.

" R.C. Steele."

FROM
THE ARGUS
1851

" Dr. Q.C. Crasty"
" Surgeon Dentist"
" Houston, Mississippi."

" Renews a tender of his service to the people of Chickasaw and surrounding counties, and hopes after an acquaintance of two years to serve them professionally. All operations in Dentistry punctually performed, and well."

111, ODD ADVERTISEMENTS: (continued)

" Incorruptible teeth inserted with all the late improvements on pivots in a manner new and entirely superior. Also on gold plate, from one, to an entire denture, in a manner which he warrants for beauty of appearance, durability, and comfort, shall not be excelled, as those for whom he has operated past years will cheerfully bear testimony.

" Office west side of the public square where he will be found, unless professionally absent. Orders left at the post office will meet with prompt attention."

FROM
THE ARGUS
1851

Hotels Board Horses as well as Guests.

" Planters' Hotel.

" By A. Turman, Houston, Mississippi.

" The subscriber having opened a House of entertainment, will be prepared at all times to accommodate the traveling community in the best manner possible. Good bedding, attentive servants, and the best the market affords will be supplied.

" Rates Moderate.

" Dinner, 30¢; Breakfast, 25¢; Supper, 25¢; Lodging, 15¢

" Man and horse per day $1.50; Man and horse per night $1.10; Man per day 90¢

" Horse per day, 60¢; Man per week, $5.00; Horse per week, $5.50.

FROM
THE ARGUS
1851

" McDowell House.
" Houston, Mississippi.

" The subscriber has permanently located himself, as a tavern keeper, in the well known house called the " Houston Hotel; formerly kept by captain R.C. Steele. Prices in accordance with the times. And after eight years of experience in the

111. ODD ADVERTISEMENTS: (continued)

business, I shall try to have clean sheets, table cloths, plates, knives, forks, etc. Few servants but good and attentive, with everything on the table that this back country affords. So people sustain me and I will try to keep a good house.

" Call and see for yourselves. He has also the best stables attached to the premises, that is in Houston. " N.B. Horses and vehicles to hire at moderate prices, so no passenger can be detained longer than they wish.

" H.Ms Dowell."

FROM
THE CHICKASAW MESSENGER
1880

Buy your goods from Greener,
Undersold we cannot be,
You have only to call and see.

Your cotton, you can sell for cash,
Our house will buy it in a flash,
Upon such terms, you won't complain,
Rest assured of this and call again.

Goods new and cheap we keep on hand,
Our clerks are clever as any in the land,
Our motto is quick sales and profits small,
Deal on the square, with one and all,
So please don't fail to give us a call.
Flour, Sugar, Coffee, Meat and Meal.

111. ODD ADVERTISEMENTS: (continued)

Resolved we are to keep for sale,
On terms, that we competition, may defy
Mention this to those desiring to buy.

Great the inducements we offer you,
Rest assured what we say we will do
Everything the ladies may need for wear.

Edgings, ribbons, and dress goods are here,
Notions, hats, boots and shoes sold lower,
Everything in fact, cheaper than before,
Remember the place, the
GREAT SOUTHERN STORE.

FROM
THE CHICKASAW MESSENGER
September-23-1880

Fall and Winter Goods!
Immense stock at
L. ROSENBAUM'S
Prices cut down to meet competition,
Dry-Goods, Clothing, Hats and Shoes,
Groceries etc., Also Bagging and Ties always on hand,
Good Prints, fast colors----------6¢
Bleachings----------7¢ to 10¢
Brown Domestic (very heavy)----------7¢
Ticking ----------10¢
Jeans (heavy quality) ----------20¢
Brogans, first quality ----------$1.25

111. ODD ADVERTISEMENTS: (continued)

Mens' Boots, a good quality ----------$2.50

Give us a trial. We can be found in our old stand in the Temple Building, Okolona, Mississippi.

" L. Rosenbaum."

From
THE CHICKASAW MESSENGER
September-23-1880

NEW TIN SHOP

J.M. Davis and Company, desire to inform the public that they have established a first class TIN SHOP First door east of Greener Brothers, on Main Street and that they manufacture and keep constantly on hand and for sale, all kinds of

TIN WARE

Roofing and Guttering a specialty, and orders solicited.

From
HOUSTON POST
1907

The Houston Shaving Parlor,
O.C. Erlich, Proprietor.

Only white shop in town. None but white Workmen employed. We give clean honest service and use our best efforts to please. Located on North side of Court Square. Your patronage solicited.

From
THE TIMES -POST
1916

MULES WANTED:

I will be at the following places on dates named below to buy fat mules from five to ten years old, fifteen to sixteen hands, short backs and good foot and bone.

111. ODD ADVERTISEMENTS: (continued)

Houston, Monday, January - 17th -1916

BOYD'S STABLE

Okolona, Tuesady, January-18th-1916

WHITESIDE'S STABLE

W.B. Burnett.

From
THE CHICKASAW MESSENGER
1880

Buckinghams' Dye

For the

Whiskers

Will change the beard to a brown or black at discretion. Being in one preparation it is easily applied and produces a permanent color that will not wash off.

H.C. Buchanan, Agent

Okolona, Mississippi. April-8th, 1880.

From
THE TIMES-POST
1916

DID YOU KNOW:

That home water works will eliminate the lifting of 105,000,000 pounds of water a day in Mississippi?

That home water works will keep your wife young?

That home water works will eliminate the 152 miles yearly that the average housekeeper packs water?

That home water works helps keep the young folks on the farm?

111. ODD ADVERTISEMENTS : (continued)

That home water works system can be put in for $18.40 ?

That home water works will be installed on 10,000 Mississippi farms within a short time ?

That home water works week in Mississippi will be from November 12th, to 18th.?

FIRES:

From
HOUSTON POST
1907

The Okolona Industrial College which suffered from a terrible storm and fire last October, receives $10.000 from Andrew Carnegie. President, Wallace A. Battle had just returned from New England where he raised $7000.00, when Mr. Carnegie's pledge was received. As soon as $3000.00 more is provided, Mr. Carnegie's donation will be available. Since the fire, friends of the school have also added one hundred forty acres of land, making a total of two hundred acres in the plant.

From
HOUSTON ADVOCATE
1908

Ginnery Destroyed by Fire.

Fire consumed the ginning plant of J.T. Dendy last Saturday night about ten oclock. Shortly before this time, the flames were discovered by those living near, who gave the alarm. In a few minutes the blaze had envelpoed the building as there were no means at hand to check it. The loss falls heavily on the owner as there was no insurance.

111. FIRES: (continued)

From
THE TIMES-POST
1914

Houlka has $50,000.00 loss by Fire.

Tuesday morning, news was received in Houston that the town of Houlka had been visited by a disastrous fire, about one oclock that morning, which destroyed one entire block of stores in the business district of that town. Four brick stores and four frame buildings went up in smoke.

From
THE TIMES POST
1916

Planter Murdered and Home Burned.

Walter L. Hammond was murdered in his home Friday night near Egypt, Chickasaw County, and in order to cover up the crime the murderer left the body in the house and set fire to the beautiful two-story country home and burned it to the ground.

At four oclock in the morning it was discovered by one of the negro hands on the place, that the house was burning. He gave the alarm by ringing the farm bell, and in a few minutes a number of negroes had gathered on the scene. Hammond's watch was found near the lot gate, but his Elk fob was missing. A pair of brass knucks was found, and as Hammond never owned a pair, it is thought that the murderer used them to kill him with.

He was alone in the house and it is believed that the murderer intended robbing the home. Mrs. Hammond was in Aberdeen visiting her daughter. An inquest was held by Justice of the Peace Peall. Dr. Hansell of Okolona identified the bones and heart that were discovered from the ruins, as those of a small man about the size of Hammond. Bill Jones identified his watch.

111. FIRES: From THE TIMES POST 1924

Canipe's Resturant Destroyed by Fire.

The A.L. Canipe Resturant on the corner near the Parr Hotel, was totally destroyed by fire at an early hour this (Thursday) morning. The fire was discovered about four oclock and had spread over the building to such an extent when discovered that it was impossible to save anything from the building. The Walter Nichols meat market was also destroyed. No insurance.

Two Stores Burned:

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. J.V. Boring.

On October 16th, 1922 the stores of A.J. Harrington and J.V. Boring were totally destroyed by fire. The fire originated in the Boring store and is thought to have originated in the feed department of the store, from combustion. The Boring stock of goods was estimated at $25.000.00 and only a small amount of insurance being carried, about $8000.00.

Three Homes Burned:

In 1928, the homes of Mrs. D.E. Davis, Dr. R.S. Blue and Mr. H.H. Newlon, were entirely destroyed by fire with most all the contents of the homes. Dr. R.S. Blue's house which was occupied by Sheriff D.S. Bishop and family was located between the Newlon and Davis home, and it was in that home, the fire originated. It is thought it caught from defective wiring. The wind was high and water scarce in Houston, and the neighboring fire departments from Okolona and Tupelo were called. One responded but was too late to put out the fire. All three homes were totally destroyed. All were partly covered by insurance.

111. FIRES (continued)

From THE TIMES-POST 1924

Okolona Has Disastrous Fire:

News reaches Houston this morning (Thursday) that Okolona had a very destructive fire last night. The Court House, Dean's Insurance Office, The Bakery, S.G. Colbert's Grocery Store, Tom Lyle's Grocery Store and the Okolona Mercantile Company were considerably damaged. The fire raged for several hours, and it is reported that several persons, were hurt and a negro killed by a falling wall. The Tupelo Fire Department went to the assistance of Okolona Fire Fighters, and it was said that Mayor Robins of Tupelo, was among the number hurt, when a wall of the Court House fell. Mr. Manuel Rubel was also hurt at the same time. A negro who was seriously hurt at the same time was brought to the Houston Hospital this morning. It is hoped that the other parties are not seriously hurt.

Windstorm Damages Murphree Dairy Farm:

A severe windstorm visited the S.D. Murphree Dairy Farm Tuesday afternoon, January 12th, 1932 and practically demolished all the buildings and trees on the place. According to the report that has reached us there were about twenty buildings put in ruins, causing a damage estimated at between ten and twelve thousand dollars. This damage was partially covered by insurance.

In personal injury, one of the Ledbetter children received severe bruises when he was lifted from a barn door and carried several yards and landed on a pile of corn. A negro woman also was injuried when the wind carried her from the door of the dwelling she occupied.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

ASSIGNMENT # 21.

THE LOCAL PRESS OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Information obtained for this assignment was copied form the newspapers listed below and from a personal interview with Mr. and Mrs. J.V. Boring.

Newspapers:

The Southern Argus.

Chickasaw Messenger.

Okolona Messenger.

The Houston Free South.

The Houston Reporter .

The Houston Advocate.

Chickasaw County Times.

Houston Hummer.

The Times-Post.

Houston Post.

Mrs. J.C. Hightower.

Mrs. J.C. Hightower, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County.

Canvassers:
Miss Mabel C. Calvin
Mrs. Zella Harrington

CHICKASAW COUNTY
HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
May 25, 1937

Supervisor:
Mrs. J. C. Hightower

ASSIGNMENT # 27

SUBJECT: The Bar

The early settlers of Chickasaw County take no little pride in remembering certain young men of the bar whose career of usefulness commenced with the settlement of the county. One such lawyer was Henry R. Carter, the county's second representative in the Legislature. He located in Houston as soon as the town was located, met with Board of Police at its organization, aided in making up the minutes of all the first courts held in the county, and brought the first civil suit ever instituted in the circuit courts of Chickasaw County. He was a good lawyer, posessing fine clerical capacities and as such, rendered valuable service to the county in its organization and early progress. He left the county and returned to his native state, Virginia, in 1840.

W. S. Featherston was born in Rutherford County, Tennessee, August 8, 1820. In 1840, when he was not quite twenty-one years of age he located in Houston and began the practice of law. While a

The Bar (continued)

resident of Houston, Featherston was the Democratic nominee for Congress in 1847 and was opposed by the Whigs with Colonel A. K. McClung as an opponent. Featherston was elected, and in the opinion of Reubin Davis, " Mississippi never had a more worthy representative." He was elected in 1849. In 1851, he was defeated by John A. Wilcox, Whigs and Union Democrat. Featherston was an elector on the Pierce ticket in 1852, but declined nomination in 1853.

In 1857, Featherston moved from Houston to Holly Springs. He saw distinguished service during the Civil War, reaching the rank of Brigadier-General in 1862. He returned home from the war in 1863 and resumed his law practice. He was elected to the Legislature in 1876, again in 1877, and also in 1888. In 1887, Featherston was made Judge of the Second Circuit. In 1889 he was supported by many for the Democratic nomination for Governor. He was a prominent member of the constitutional Convention of 1890, and died May 28, 1891.

Reubin Davis writes" Houston was for years the residence of

The Bar (continued)

three of the most prominent of the state."Winfield Scott Featherston, Cyrus B. Baldwin and J. A. Orr."

Cyrus B. Baldwin located and commenced the practice of law at Houston early in the year of 1840, with no other fortune than his brilliant intellect and legal learning. For a time he made very little progress in the practice of his profession, but in the process of time, he reached a distinction worthy to be sought by all young lawyers. In 1862, he died, being much respected and holding the high esteem of the whole community.

From cultured old South Carolina came another distinguished family, who settled in that portion of Chickasaw that was later embraced in the County of Calhoun., but later moved to Houston. This was the Orr family. J. A. Orr was a distinguished jurist. He grew to manhood in and around Houston. He read law in the office of General Featherston, and commenced the practice as his partner about 1846. He made a record and established a reputation as a lawyer and a gentleman, such as but few men are able to acquire.

The Bar (continued)

His career of usefulness forms a part of Chickasaw's history. He was a member of the legislature, a member of the Secession Convention, a member of the Confederate Congress at Richmond, and served as Colonel in the army and as Judge in the Circuit Court. Orr gave clear amd unmistakable demonstration of his brilliant intellect and force of character, proving in fact that he was a profound as a jurist as well as a statesman. He was one of the greatest jurists Mississippi has yet produced. He died in Columbus, Mississippi a few years ago.

William Edward Baskin was born in Chickasaw County near Buena Vista. He was a son of James H. Baskin and Mary Elizabeth Baskin, nee, Mary Elizabeth Featherston. He received the best educational advantages afforded by the common schools of the community in which he was reared, and later went to Somerville Institute, a school in Noxubee County that was noted for its thorough education of boys. There Baskin studied under that distinguished educator, Prof. Thomas S. Gathright. He studied law in the office of his uncle, Gen. W. S.

The Bar (continued)

Featherston, in Holly Springs, and commencedthe practice of law in Okolona in 1881. In 1888 he moved to Meridian, Mississippi, where he was city attorney for four years, during which time he conducted a most arduous and uncompromising battle against a water works monopoly which was located in that city. Said water works cause was litigated both in the state and Federal courts, the record in the cause being one of the largest that was ever filed in the Supreme Court of the state. Through his efforts, that city won a signal victory in that cause. At the conclusion of the suit, he resigned the office of city attorney. He was at one time a trustee of the University of Mississippi, having been appointed by Governor A. J. McLaurin, and reappointed in 1900 by Governor James K. Vardaman.

James Rhea Preston received hid rudimentary educational training under the direction of private instructors and at the age of sixteen he entered Georgetown University, where he remained for two years. He then entered Emory and Henry College at Emory, Virginia, in which institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1873, with a

The Bar (continued)

B. A. degree. In 1875 his Alma Mater conferred upon him his M. A. degree. That same year he came to Mississippi and located in Okolona, where he taught school for three years. All this time he was studying law and was admitted to the bar. In 1887, hemoved to Noxubee County, where he was principal of the school for three years. He was elected State Superintendent of Education, in 1885 and remained in office until 1896. He was the first to hold that office after the adoption of the new state constitution. He made education his study and introduced several very important reforms into the school systems of Mississippi. In politics, Mr. Preston was always a staunch Democrat, and in 1875, assisted in redeeming the state from radical misrule.

Mr. Preston assumed the Presidency of Staunton College at Natchez upon retiring from the office of Superintendent of Education. In 1904 he purchased Belhaven College in Jackson.

The life of W. F. Tucker of Chickasaw County will be found in "Supplement to Wars", Assignment # 5.

The Bar (continued)

J. B. Gladney was the son of Rev. R. S. Gladney, who came to Mississippi from the Carolinas in 1842. R. S. Gladney lived in Aberdeen for several years, and established a college. Later he sent his four sons to the University of Mississippi. J. B.,the second son, volunteered for service during the Civil War just three weeks before his graduation at the University. He joined the Aberdeen Company, Eleventh Mississippi Regiment. He was wounded at Gettysburg. For a number of years following the war, he continued the study of law, however, and was admitted to the bar. He then came to Houston to practice his profession. His unusual ability was soon recognized. He was noted for his affable manner and splendid oratory acquired from the tutors in the college of which his father was president. He continued to practice law in Houston until 1893 when his hearing became impaired. He was post master at Houston during Cleveland's administration. He also served as Chancery Clerk, filling the unexpired term of the late E. E. Medlin. Later, he was appointed County Superintendent of Education of Chickasaw County.

The Bar (continued)

He was instrumental in bringing Mississippi Normal College to Houston. In 1870, J. B. was married to Miss Ann Barton of Houston. In 1879, he was married a second time to Miss Sara Farr. Mr. Gladney wrote a play at one time, "Devils' Dream" in which he depicted several future imps. One imp represented "Womens' Suffrage" which in time became a reality. This grand old citizen died in 1955.

Baxter McFarland, son of Bartholomew and Ann Clarke McFarland, was born in Chickasaw County, May 15th 1839. His "bringing up" was in Chickasaw County and his professional education was acquired at the State University.

In 1860, he began the practice of law in partnership with Major J. M. Thompson in Houston, Mississippi. When the somber clouds of war appeared on the horizon of national unity, he enlisted in the "Chickasaw Guards". In January 1861, he went with his company to Pensacola, Florida, for the purpose of seizing government stores there. McFarland saw much active service during the Civil War and served respectively as orderly sergent, and Lieutenant , then Adjutant of the 41st Mississippi Regiment. He was Major on the staff

The Bar (continued)

of General Tucker. At the close of the war Major McFarland re-entered the legal profession at Houston with J. A. Orr and Col. J. R. McIntosh as partners. In 1870 Major McFarland severed this partnership and moved to Aberdeen, Mississippi, forming a partnership with Reubin Davis. He continued to practice until 1883 when he was appointed Chancellor of the first district, and renamed upon the bench until 1899. With possibly one exception, fewer of his decisions were reversed by the supreme court than those of any other Chancellor or Judge, the state has ever had. The value of his judicial labors during this period is attested by the court records and state reports. Upon retirement from the bench, Judge M McFarland resumed the practice of law in partnership with George C. Paine. He was often a delegate to State and national conventions of the Democratic party. He prepared and presented to Congress a bill creating the eastern division of the northern district of the state of Mississippi, visiting Washington at his own expense and working hard for the passage of the measure which gave Aberdeen its federal court house and post office.

The Bar (continued)

J. R. McIntosh was born November 30, 1837. His parents moved to Chickasaw County in 1849. J.R. was educated at the University of Mississippi. In 1860 he was placed upon the military ticket and was elected lieutenant-colonel. He married Miss Kitty M. Buchanan, daughter of T.J. Buchanan, in 1860 and moved to his plantation. He had a brilliant Civil War record. At the close of the war he saw and appreciated the changed conditions and at once resumed the reading of law which he had commenced when he left the University. Before this he had read law as an accomplishment and as a part of a polite education, but with no view of practicing it. He moved to Houston, the county site and being very poor, resumed his legal studies in the office of W. F. Tucker. In April 1866 he was licensed to practice and formed a partnership with Baxter McFarland. Their practice was large and lucrative. McIntosh continued his law practice in Chickasaw County until the fall of 1883, when he moved to Meridian and by invitation entered a partnership with Captain Thomas H. Woods. This firm probably enjoyed the largest practice of any law firm in the state. Mr. McIntosh never occupied but one official position.

The Bar (continued)

In 1871, during Reconstruction days, he was elected by the Democrats of Chickasaw County to the legislature and served two years. In 1886, he was a candidate for congress in his district, but withdrew from the race due to the untimely and tragic death of his father. It was conceded by all that he would have been nominated on the first ballot.

Judge J. W. Buchanan was born in 1838 and was a native Chickasaw Countian. After completing his education from the county schools, he entered the University and was graduated in 1860. He was a soldier in the Civil war, was wounded in Jonesboro, Georgia, August 31, 1864 and was never able to return to his company. He was confined to his bed until 1868, where he did most of his law study. In 1868, he began to practice law, was elected to the Mississippi Legislature in 1879, again in 1881, being appointed Judge after this term. He was at one time Judge of the first district of Mississippi being appointed by Governor Lowry. He gave up his seat on the bench to enter the legal department of

The Bar (continued)

the then Kansas City, Memphis and Birmingham Railroad, which is now part of the Frisco system. He was receiver for the News Scimetar for two years, 1910 and 1911. At the time of Judge Buchanan's death he resided in Memphis and was seventy-seven years of age. He was attorney for the Frisco Railroad, was a Knight Templar and an OddFellow.

Frank Burkitt was born July 5, 1843 near Laurenceburg, Tennessee. He attended school in Tennessee under various teachers. In 1857 he entered the school of Professor Watkins at New Ferry, Virginia and was there one year. In june 1861, Frank Burkett enlisted in the confederate army. He was Sergeant-Major of the 9th Battalion, Tennessee Cavalry and reached the rank of Captain before his parole on May 15, 1865. After the war he taught school in Alabama and Mississippi and read law privately. In 1872, he passed the bar examination and practiced law for a time. Frank Burkett became editor of The Chickasaw Messenger. In 1876, he moved the paper from Houston to Okolona, where it was known as The Peoples' Messenger. He was elected to the Legislature in 1886, and was re-elected three times. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1890. He acted with the Peoples' Party from 1892 until the organization disbanded in 1902. He was a candidate of that party for Governor in 1895. Burkitt was a Democrat, a mason, and Grand Master of Masons in 1879, Grand Commander from 1904 to 1908 and a Knight Templar. In 1886 he published a book, "Our State ~~xxx~~ Finances and School System." Burkitt was elected to the House of Representatives in 1907.

The Bar (continued)

Judge William A. Roane was born in Sarepta, Mississippi, Calhoun County, in 1853, son of Andrew Roane and Sarah Campbell Roane. On his father's side he was decended from Gov. Archibald Roane of Tennessee and Gov. John Alden Roane of Arkansas. On his mother's side from Gov. Campbell of Virginia and Campbell of Tennessee.

He received his early education in the schools of Calhoun County but studied law at Lebanon, Tennessee. While there he married Miss Minnie Martin of Labanon, Tennessee. After finishing his education he came back to Mississippi to practice his profession.

The Bar (continued)

Judge Roane was a lawyer of wide practice, having handled the most intricate cases. His charges to the juries were heard by every citizen that could possibly attend at the opening of each court and they were in beautiful terms, but held the most binding promises to deal justly at all costs, and no man who sat on the jury and received a charge from Judge W. A. Roane dared pass lightly over any detail or allow anything short of "right for right's sake" to prompt his judgement.

Judge Roane who presided over the Circuit Court of the Third District, was one of the state's leading jurists. He was prominent in the affairs of the state. He served in both the House and the Senate, and was for sixteen years District Attorney. He resigned the office Judge in 1912 to accept a position and General Counsel for the Columbian Woodmen, moving to Atlanta, Georgia.

He returned to Mississippi in 1917 and was elected Circuit Judge in 1920. In 1923 he was canidate for re-election and had no opposition.

The Bar (continued)

In the summer of 1923 Judge Roane was spending his vacation with his daughter, Mrs. Alfred Ritter, of Colorado Springs when he became seriously ill and died on July 24th. Truly a good, great man passed away, and Houston is better for Judge Roane's having lived there. He was a past grand master of the Masons of Mississippi, and was one of the most prominent figures in every grand lodge for years.

S. L. Brannon of Leland, Mississippi had this to say of Judge Roane in the Commercial Appeal dated August 4th, 1923. "The state of Mississippi and more especially the northern section, was loser by the death of the profound jurist, christian gentleman and splendid citizen, W. A. Roane. Judge Roane was a man of the people, his friendships were not confined to the classes. The masses looked upon Judge Roane as their friend. The Judge was always in the front line to advance any cause for the betterment of the condition of the laboring men. In his interpretation of the law he used the scales of justice. In the last charge of the Grand Jury at the spring term of Circuit Court at Oxford, Mississippi, his advice was more in the

The Bar (continued)

nature of a sermon. Judge Roane was truly a great man.

The Times Post of June 17, 1920 carried this endorsement of the Chickasaw County Bar, of Judge W. A. Roane as follows:

Be it resolved by the members of the Chickasaw Bar, Houston and Okolona in joint meeting.

That we present to the electorate of the Third Circuit Judicial District, Judge W. A. Roane as a man eminently fitted to succeed Judge C. Lee Crumb, resigned.

Judge Roane served sixteen years as District Attorney and four years as Circuit Judge, and in both offices demonstrated these qualities that commend him to the people as a man well qualified to fill the important position of Circuit Judge.

As a lawyer and citizen, Judge Roane has impressed the citizenship of this district with the fact that the law is the foundation of society, and that its observances by all alike, without favoritism, is essential to the preservation of our institutions.

The Bar (continued)m

Having been intimately associated with Judge Roane as citizen, lawyer and judge, we unhesitatingly recommend and most heartily endorse him for the position of Circuit Judge of this Judicial District.

Signed:

W. S. Bates
R. H. Knox
J. H. Ford
L. P. Haley
A. T. Stovall
George Bean
R. G. West
J. L. Lyon
Jeff Busby

(copied from Times Post, June 17, 1920)

The Times Post of October 20, 1921, had this to say, advocating Judge Roane for Governor. " Our people would regret to give up Judge Roane in his present relation, he is doing so much good, but we need a great and good man to guide the ship of state at this time. John M. Stone was thenfirst Governor after the dark

The Bar (continued)

days of Reconstruction. He save d the state. At this time we need Judge Roane for the same reason.

Hon. J. E. Harrington, son of Mr. W. A. Harrington was born Nov. 4, 1881 at Sparta, Mississippi. He attended his first school at Sparta and later at Houston where he graduated from High School. He studied law at the University of Mississippi where he graduated in 1905. He then came back to Houston and formed a law partnership with Judge W. N. Bradford. After about two years he began to practice by himself.

In 1909 he ran for Mayor of Houston with Mr. John M. Walker as his opponent and was elected. He served two terms as Mayor and while in office he helped to get several ordinances passed that have meant much to the town.

After serving two terms as Mayor, he ran for County Attorney against Hon. Jeff Busby and was defeated. Later he ran for County Attorney against Judge W. M. Bradford and Judge W. A. Roane and was elected at the first primary. He only served three

The Bar (continued)

years of this term for on December 19, 1922 he met with a tragic death in an automobile accident. Mr. Harrington was a very useful citizen as well as a public servant. He made many friends during his short period of public life and was held in high esteen by the Chickasaw Bar.

William Oscar Lawrence was born at Benela in Calhoun County. He attended school in Eupora and Pittsboro in 1900, and incidentally in his seventhenth year, entered Millsaps College. Two years later he transfered his attendance to A. and M. College at Starkville (the years 1902-03). Later he took up the study of law under private preceptorship and in 1910 entered the Cumberland University Law School at Lebanon, Tennessee from which he was graduated in 1912 and was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law in Okolona. He continued to live and practice in Okolona for a number of years, later moving to Calhoun City, where he now resides.

T. J. Buchanan was born in Okolona and attended prep- school in the state of Alabama. Later he studied law privately under Judge Beckett of West Point for xx a time, then went to the Cumber-

land University Law School at Lebanan, Tennessee. Returning home, he began the practice of law and won the reputation of winning all his cases. He served as assistant United States District Attorney, and was at one time County Attorney of Chickasaw County. He was also attorney for the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, for the city of Okolona and Bank Attorney for Okolona.

William Feimster Buchanan, son of Thomas H. and Jennie Tucker Buchanan,was born January 22, 1884, in Okolona, Mississippi. After laying the foundation of his education in the common schools. William Feimster attended the Webb School, later he attended Bellbuckle in Tennessee and Millsaps College in Jackson. Shortly after,he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law, also having real estate interests.

Mr. Buchanan served as County Attorneynfor Chickasaw County from 1910 to 1912, also served as Representative from 1914 to 1916. He was elected Mayor of Okolona in 1922 and served until 1930. He was a candidate for State Senator at one time against Frank Burkitt but was defeated. Mr. Buchanan was a true Democrat

The Bar (continued)

in all his political views and efforts, and Okolona never had a truer son.

R. P. Williams was born at Buena Vista, Mississippi, April 14, 1857. He was a son of U. S. Williams, who was one of the earliest settlers and finest medical practitioners of Chickasaw County. Robert Williams was brought up in Chickasaw County and received his initiary training at Gathright school afterward graduating from Emory and Henry College of Virginia in 1878. He afterwards entered the law department of the University of St. Louis, graduating in 1881, after which he entered upon his practice in Nebraska. Eighteen months later he returned to Mississippi and located in Okolona. Here he formed a partnership with Col. J. R. McIntosh, which was continued harmoniously and profitably until the latter's removal to Meridian in 1884 . The next year Mr. Williams also moved to Meridian. In 1883 he married Alice, daughter of Col. J. R. McIntosh. He became an able and well known lawyer while living in Meridiam. Mr. Williams was an uncle of the late John Clifton Williams, a former Chan-

The Bar (continued)

cery Clerk of Houston, Chickasaw County.

W. T. Houston was born in Newbern, Alabama, May 4, 1849. He attended school at Newbern, Alabama, Uniontown, Columbiana, Montevali,and Green Springs, and for a summer term in Marion, Alabama; at Green Springs he was under the instruction of Henry Tutwiler, the greatest educator in the south. After the removal of the family to St. Louis, he was for some time his father's clerk and bookkeeper, but later became private tutor for the son of Judge Logan Huntem and during that engagement began the study of law under Judge Hunton. In 1869 he entered the law department of the Washington University of St. Louis and was admitted to practice in the summer of 1870, but finding, as many another young lawyer had done, that his practice was not sufficiently extensive to suffer much from his absence from the office, he returned to the law school in the fall of 1870, and graduated in the summer of 1871, with the degree of bachelor of laws. In the spring of 1872, as a result of having had

The Bar (continued)

to support himself by teaching at night while waiting in the office for clients during the day, his health gave way and he went to Greensboro, Alabama with the hope of there recuperating, and at the same time acquiring some little practice. Finding no litigation in the courts of that section of Alabama and no promise for the future, in November 1872, he went to Aberdeen to visit and consult his uncle Judge L. E. Houston, then in active practice of his profession and a member of the legal firm of Houston and Reynolds. Through the instrumentality of Col. Reynolds he was admitted into partnership with the gifted Col. J. R. McIntosh then doing the largest practice at Okolona. In May 1874, he was married to Miss Mary Foshee of Okolona. In the summer of 1876 the partnership between Mr. Houston and Col. McIntosh was dissolved by mutual consent and the former retired from his profession to assume the presidency of Okolona Savings Institution, then the Bank of Okolona. After associating himself with J. W.Buchanan, the partnership continued until the appointmentof the latter to the bench of the Circuit Court. His next

The Bar (continued)

partner was a young man named Kimbrough, who was succeeded by R. P. Williams, who in turn was followed by James H. Barr. In the fall of 1887, his uncle, Judge Houston, having been elevated th the Circuit bench, and Col. Reynolds having died, he was invited by Judge Houston and the widow of Col. Reynolds to take charge of the office and docket of Houston and Reynolds and wind up the litigation in which that firm had been concernedas counsel. This he did and in the fall moved to Aberdeen, forming a partnership with D. W. Houston and R. O. Reynolds, sons of L. E. Houston and R. O. Reynolds. H

He was elected to the State Senate from the tenth district composed of Chickasaw and Pontotoc Counties in 1885 for a four year term and declined to become a candidate for re-election upon the expiration of his term. In 1889 he moved to Meridian where he became a member of the firm of Woods and Williams.

N. W. Bradford was born in Pontotoc, Mississippi, in 1854. He received his education from that school and studued law. He was licensed to practice at the early age of twenty-one years. After serving as mayor of Pontotoc for a number of years,he moved to

The Bar (continued)

Houston in 1879. In 1904 he was elected to the Houseo of Representatives, serving until 1908. In 1916 he was Senator from the thirty-first District. "Judge" Bradford, as he was fondly called, was a very useful citizen, always standing for the progressiveness of his community and a real friend to his fellow man. He died in 1928.

Judge W. S. Bates was born in Franklin County, Alabama in 1830, a son of H. W. and E. E. (Bourland) Bates. He was the oldest of a large family of children. He spent his boyhood in Alabama, but when he was twelve years of age his family moved to Itawamba County, Mississippi where he spent his youth. At eighteen years of age, he began attending college in Tennessee where he remained for two years. In July 1854 he went to Pontotoc to read law with the firm of Fountain and Bradford, where heb remained for two years,,being admitted to the bar in 1856.

In 1858 he was married to Miss Susan Martin, daughter of Judge T. N. Martin, and that same year was elected to probate Judge of the county. In 1862 Judge Bates moved to Houston, Mississippi.

Chickasaw County
Assignment# 27

The Bar (cOntinued)

but soon afterward entered service in the confederate army. He remained in the army to the close of the war, and was paroled at Gainesville, Alabama. Upon returning to Houston, he resumed his law practice with Judge Martin, with whom he entered partnership in 1858. Their practice was sucessful and extensive in Chickasaw and adjoining counties, principally in civil cases. Judge Bates was a conservative Democrat and favored reconstruction. He was a citizen of Houston and Chickasaw County for sixty-one years.

When E. O. C. Ord, commanding the military department of Mississippi and Arkansas while governor, ordered an election in December 1867 of delegates to form still another constitution for our state, A. J. Jamison and E. R. Smith of Chickasaw were chosen. The adoption or rejection of the constitution thus formulated, being submitted to the voters of our state, and being quite objectionable, the people of Chickasaw County met in convention and selected Dr. J. W. Whitmore, W. J. Lacey and Wm. S. Bates to canvass the xxxxx county in opposition to its adoption. These men

The Bar (continued)

asaw County was organized, he was appointed as one of the commissioners to lay out a road from Houston to Grenada. He also served as a member of the board of police, and afterwards made a Justice of the Peace. His advancement was then to clerk of the Probate Court. This was in 1840. In 1841 he moved to Houston and served as clerk for twelve years. In 1842 he was assistant clerk of the House of Representatives. For many years he was editor of the "Houston Patriot". In 1865 Judge Martin was elected a member of the State Senate and was very instrumental in the passage of several bills, one of which was an act providing for the recovery of Chickasaw School Funds which had been loaned to several railroads.

Judge Martin was a very successful lawyer, being associated with his son-in-law, William S. Bates. He died in 1886 loved and honored as an outstanding citizen of Chickasaw County . His judgment and foresight helped lay the foundation for Houston and the County and later he extended valuable service toward restoring an exhausted state to some degree of peace and well-being.

The Bar (continued)

responding to the call, published appointments and made public speeches urging its rejection which not only resulted in its triumphant defeat in our county but in the state as well.

Judge Bates died at the age of eighty-seven, beloved and esteemed by all the people of the county for noble service rendered.

Judge T. N. Martin was born in North Carolina in 1807, being the third son of William Martin. He only received about three months schooling in his boyhood. When he was twenty-one years of age, he secured a position in an iron foundry on Broad River in North Carolina, being in the employ of a Mr. Black, who later became a Congressman. Mr. Black's political ambitions served as a spur to the ambitions of Mr. Martin, and he set about securing an education. He married Miss Parthenia Howser, the daughter of a well to do planter of Dutch parentage.

In 1835 they moved to Mississippi and settled in Chickasaw County. Here he farmed and taught school for a time. When Chick-

The Bar (continued)

Rush Knox was born in Reid, Calhoun County, Mississippi, September 24, 1879. His parents were Isaac Nicholson and Martha (Hightower) Knox. Mr. Knox received his early education in the schools of Calhoun and Pontotoc counties, then entered Mississippi College, where he finished in 1901. He then entered University of Mississippi Law school, being admitted to the bar in June 1902. He received his initial experience in this profession as an associate in the firm of Michell and Fletcher. In 1902 he became a resident of Houston, where he divided his time between the work of the courts and general agricultural pursuits. He was chosen mayor of Houston in 1905 and at the end of two years was re-elected for another term. In April 1910, he was appointed district attorney of the third judicial district of Mississippi as the successor of Honorable H. D. Stephens, who had resigned and in 1911 Mr. Knox was elected to the office by a large majority. Senator N. W. Bradford being the opposing candidate. Mr. Knox was re-elected without opposition, in 1915, and continued to serve as District Attorney

The Bar (continued)

until January 1st 1924, having been elected Attorney- General in 1923 in the first primary, over Judge Clayton D. Potter and Hon. L. M. Burch. While he was district Attorney, out of seventeen criminal cases that were tried in Lafayette County there were seventeen convictions. He wrote the first indictment and secured the first conviction in Mississippi charging unlawful attempt to distill and manufacture liquor and won in the Supreme court of Mississippi. He was author of the law permitting officers of the law to search any automobile or any other vehicle as well as boats without search warrants and successfully prosecuted the test before supreme court. Mr. Knox was a member of the State Board of Education of Mississippi. He has been president of the Houston Hospital for several years. He is a trustee of the Baptist Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi., a member of the American and Mississippi State Bar Association.

Mr. Knox now resided in Jackson, Mississippi but still has a lucrative practice in Chickasaw County.

The Bar (continued)

A contemporary biographer daid of Mr. Knoxm " He is one of the most brilliant and popular menof his section and few have enjoyed a more universal respect and confidence of the people.

(From The Heart of the South Vol. III. and Who's Who of America 1929-30.)

Joseph Henry Ford, who is classed with the leading lawyers of Chickasaw County, owes his success to hard work, unalterable purpose, and natural talent for the legal profession. He was born November 12, 1879, in Fayette, Alabama, and was six years old when his parents, James J. and Martha Jane Wade Ford, moved from that state to Mississippi. Mr. Ford attended the common and high schools of his community and then entered Tula Normal Institute and Bus-

The Bar (continued)

iness College of Mississippi, from which he won his B. S. Degree in 1899. He then took a course in the Sprague Correspondence School of Law and devoted much time to private study, also working in a law office inwhich he gained valuable experience.The latter part of 1904 Mr. Ford opened a law office in Houston, Chickasaw County where he has since resided, and his clientele has grown steadily in the intervening period. While well versed in all branches of jurisprudence, he is especially well informed in matters pertaining to corporation law and was attorney for the Bank of Houston and its allied institutions for a number of years. He is felicitous and clear in argument and has successfully handled manyi important cases. In 1915 Mr. Ford was a canidate Senator, being defeated by a small majority. He stands high in his profession and in 1922 was made executive committeeman of the Mississippi State Bar Association. He votes the Democratic ticket and in 1922 was a candidate for circuit judge in the second primary losing the election by a small margin. In November of 1926, Mr. Ford was appointed attorney for the town of Houston and continued to serve in this capacity uhtil

The Bar (continued)

November 1936 when he resigned on account of ill health. Mr. Ford is a member of the American Bar Association and conforms his practice to a high standard of professional ethics.

(From the Heart of the South, Vol III.)

Hosea B. Abernathy was born in Eupora, Mississippi August 27, 1896. He received his early education in the city schools of Eupora later attending Souther Christian College at West point, Mississippi. After that he attended the University of Mississippi and the Cumberland University Law School at Lebanon, Tennessee, graduating from Cumberland in January 1918. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

He then joined the United States Army and spent one year in active service in France.

In February 1921 he was admitted to the bar, whereupon he moved to Houston and entered into law practice. From 1924 to 1936 he served as County Prosecuting Attorney. He is past First Commander of the American Legion Post, Houston, First Vice-Commander of the Disabled War Veterans of Mississippi, City Attorney.

The Bar (continued)

town of Houston, Attorney for the Bank of Houston, Federal Land Bank Attorney, Project Attorney for the Natchez Trace and Forestry, Game, and Recreational Preserve, and Attorney for R. F. C.

Mr. Abernathy is not only one of the most prominent lawyers of the county, but is a useful citizen in Houston and Chickasaw County as well.

Elliot Parker was born in Chickasaw County in 1868, the only son of Nancy Caroline Abbott, who came here from Tennessee, and James R. Parker who formerly lived in Tennessee. He received his early education in the rural schools of Chickasaw County. Buena Vista Normal School, and Lexington Normal College. He then taught school for five years, two of which were in the Philipine Islands. After that he entered the University of Mississippi, graduating in 1900. He then went into business in Houston, meanwhile studying law in his spare time. In 1908 he went back to the University and studied law, lacking only a few hours receiving his L. L. B. In 1909 he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law on a moderate scale. Most of his practice has been

The Bar (continued)

confined to civil suits rather than criminal cases.

He served two consecutive terms as mayor of Houston, this being the only public office he has ever held.

In addition to his law practice , Mr. Parker also operates a farm which his father before him owned and operated.

Hon. A. T. Stovall was born on a large farm between Okolona and Houston. His father, the late W. G. Stovall, was for many years a popular Sheriff of Chickasaw County. A. T. Stovall was educated in the Okolona Public schools, Highland Falls College, New York and the University of Mississippi. He did general practice in Okolona, was councel for the Okolona Branch ofthe Southern Railway and assistant District Counsel for the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. He has also been president of the Chickasaw County Sunda y School convention, Supt. of the Okolona Baptist Sunday School, President of the Board of Trustees of the Okolona Public schools, President of the board of trustees of the Okolona Industrial school, and President of the Mississippi Bar Association.

The Bar (continued)

He has always been very modest. No public office he ever held pays a salary. For a number of years he was captain of one of the largest and best military companies in the state national guard.

Mr. Stovall is now president of the C. and G. Railroad with headquarters in Columbus, Mississippi.

The Bar (continued)

Honorable Jeff Busby of Houston, Chickasaw County and Washington, D. C., the son of S. Reubin Winston and Laura Ann (Bartlett) Busby, was born on a small farm in Tishomingo County July 26, 1884. He received his early education in his native county and attended Georgia Robertson Christian College, Henderson, Tennessee, receiving his B. S. Degree in 1905. In 1910 he was married to Joanna Martin of New Albany. Mr. Busby came to Houston in 1909 and entered the law office of Rush Knox where they practiced law. He was Prosecuting Attorney of Chickasaw County in 1912 to 1920 and a member of the 68th to 70th Congress from 1923 to 1929 from the fourth Mississippi District. In 1935 Mr. Busby was defeated in the race for Congressman by A. L. Ford, but he continues to reside in Washington where he is connected with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The Bar (continued)

T. G. Abernethy, son of Thomas F. and Minnie Jenkins Abernethy, was born May 16, 1903 at Eupora in Webster County. He received his elementary education in the schools of Eupora and the Webster County Agricultural High School.

After finishing high school he attended the University of Alabama and completed a four year literary course in three years. In 1924 he studied law at the Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. In 1925 he studied law at the University of Mississippi.

Having completed his education, he was admitted to the bar in 1924 and returned to Eupora where he practiced his profession successfully for the next four years. He was elected Mayor of Eupora in 1927-1928. While in office he was instrumental in paving the streets and securing a new water system for the city.

Mr. Abernethy was formally admitted to the Chickasaw County Bar in 1928. In 1929 he moved to Okolona where he served as attorney for the city for seven years.

On January 1, 1936 he was elected District Attorney for the

The Bar (continued)

third Judicial District. At this time he was only thirty- two years of age and is one of the youngest attorneys ever elected to this office.

Mr. Abernethy is one of Chickasaw's most brilliant young lawyers and has a very bright future.

Charles H. McCraine,Jr., son of Mr. C. H. McCraine and the late Mrs. McCraine of near Roundaway, Mississippi is a young lawyer of the Houston Bar. He received his elementary education from the schools in the vicinity in which he was reared, and then completed a law course at the University of Mississippi about 1927. He came to Houston shortly after and was admitted to the bar. He entered the law office of T. L. Haman,for awhile, then opened an office of his own.

Mr. McCraine's practice has been cheifly chancery suits until his election as County Attorney in 1935. Mr. McCraine is active in his profession and bids fair to make an enviable record for himself.

Chickasaw County
Assignment # 27

The Bar (Concluded)

References used in this assignment:

History of Chickasaw County written by Judge T. N. Martin in 1876.

Heart of the South, Vol. III and IV.

Who's Who, 1928-29.

Personal interview with present-day members of the County Bar

and also with the following citizens:

B. M. Smith, Houston, Mississippi
Bates Tabb , Houston, Mississippi
Mattie Lee Buchanan, Okolona, Mississippi
Mr. W.A. Harrington, Houston, Mississippi
Mrs. A. M. Harley, Houston, Mississippi

Mrs. J. C. Hightower, Historian
Chickasaw County
Historical Research Project

CHICKASAW COUNTY

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BAR: ASSIGNMENT # "27

CHARLIE HILL MOFFAT, lawyer and member of a prominent family, was born and reared in Houston. He studied law at the Cumberland University Law School, Lebanon, Tennessee. He practiced law in Houston for a number of years and enjoyed a large and extensive practice. In 1907 he ran for Mayor of Houston against Rush H. Knox, defeating him by two votes. Mr. Moffat left here about twenty years ago and moved to Sematobia. It is thought that he is still living.

J. L. Lyon of Okolona was a one armed Confederate soldier, having lost his arm in the Civil War. After the war he again took up his law practice and came to be considered a good lawyer. At one time (around 1912 it is thought) he ran for County Attorney against Joe Harrington.

One little incident concerning Judge Lyon, as he was familiarly called, goes like this. "He was a candidate for County Attorney and was making a speech in Egypt in the interest of his candidacy. He was standing on a box car. In this speech he told of his bravery etc., in the Civil War--how he had stood valiantly before the fire and smoke of the cannon and waded blood to his shoe tops, when suddenly the "boom boom" of a shot gun was heard nearby. Judge Lyon jumped from the box car and ran through a large pile of scrap iron and was seen no more that day." One man had been killed by another and naturally the political rally was dispersed, but the older citizens laugh and say,"Judge Lyon thought he was again on the battlefield and instantly got cold feet and ran away." We could not learn the schools he attended or the date of his birth and death.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Fifty or more years ago there was a lawyer in Houston named Hiller (given name or initials not remembered by older citizens). He was red headed and considered very peculiar as a man, though a good lawyer. Being of a naturally pugnacious nature, he rarely went down in defeat in the courts. It is recalled by the older citizens that he was either a staunch friend or a sworn enemy to any one. He had his office on the corner where the Houston State Bank building now is, but no one remembers the schools he attended or even whether he was born and reared in Chickasaw County.

Harvey Lee Morrison of Okolona, is the son of the late H. L. Morrison who served as Mayor of Okolona for fourteen years. Mr. Morrison was born in 1906, received his elementary education in the Okolona schools and then entered the University of Mississippi Law School from which he graduated in 1930. Since that time he has been engaged in the practice of law in Okolona and in 1935 was elected as representative from the second district of Chickasaw County, He is a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, a Presbyterian President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Okolona, and enjoys the distinction of being one of he youngest stat esmen in the Legislature.

R. Jesse West was born and reared in Grenada, Mississippi. He received his L. L. B. Degree from the University of Mississippi in 1910 and entered into law practice in Ololona the same year. In 1925 he went to Tampa, Florida and practiced a few years. On account of ill health he moved to Arizona and there died in 1935. He was a very brilliant man and an excellent lawyer with a natural talent for the profession. Mr. West was a prominent Mason rendering invaluable service tothe Okolona Lodge while he lived there He served as Mayor of Okolona in 1916 and 1917.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

George Bean, a prominent citizen and lawyer of Okolona was born and reared there.

He received a B. A. and L. L. B. degree from the University of Mississippi in 1916.

He volunteered for service the day war was declared, and because of a good business education, he was immediately placed on the administrative force with the rank of Captain. He was discharged in January 1919, without ever having gone across.

In 1920 he was admitted to the Bar in Okolona and began his career as a lawyer. His first partner was R. J. West, and they had a flourishing business together for about two years. About that time Mr. Bean went into the office of Hon. A. T. Stovall. While in this office Mr. Bean attended to most of the law practice while Mr. Stovall attended to his railroad interests.

In 1926 Mr. Bean was a member of the Legislature, filling the unexpired term of Mr. I. B. A bernathy.

Mr. Bean has twice been Commander of the American Legion Post in Okolona and is very active in Legion affairs.

He has many friends in the county and continues to have a good law practice.

Robert C. Stovall, young lawyer of Okolona was born and reared there. He acquired a good education receiving his Literary Degree from the University of Mississippi. Later he went one year to Harvard and finally received his L.L.B. degree from Columbia University

He has a large corporation practice, being assistant Division Counsel for the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and Vice-President of the Columbia and Greenville Railroads. He has been practicing law in Okolona since 1925 and is considered one of Chickasaw County's most able lawye s.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

During the war he was with the A. E. F. from March 1, 1918 to Jan. 18, 1919 and saw some action in France.

L. P. Haley of Okolona was educated at Millsaps College, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Colorado, receiving his law degree from the latter college. He practiced law for years in Okolona, having an unusually large general practice and served two terms as State Senator from Chickasaw County.

Mr. Haley was one of the most capable lawyers the county has ever had and was deeply mourned after his death in 1929.

Baxter Knox, brother of Rush H. Knox, was born and reared in Pontotoc County. He attended school at the University of Mississippi and received his law degree at the Cumberland School of Law, Lebanon, Tennessee. In 1911 he moved to Houston and engaged in the practice of law, doing both chancery and criminal work. In 1917 he moved to New Albany, Mississippi where he continued his law practice and became one of the most prominent lawyers of Northeast Mississippi. He did not confine his practice to his home county but was constantly in demand in other counties.

It is interesting to note that after going to New Albany he wound up the estate of Paul J. Rainey, prominent capitalist of Blue Mountain, and received thirty-five thousand dollars for it, in addition to a trip to Cuba, two trips to New York and several trips to New Orleans.

At the time of his death in September 1936, he was Attorney for the G. M. and N. Railroad and Attorney for the town of New Albany.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Charles H. McCraine, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. McCraine of Roundaway, Mississippi, was graduated from High School at New Albany, Mississippi in 1922. He received his law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1927. On September 5, 1927 he moved to Houston and entered the law office of T. L. Haman. After practicing with Mr. Haman for a short while he then opened an office of his own. His practice has consisted chiefly of Chancery suits until his election to the County Attorney's office in 1935. This has claimed his time since then.

Mr. McCraine is very active and conscientious in his profession and bids fair to make an enviable record for himself.

Thomas L. Haman was born August 11, 1874, in Hinds County, Mississippi in the locality known as Learned, and comes of English, Scotch, Irish, and French Huguenot ancestry.

In the acquirement of an education Mr. Haman attended the French Camp Academy of Mississippi andthe Central University of Kentucky, now known as Centre College, from which he secured his A. B. Degree. He then became a student of the University of Mississippi where he received his L. L. B. degree. During his childhood Mr. Haman lived in Greenwood Yazoo City and Vaiden. After reaching mature years he moved to Pittsboro and thence to Houston where he still resides.

In 1901 Mr. Haman began the practice of law, which he still continues to the present. Most of his practice is confined to Chancery suits, although he does take criminal cases. He is very capable and has a large practice in Chickasaw and Calhoun Counties.

He is a member of he Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and a Mason.

Mr. Haman served as a member of Co. A. Second Mississippi Regiment in the Spanish American War.

~~Tom L. Blissard~~

Chickasaw County

Tom L. Blissard was born and reared at Thorn, in the western part of the county. After finishing high school he taught school for a few years and then entered business school, afterward becoming very efficient as a book-keeper and stenographer.

He studied law at home and also in the office of Hon. Jeff Busby. and passed the bar examination in 1932. Since then he has been engaged in the practice of law in Houston. He served one term as Mayor of Houston and ran for State Senator against Rush H. Knox in 1935 but was defeated.

Mabel C. Calvin, Historian
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County.

Chickasaw County

Supplementary material on The Bar:

J. J. Davenport came, as a young lawyer, to Chickasaw County from Tennessee in about 1846. He received his law degree from the Cumberland University law school at Lebanon, Tennessee. Mr. Davenport practiced law in Okolona for about fifty years and was considered a very prominent lawyer. When New Mexico was organized as a territoryin 1850 he was sent by the United States government as the first governor of the new territory. He stayed there four years and then came back to Okolona and resumed his law practice. Although prominent as an attorney this man never aspired to any ohter other office.

Mr. Davenport was a great uncle of Mr. W. G. Mabry, Jr. of Okolona.

W. J. Lacey came to Okolona from New Orleans, with his parents when a youhg man just out of law school. His father was an Episcopal preacher and taught inxxxxx the Rose Gates College, in the latter 1850's it is thought. Mr. Lacey was at one time Circuit Judge from this district though the date nor number of terms could not be established. Older citizens who remember him say that he was one of the finest orators the county ever had and that he could speak on any subject.

J. Neut Carlisle came to Okolona from one of the Carolinas. It is not known where he attended school, but he was considered a very good lawyer. He lived here during and after the Civil War and maint ained an office where Murphy's Undertaking establishment now is. He had a brother who studied law under himand the went into partnership with him. It seems that Mr. Carlisle was very reasonable where his fees were concerned; if a person who was unable to pay went to him with a case that was justifiable he would take it regardless of whether he ever received his fee or not. On one oc-

casion Lawyer Carlisle got mad at the Judge because of some ruling and knocked him off the bench with a pitcher of water. He was later killed in the court room at Okolona by a man named Pollard, who was his brother-in-law.

Elliot Beaty, son of Dr. T. M. Beaty, was reared in Okolona and went to school there. Later he studied law at the Cumberland University Law School at Lebanon, Tennessee. After graduation he took a bar examination, passed it and began the practice of law in Okolona. However, he soon closed his law office and accepted a position with the Federal Land Bank in New Orleans.

Tremmier McCarley, son of Dowd McCarley left Okolona when he was quite young, though he practiced law here for a short time. It could not be learned where he attended school nor where he went when he left Okolona, however his career as a lawyer while in this county was of no importance, as it had only begun.

Mabel C. Calvin, Historian
Chickasaw County

References:

W. G. Mabry, Jr., Okolona, Mississippi

Ed Elias, Okolona, Mississippi

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Canvassers
Miss Mabel Calvin
Miss Margaret Shell
Mrs. Kima Holloway

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
March-23-193[illegible]

Supervisor
Mrs. J.C. Hightower

ASSIGNMENT # 24

Subject : HEALTH

1. HEALTH :

In developing the outline on Health, it might be well to give a brief history of Health work done in Mississippi, as an introductory.

For over a hundred years the boys and girls of Mississippi and the Mississippi Territory, had no protection against disease, except that they could be vaccinated against smallpox; or their fathers and mothers could take them away in great haste when an epidemic, like yellow fever, appeared in the community.

Thousands and thousands of people did die in Mississippi of diseases which today are not especially feared, because it is a known fact that one can escape their grasp. In fact, people of the whole world have suffered at times, great epidemics of smallpox, cholera, yellow fever, bubonic plague, influenza and other diseases; and millions have died from these afflictions also, people in those days did not have automobiles or good roads, they could not mingle freely as they do today, consequently diseases did not scatter very fast.

For over one hundred years, nothing was known about the manner in which diseases were spread from one person to another, and nothing was known of vaccines against typhoid, diphtheria, or any other disease except smallpox, yet a few good health laws were passed which helped to keep the people protected from smallpox, yellow fever, and a few other maladies.

The first health law for Mississippi was passed in 1799, about one hundred and thirty-five years ago, nearly twenty years before Mississippi was changed from a territory to a state.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

ASSIGNMENT # 24

1. HEALTH :

The first health department was established in the city of Natchez in 1818. A law passed in 1823, requires a fine for selling impure food or drink. For the second offense, the person had to pay a fine and " stand in the pillory" for three days in succession, one hour each day.

In 1876, a law was passed allowing the three coast counties to have a board of health of their own.

In 1877, the Mississippi State Board of Health was organized, consisting of fifteen members and a secretary. These doctors were great doctors and good health workers in their day. They were: Dr. Robert Kells, President, Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. A.H. Cage, Canton, Mississippi, Dr. A.G. Smythe, Baldwin, Mississippi, Dr. P.J. McCormick, Yazoo City, Mississippi, Dr. J.M. Taylor, Corinth, Mississippi, Dr. F.W. Dancy, Holly Springs, Mississippi, Dr. C.H. Rice, Brandon, Mississippi, Dr. T.D. Isom, Oxford, Mississippi, Dr. William Compton, Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. P.F. Whitehead, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Dr. E.W. Hughes, Grenada, Mississippi, Dr. D.L. Phares, Woodville, Mississippi, Dr. John Wright, Sardis, Mississippi, Dr. R.G. Wharton, Port Gibson, Mississippi, Dr. Wirt Johnson, Secretary, Jackson, Mississippi, S.V. D. Hill, Macon, Mississippi.

Since Dr. Wirt Johnson, who served as secretary from April 7th, 1877, to March 24th, 1896, seven doctors have served as secretaries to the State Board. They are: Dr. J.F. Hunter, March 24th, 1896, to February 12th, 1908, Dr. W.W. Smithson, February 2nd, 1912, to January 14th, 1913, Dr. E.H. Galloway, January 14th, 1913, to January 26th, 1916, Dr. W.S. Leuthers, January 2nd, 1917, to July 1st, 1924 Dr. Felix J. Underwood, the present Secretary, who has served since, July 1st, 1924.

County health officers were first appointed by the State Board of Health in 1880.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

1. HEALTH :

In 1908, a public health lecturer was employed by the State Board of Health. Dr. Fred J. Mayer made one hundred and eighty-six health talks in six months to nearly thirty thousand people. Over half of the number he addressed were school children.

Modern Health work in Mississippi began in 1910, when a group of physicians, employed under the direction of Dr. W.S. Leathers, traveled into every town and hamlet in Mississippi and delivered lectures to the people with the aid of pictures on screens. This program awakened a health conscience among the people of the state and health work on a greater scale than had ever been attempted, began in different counties, from that date.

The members of the present State Board of Health include:
J.W. Lipscomb, M.D., President, Columbus, Mississippi, S.E. Eason, M.D., New Albany, Mississippi, L.B. Austin, M.D., Rosedale, Mississippi, B.J. Shaw, M.D., Slate Springs, Mississippi, W.H. Banks, M.D., Philadelphia, Mississippi, H.L. McKinnon, M.D. Hattiesburg, Mississippi, L.W. Brock, M.D., McComb, Mississippi, John B. Howell, M.D. Canton, Mississippi, William R. Wright, M.D.S., Jackson, Mississippi, Felix J. Underwood, M.D., Secretary, Jackson, Mississippi.

The Directors of the State Board of Health are: R.N. Whitfield, M.D., Vital Statistics, and Assistant Secretary, T.W. Kennerer, M.D., Laboratories, H.A. Kroege, C.E., Sanitary Engineering, J.W. Dugger, M.D., Industrial Hygiene, H.C. Ricks, M.D. C.P.H., County Health Work and Epidemology, Henry Boswell, M.D.F.A.C.P., State Tuberculosis Sanitorium.

The Supervisors of the staff of the State Board of Health include:
Miss Mary D. Osborne, R.N., Maternal and Child Health, Miss Gladys Kyrish, B.L., Mouth Hygiene, N.M. Parker, D.V.M., Milk Sanitation, J.A. Milne, M.D.M.P.H., Field

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

1. HEALTH :

Unit, George E. Riley, M.D.C.P.H., Malarial Control, A.L. Grey, M.D.C.P.H., Epidemiological Unit, William D. Hickerson, M.D., Field Tuberculosis Diagnostic Unit. Mrs. Eva Moore Adams, B.A., Health Education.

11. HEALTH :

According to the County Health Officer, Dr. J. Rice Williams of Houston, there has never been a case of Yellow Fever recorded in Chickasaw County.

The Small Pox epidemic of 1900 and 1901 was not as bad in Houston and vicinity as in Okolona and the eastern part of the county, however the whole county was thrown in a panic of terror and many citizens came down with this disease. It seems that smallpox spread here from Arkansas and Memphis and all roads leading into Chickasaw County were gu arded and every person who was allowed to pass had to be questioned and the guards thoroughly satisfied. Miss Nettie Peden of Houston, now Mrs. W.G. Neal of Montgomery, Alabama, was a young girl going to school in West Point Mississippi, and had smallpox at the outbreak of the epidemic, so she came home and nursed the sick in Houston during the outbreak.

In 1903, Houston was besieged with an epidemic of smallpox. The Mobile and Ohio Railroad came through Houston in 1903, and smallpox broke out in their camps, out at the edge of town, it spread quickly. Houston was quarantined.

Also in 1918 thirteen white people and seventy-five negroes contracted smallpox and in 1919, thirty-seven whites and nineteen negroes suffered from the disease but there were no fatalities either year. The vaccine is not given periodically in Chickasaw , though some are vaccinated every year, however, it is given when an epidemic breaks out.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

11. HEALTH:

The number of cases of Influenza reported in Chickasaw County in 1919 were; whites, six hundred and sixty-eight, colored, three hundred and ninety-seven, or a total of one thousand and sixty-five cases, with seventeen white deaths, and thirty-three colored. In 1918, there was a total of two thousand nine hundred and eighty cases of influenza in Chickasaw County with sixteen white deaths and seventy-three colored.

111. HEALTH:

Chickasaw County has only a part time health officer, he cooperates fully in every way with the State Board of Health. Dr. J. Rice Williams who is connected with the Houston Hospital is county health officer.

Probably the most important phase of his work is the vaccination against Small Pox, Typhoid and Diphtheria which is given free except for the Anti toxin used, and it is generally furnished by the State Board of Health. In this way numbers of people who could not otherwise afford it, get the vaccine.

The Health officer urges, through the press and through lectures, that every home, whether mansion or cabin, be effectively screened against mosquitoes. Screening not only insures against mosquito annoyance, sleepless nights and Malaria Fever, but also against flies and the filthy diseases they spread.

In addition, he sees that all ditches containing stagnant water are drained or that oil is poured on the water, as this prevents mosquito breeding: that drainage ditches are dug when necessary : that tin cans are either removed from premises, buried or a hole punched in the bottom of cans.

Helping Dr. Williams in 1934 and 1935 was Mrs. Naomi Ball Sigler, of Houston who was a part time health nurse, paid by the E.R.A. Daily she held classes in Buena Vista, Egypt, Okolona, Houlka and Woodland, and assisted in giving Typhoid, Diphtheria and Small Pox shots. During the school term, of 1934 and 35, fifty certificates were delivered at the Okolona high school at the completion of three Hygiene courses.

Gratifying results were reported from dental examinations previously made as class projects. In Houston immunization work was done in connection with class work. Three hygiene classes were completed at the Okolona Industrial College.

111. HEALTH :

The certificates were delivered by the county health officer and a talk made by the Superintendent of Education.

1V. SANITATION :

Milk is the most valuable food we have, and it should be taken daily from infancy through old age. Impure or contaminated milk is dangerous because it may be the means of carrying diseases such as typhoid fever, dysentery, tuberculosis, diphtheria, undulant fever, and others; therefore, it is necessary that all dairies be under the supervision of the health authorities in order that those who buy milk may be protected as much as possible from diseases that may be contracted from drinking unwholesome milk.

Very few dairies in Chickasaw County supply individuals and families with milk, most of them sell it to creameries and cheese plants. They are not inspected, but some of them have electric milkers, and they are screened and very careful to have everything clean. Most of them have concrete floors.

Okolona has the only bakery in the county. The Department of Agriculture sends a man into the county every month who visits the bakeries, grocery stores, hotels, cafes, soda fountains, meat markets etc. These different places are required to observe certain regulations by this Department and the County Health Officer. They are inspected for cleanliness, and freshness of their products and for the sanitation and safety of equipments. All these places must be properly screened and refrigeration just right. In all grocery stores vegatables must be kept fresh and must be at least eighteen inches from the floor.

Until recently the City Ice Plant was used for storage, since storage space was so adequately provided by the owners, now, however, Houston has a commodious

IV. SANITATION : (Continued)

Cold Storage Plant built by the W.P.A. It is a modern plant and will mean much to Houston and surrounding territory. All of these places of business cooperate fully with the State and County Health officer.

The water supply in Houston is derived from a 1300 foot well. This water does not have to be chemically treated to make it pure , as it is so deep the water is naturally pure. It is tested or examined from time to time for contamination by the County Health Officer.

Nothing is done to improve sanitary conditions and purity of wells in the rural sections. Quite a few deep wells and pumps are found but the number of dug wells and cisterns outnumber them. The people are urged to boil all water before drinking, but it is not compulsory and is seldom done.

The excreta of Chickasaw County is disposed of through properly constructed sewerage systems in the towns of Houston and Okolona. The sewerage system of Houston is under the supervision of the town. The cess pool is chemically treated, but is frequently examined for contamination by the County Health Officer.

In the rural districts, safe disposal of waste material is accomplished by the use of sanitary toilets in a measure. Although , they are a great help, one serious drawback is that their numbers are limited. They were introduced into the county in 1933 and have been built by the C.W.A., E.R.A., and the W.P.A.

The other homes in the county use outdoor privys. However, these are, as a rule, constructed at considerable distance from the house and the odors do not reach the house. Nor are they placed near the well or cistern. Most people use lime or some other disinfectant and frequently clean out the waste and bury it.

IV. SANITATION: (Continued)

The general sanitation of Houston is good and is under supervision of the County Health Officer.

The swimming pool is drained regularly and treated with chloride to make it free from germs. In this way diseases cannot be transmitted through the swimming pool, as the water kills all germs.

A certain day of each week is set aside for the disposal of garbage. It is collected around the homes by the individuals and placed on the roadside or driveway where it is removed by the town and dumped outside the corporate limits in some ditch or gully.

Flies are controlled principally by screening and by the use of a spray. No matter how good a house is screened, an occasional fly is bound to get in. Except for tenant houses, many of which are screened it is safe to say that ninety-eight per cent of the homes in Chickasaw County are screened. Where they are not screened, fly fluid is used advantageously.

During the past two years (1935-36) much has been done toward mosquito control by the E.R.A. and W.P.A., especially in Houston. In 1936 the Malaria Project cleaned out all drainage ditches in Houston, opening up and enlarging them in places and scraping clean the banks on each side. Oil was poured into the ditches to keep the mosquitoes from breeding. The individuals contribute to mosquito control by keeping all tin cans picked up around the premises, and water barrels, etc. free from stagnant water.

The public service places, as a whole all over Chickasaw County, are in only a fair condition, and nothing is being done to improve conditions.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

V. CHILD HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING:

Maternal Hygiene refers to all activities for safe guarding the welfare of the mother before and after the birth of her child. Since there are nearly 50,000 births in the state of Mississippi every year, it can be readily seen how large is the task for bringing all these mothers safely through this trying ordeal. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of mothers avail themselves of the opportunities they might have for safe motherhood. A large proportion of them are not able financially to employ good doctors to look after them properly during a period of several months. Others who might be able, are not convinced of the need of special care during this period.

Mothers of Chickasaw County usually consult a doctor of their choice, and he directs her diet, makes periodic examinations, and advises with her on all general health problems. Some prefer to advise with a nurse of their choice, and this nurse in turn takes up the problem in question with the physician, Chickasaw County has no health nurse.

Mrs. Naomi Ball Sigler served as part time health nurse from April, 1934 through October 1935. She was paid her salary from the E.R.A. funds. During this time she put forth a great deal of effort toward the education of mothers and children. She distributed a great deal of health literature in the schools and conducted hygiene classes in schools at Buena Vista, Egypt, Okolona, Houlka and Woodland. She also had classes at the Okolona Industrial College for negroes, and in the Okolona and Houston schools for negroes. In Okolona, with the assistance of the doctors she gave free physical examinations to all school children. These were followed up with inspections for numbers of corrections. As a result a great many physical defects were corrected among the children of school age. Mrs. Sigler assisted the county health officer in administering typhoid and diphtheria inocula-

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment# 24

V. CHILD HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING :

tions and small pox vaccinations in all parts of the country.

Chickasaw County has eight licensed midwives, one white, and seven colored. A nurse is sent out into the state, by the State Board of Health to this county about once a year, to instruct all midwives. She inspects their equipment, and these women cooperate with physicians and so many of them are called upon to administer to women of rural communities. In 1936, the midwives of the county took for their project, the preparation of a delivery room, which was put on display for public inspection.

Death rate of mothers in Chickasaw County has been greatly reduced in recent years, due to the fact that more women have become educated to the fact that special prenatal care must be exercised, and they are making it a study, most of them get all the literature they can find on this topic and also advise with their physicians more frequently.

Mothers in this county have become wide awake to the fact that Infant Mortality rate has been rather high, and they, themselves plan for medical supervision of their children, beginning in infancy and extending through the adolescence age. They have the family physician give the children periodic examinations; mothers are paying more attention to personal hygiene, physical, mental and emotional habits and with the aid of the county health officer, they give them protection against communicable diseases, and last but not least, mothers watch the children's health by seeing that they have a pure food, water and milk supply.

Mouth Hygiene :

The earliest work in mouth hygiene reported from Chickasaw County was in the school term of 1924-25, when dental inspections were made in the Houston Elementary and High School. Each year thereafter except in the school terms of 1929-

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

Mouth Hygiene : (Continued)

30, 1931-32 and 1935-36, some dental inspections were made in the county, sometimes not more than one school being inspected.

It is interesting to note that the trend of OK mouths as shown by these examinations was upward. It is interesting that all of these inspections were done by volunteer service of the dentists except in the school terms of 1934-35 and 1936-37 when dental hygienists did this work and in 1928-29 when inspections were made by the supervisor of mouth hygiene.

In March of 1935 a h ygienist spent one month in Chickasaw County, brought there by the adult education classes and the county superintendent of education, these classes paying the State Board of Health their prorated share for instituting this service. A report of the work done by the hygienist for that time is as follows:

" The program in this county was launched by a talk and explanation of the mouth hygiene activity to the Chickasaw County Teachers' Association.

" Twenty-three county schools were visited. The hygienist examined the teeth of the children through the sixth and seventh grades. Demonstration of the use of the toothbrush, need and necessity of visiting the dentist and the eating of the simple foods raised on the farm were the contents of the talks made to the children.

" The hygienist also urged the planting of the gardens and the canning of adequate supply of tomatoes and fruits, during the summer months so the teeth and general health could be protected during the winter months.

" The cleanliness of th e majority of the children's teeth was very noticeable. All were found to be using black-gum brushes. The use of a few manufactured brushes was found. After one visit a local drugstore reported the sale of two dozen brushes to one teacher.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

Mouth Hygiene: (Continued)

" Even though most of the schools were far from a dentist the percentage of OK teeth was fairly high, due no doubt to the use of hard coarse foods and vegetables for several generations.

" When the hygienist made the dental examination, the children whose teeth needed immediate attention as to cleaning were listed. On given days the principal of the school brought them into the courthouse where the hygienist had her clinic and gave a prophylactic treatment. Several had to return for treatment.

" One talk was made to the Van Vleet P.T.A., about sixty-five present.

" The hygienist was also on the program of the Adult Education Achievement Night and made a talk to over 150 parents. A visit was made to one meeting of the Adult Education class at Buena Vista.

" This work has been sponsored by the county superintendent of education, adult education classes and a local literary club.

" The clinic has been visited by many mothers.

In January 1937 three schools, Okolona, Egypt and Houston were inspected by dental hygienists and class room instruction given these pupils on the care of the teeth.

If it were possible to have the service of a dental hygienist for approximately two months each year in Chickasaw County to inspect the mouths and give instruction in the fall and to follow this work up by a second visit in the spring, it would be possible to build up the percentage of OK mouths.

VI. TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL:

In spite of the fact that tuberculosis statistics for recent years show a rather general decline in the death rate, tuberculosis has by no means been conquered, and today ranks seventh among the causes of death in this county. (Bureau of Census Report 1930)

VI. Tuberculosis Control: (Continued)

Tuberculosis occurs and kills at all ages, bu t its greatest mortality is in children under five years, adults at later ages when th ey are subjected to severe strain through illness from other diseases or by unhealthy living or unfavorable conditions of work. Practically all children living in towns and cities become infected, but apparently the infection does not have injurious results unless it attacks the very young, or unless the child receives a severe infection or is in a very susceptible condition. The weight of medical opinion is that the disease in adults may be caused either by the reawakening of an infection received in childhood or by a new infection received in later life. There is no direct evidence that the disease is inherited, although there seems to be no doubt that some people are born with a constitution easily attacked by the disease.

Thus these facts point clearly to certain definite preventive measures, and the people of Chickasaw County realize that fresh air, sunshine, good food, and sufficient rest are th e best preventives for tuberculosis and practice it to a very good extent. Some other preventives practiced in the county are the abolishment of the common drinking cup and towel in schools, offices and other public places, compliance with anti-spitting laws, segregation of all active cases, and the proper sanitation and ventilation in public places and the majority of homes.

The Sanaterium at McGee has treated from Chickasaw County twenty-four whites and two negroes

VII. INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE AND FACTORY INSPECTION :

Since Chickasaw County has no factories there is no factory inspection, and in Houston we have three industrial plants which are inspected at intervals. The Kraft Phoenix cheese plant, located in Houston, is inspected twice a year by

VII. Industrial Hygiene and Factory Inspection : (Continued)

a representative who is sent out by the State Department of Agriculture. The Kraft Phoenix Incorporation sets up a standard, by which its plants must be operated, and the manager is responsible for the sanitation of the plant altogether and also supervises the personal hygiene of the employees. Aside from that all employees are required to wear white shirts and white overalls.

The City Ice Plant of Houston is not inspected except for occasional visits from th e County Health Officer, inspecting the plant, for ventilation, light, safety of equipment and building, but this plant uses water from the city's water department and the water is tested twice a year, and also a piece of manufactured ice is examined for purity etc.

The Coca Cola Bottling Company of Houston is inspected by the County Health Officer and regularly a company representative inspects the plant from the main office out of Atlanta Georgia. The plant is inspected from a standpoint of sanitation, quality of product, and equipment rating. The premises, trucks and drivers are also examined, as are all other employees.

VIII. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES Control

In Chickasaw County, the most common of communicable diseases are: diphtheria, measles, mumps, whooping cough, scarlet fever, chicken pox and occasionally small pox. There are four methods of control, namely: isolation, immunization, quarantine and disinfection. All these methods are used by our County Health Officer, but since he is only a part time health officer these methods are left largely up to the people, however, when the health officer is called upon, he always gladly and willingly cooperates in every way possible to control the outbreak of any of these diseases.

IX. ACCIDENT AND ACCIDENTAL DEATHS:

According to Doctor Whitfield, accident and accidental deaths are as follows:

Maternal Death Rate

	Total	White	Colored
1930	7.5	7.8	7.3
1931	11.9	7.8	16.4
1932	7.9	15.3	0.0
1933	2.5	4.5	0.0
1934	6.4	8.5	4.2
1935	12.2	8.7	15.2

Number Deaths Pu erperal State

	Total	Whitw	Colored
1930	4	2	2
1931	6	2	4
1932	4	4	0
1933	1	1	0
1934	3	2	1
1935	6	2	4

Maternal death rates are per 1,000 live births plus stillbirths.

No deaths from alcoholism in Chickasaw County in 1935

Accidental Deaths in 1935

	Total	White	Colored
Burns	2	1	1
Cutting and pier eing instruments	1	0	1
Firearms	2	1	1
Fall	2	2	0
Crushing	1	1	0
Excessive Cold	1	0	1
Automobile	2	1	1
Total	11	6	5

X. Give number of:
a. Doctors in county, and names of each.
b. Number of Nurses and names of each.
c. Number of Hospitals, Infirmaries and Sanitariums, and status of equipment.

There are seventeen doctors in Chickasaw County, including one, who is colored. They are :

Dr. G.G. Armstrong, Houston (Eye, Nose, Ear, and Throat)

Dr. C.D. Davis, Trebloc (M.D. and Surgeon)

Dr. J.S. Evans, Houston M.D.

Dr. E.K. Guinn, McCondy M.D.

Dr. S.K. Gore, Houston M.D.

Dr. B.D. Van Hansell, Okolona M.D. (Surgeon in Hansell Hospital)

Dr. J.M. Hood, Houlka M.D.

Dr. W.H. Ivey, Houston (Located in Houston Hospital)

Dr. D.F. Morgan, Okolona M.D.

Dr. T.W. Peden, Van Vleet M.D.

Dr. V.B. Philpot, Houston (Surgeon in Houston Hospital)

Dr. J.R. Priest, Sr., Houston (M.D. and Surgeon)

Dr. R.E. Priest, Houston M.D.

Dr. W.C. Walker, Houlka M.D.

Dr. J.Rice Williams, Houston (X-Ray Department Houston Hospital)

Dr. A.F. Wicks, Okolona (Surgeon in Wicks Hospital)

Dr. Charles Wheeler, Okolona M.D.

The Graduate Nurses are :

Mary Frances Weeks, R.N., Houlka

Lois Crow, R.N., Houston Hospital

Ruth Carter, R.N. Houston Hospital

Louise Cantrell, R.N. Houston Hospital

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

(Continued)

The Graduate Nurses are :

Mrs. Naomi Ball Sigler, R.N., Houston

Mrs. Dellie Ruth Dalton Shearer, R.N., Houston

Mrs. Sallie Bell Shearer Smith, R.N., Houston

Mrs. Josie Smith Dendy, R.N., Houston

Mrs. Ruth Harris Harrington, R.N., Houston

Practical Nurses are :

Mrs. Emma Ruff, Houston

Mrs. Edwin Parker, Houston

The Houston Hospital was organized and chartered in 1919 by a group of interested citizens and doctors.

In July 1920, the new building was occupied and patients were admitted for treatment. Since that time this institution has cared for more than ten thousand patients from this section of Mississippi.

Numerous additions and improvements have been made from time to time and now the Houston Hospital is one of the best equipped of its size in the South. It is a forty bed hospital, standardized by the American College of Surgeons, The American Medical Association and The American Hospital Association.

Its facilities include two X-Ray machines, one for deep therapy and one for radiograph and fluoroscopic work; an ample supply of radium; two modern operating rooms fitted with the latest appliances; a large gas machine; and a well equipped microscopic and chemical laboratory.

At the present time the Houston Hospital has four doctors devoting full time to specialty work, including surgery, internal medicine and diagnosis, X-ray and deep therapy, and eye, ear, nose and throat.

There are twelve students in the training school and three graduate nurses hold responsible positions with the institution.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

The Houston Hospital : (Continued)

This hospital is one of the few in the South that has a full time radiologist.

XI. Narrative on human interest biographies of old family physicians and nurses.

Dr. W.C. Walker, Houlka, Mississippi, Chickasaw County, is not only following in the professional footsteps of his honored father, who, for many years, was one of the distinguished physicians of this county, but in his hold upon popular confidence and esteem he sets at naught all application to him of the aphorism that " A prophet is not without honor save in his own country." He was born in Houston, Mississippi, June 14, 1859, and is a son of Dr. W.L. and Janette (Moffat) Walker, the former of whom was born in Alabama, while the latter was one of the first white children born within the limits of Chickasaw County, Mississippi. Dr. W.L. Walker was engaged in the practice of his profession in Chickasaw County until the time of his death, March, 1890, and he is held in affectionate memory throughout this section, where he labored with so much self-abnegation.

After leaving the common schools of Chickasaw County, Dr. W.C. Walker began the work of preparing himself for the noble profession which his father had so honored, and in 1880 he was graduated in the Medical Department of Vanderbilt University, at Nashville, Tennessee, receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine. In the same year he began active practice of his profession in Houlka, being associated with his father for a decade and becoming virtually his successor when he was summoned to his final rest.

Dr. Walker has at all times commanded the confidence and good will of the people of his native town and county. He is a member of the Medical Association of the county and of the State, a staunch Democrat in politics and a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. Walker is more than a practitioner; his good humor and pleasantries are often as healing to his patients as his medicine.

XI. Family Physicians and Nurses : (Continued)

One of his unusual characteristics is the gift of mimicry. The funny phase of acts, words and the curious things he sees in his rounds over the country keenly appeal to his sense of humor, and he passes the ludicrous side of it on to others. Dr. Walker is a Mason and is serving his twenty-first term as W.M. of John S. Cain Lodge F. and A.M.

Dr. J. Rice Williams, physician and surgeon of Houston, is possessed of high professional attainments and until he joined the Houston Hospital Staff, he controlled a representative practice in his chosen field of endeavor.

He was born at Redland, Pontotoc County, near the border of Chickasaw County Mississippi, on August 3, 1867, and is a son of Oliver and Regina (Cockrell) Williams, the former of whom was born in Kentucky and the latter in South Carolina. While both families were early founders in Mississippi, Thomas H. Williams, paternal grandfather of the doctor, having been a member of the State Senate in 1844-46. Oliver Williams whose life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits, was a loyal soldier of the Confederacy during the Civil War.

In Houlka, Chickasaw County, Dr. Williams secured his early educational training, and in 1892-93, he attended lectures at the University of Tennessee, and received license to practice medicine soon after. He returned to college however, and completed his course, and graduated in 1894, receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Dr. Williams began practice in 1893, at Houlka. In 1899, he moved from Houlka to Van Vleet in Chickasaw County where he remained until 1903, when he located in Houston.

He is a member of the County Medical Association and in 1904 was appointed local surgeon for the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. He is a Democrat, is identified

XI. Family Physicians and Nurses : (Continued)

with the Masons and Eastern Star in which orders he has held the highest positions.

In 1896, Dr. Williams was married to Miss Nona Hobson, daughter of J.Archie and Ella (Griffin) Hobson of Houlka, Mississippi. To this union were born Felix T. and Regina. In 1929, he was married the second time to Miss Florence Ford of Houston.

For the past ten or twelve years he has been connected with the Houston Hospital, in charge of the X-Ray Room.

Dr. James Larkin Evans was born in Abbeville, South Carolina, April 24th, 1825. In 1841 he moved to Chickasaw County with his parents Samuel Robinson Evans and Mary Cowan. He received his medical education in Charleston, South Carolina and married Miss Antoinette Buchanan in 1852.

He practiced medicine in Chickasaw County until the outbreak of the Civil War. Volunteering, he served as Assistant Surgeon under General Forrest's Command for duration of the War. Not being on the firing line he was not subject to the dangers of the battlefield but his heroic efforts to alleviate the pain and administer to the wounded were no less valorous than the soldier in line. At the close of the war he came back to his home and family and spent one year on the farm, then bought land and constructed a home in Houston, where he practiced his profession until the time of his death, August 31st, 1886.

Being a pioneer physician of Chickasaw County, Dr. Evans administered to the sick day and night during saddle-bag days, when good roads were unheard of. After his death the women of the county erected a monument over his grave, in the Houston Cemetery. His monument bears this inscription," Erected by his lady friends in token of their love and appreciation."

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

XI. Family Physicians and Nurses : (Continued)

Dr. J.S. Evans or " Dr. Sid " as he is familiarly known over Chickasaw County, was born in Houston in 1858. He received his early education in Houston Schools, went one year to Caithwright School in Macon, one year to Murphy Military Academy at Aberdeen, and one year to the University of Mississippi. He took a medical course at Alabama Medical College in Mobile. This college was moved later to Birmingham before he finished and he completed his training at Louisville University , Louisville, Kentucky. He began practice in Houston in 1880.

Dr. Evans was married to Miss Cheves Miller in 1885. To this union were born six children, three of whom still survive.

Dr. Sid was a small boy during Civil War days, but he well remembers when the Yankees raided his mother's home. After taking and destroying everything they could, one burly looking fellow came into his mother's bed room where she lay sick, and started ransacking her bed and cursing her. Dr. Sid slipped up and kicked the Yankee with all his strength. He says he was slapped so hard he went spinning across the floor but the Yankee left.

Those who know Dr. Sid best, will say that this is characteristic of him, as he has always wanted to see justice given in every thing and even gets angry enough to fight if it isnt given, however, no doctor was ever kinder to his patients or worked more faithful for their recovery. He has ridden hundred of miles horseback over almost impassable roads, and in all kinds of weather to administer to the needs of the sick, and he never failed to go when needed. At seventy-nine he still does an active practice and is indeed a true servant of his fellow-man.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

XI. Family Physicians and Nurses : (Continued)

Dr. J. Augustus Evans was born June 13th, 1861. Dr. " Gus " as he was called, received his early education in the schools of Houston and attended Bryant Stratton's Business College. He completed his Sophmore year at the University of Mississippi and took his medical training at the Kentucky School of Medicine.

In 1884 he began the practice of Medicine near Houston, moving to Houston at the death of his father in 1886. In 1888 he married Miss Clemmie Shell and to this union five children were born, four of whom still survive. Dr. " Gus " served Chickasaw County for forty-four years, until his death, February 11th, 1930. It can truly be said of him that he practiced medicine for the love of it, for the weather was never too bad nor the hour too late for him to answer a call to alleviate suffering. By his sympathetic nature, his kind and gentlemanly manners, he endeared himself to the people he served so skillfully.

He was a man of sterling worth and unquestioned integrity, and his friends were legion in all walks of life.

Among some of the old family physicians about whom tender memories are still firmly fixed in the minds of people whose forefathers they served so faithfully are : Dr. Murdock and Dr. Abbott of Buena Vista, Mississippi. Dr. J.W. Abernathy of Atlanta and later of Woodland, Mississippi. Doctor Benjamin Kilgore of Sparta. Dr. John Marable of Houston, Dr. McKee who lived one mile out on the Aberdeen road from Houston. He was known as a Steam Doctor,,made his own medicine and was famous for his doses of lobelia seed followed by a composition tea. Dr. J.L. Atkinson, Houston, Dr. J.W. Whitmore, Houston, Dr. Thomas Blackwell, Houston Dr. J.A. Purkey, Houston, Dr. J.P. Montgomery of near Sparta. According to Mr.

(Continued)

XI. Family Physicians and Nurses :

J.B. Paden of Houston, Dr. Montgomery was very absent minded and even though he was, he was a very popular doctor at that. It is said it was nothing unusual for him to dose out the wrong medicine and be gone fifteen or twenty minutes, then go dashing back to see if he had left the right medicine, or he would remember that he had given the wrong medicine and go dashing back to change it.

These doctors are the doctors of saddle-bag days before, during, and after the Civil War.

Since this manuscript was started, we find that we were misinformed on the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, and that the eastern part of the county has two cases recorded. According to some of the older people in and around Okolona the disease emanated there from Memphis, and the entire community was thrown into terror when refugees began to arrive from the infected areas. Men volunteered for quarentine duty and a guard was placed on all roads leading into Okolona. However, with all the precaution taken, two cases of yellow fever developed, namely; a Miss Fields, and Mr. Carr Murdock, both of whom died from the disease.

In 1900 and 1901, Okolona was visited by the small pox epidemic and many of its citizens were victims of the disease. This vicinity was the hardest hit, of any portion of Chickasaw County. At that time the medical profession knew little how to treat this disease. It later developped that more patients suffered from isolation and from being placed in the Pest Houses, than from the disease. One of the main obstacles in the treatment of the disease was the inability of the doctor to obtain nurses for their patients. An old negro ex-slave, Fred Carter, was one of the first to take the disease and soon recovered.

He volunteered his services to the doctors of the city and for a while, he was the only nurse in town, upon whom one could rely, to care for the afflicted patients. Fred would go from house to house and wait on the people, give them medicine, prepare food and then journey on to the next. It is said that he went for weeks without changing his clothes. In uncle Fred's last years, he became addicted to drink, and occasionally he would get too much tea, but the officials of the city of Okolona would never arrest him for being drunk, since the services he rendered the citizens during the small pox epidemic could never be forgotten. His weakness for liquor was overlooked and he was allowed liberties that were not accorded either black or white.

When small pox first broke out in Okolona, Dr. D.F. Morgan, then a popular young physician of Okolona, was County Health Officer. The vaccine at that time was obtained from human beings and very often the patients would develope a case of real small pox. This naturally made the general public skeptical about being vaccinated. It took rigid laws to compel vaccination. Much of the vaccine was taken from the arm of some patient who had been vaccinated and thus many developed an infection which often caused serious trouble. In some instances an arm was lost therefore, there was a reason for people being afraid of the vaccine as the remedy often proved worse than the disease. However, vaccination progressed, and soon the entire populace was given vaccine and now a case of small pox is rare in Chickasaw County.

Influenza, when it appeared in 1918 and 1919 in Okolona, was similar to the yellow fever plague of 1878, and the small pox epidemic of 1900 and 1901, in the fact that medical science knew very little of the method for treatment. The epidemic came so suddenly and the people were stricken so fast, the nursing of patients became a problem. Often, entire families were down at one time, with no one

to wait upon the other members of the family. A few people did not contract the disease and they volunteered their services. Pneumonia set up in many cases and the death rate ran high from those who contracted the disease. Most of the fatalities were among citizens who were away from home when they contracted the disease and attempted to get home before they were so badly affected. Most every patient of this class died, soon after arriving home.

In 1878, and for some years later, Okolona was dependent upon cisterns for its water supply. These cisterns were dug into the lime-rock which underlies the top soil of the prairie belt of that section of Mississippi. Many of these cisterns were dug out "jug shaped " and held thousands of gallons of water, which was stored up during the winter months from the rain fall. Many of these cisterns were of inferior build and caused the propagation of millions of mosquitos. From that of course, came the germ-carrying type which spread yellow fever. Then, too, in those years all sewerage and waste had its disposal in open ditches along the streets, which was a breeding place for mosquitoes. The two breeding places mentioned, together with the tin cans, waste and small ponds, which were maintained for stock water, made the community of Okolona an ideal place for mosquito breeding.

The medical profession of those days gave freely of their time and effort toward relieving the situation and under their influence and advice, city officials began to take steps to eliminate the causes of the disease.

First, the water system was installed and many of the cisterns were filled up or covered over so as to eliminate this nuisance. Then the ditches were drained, and finally a sewer system for the disposal of sewerage. To the medical fraternity should be given a large credit for the elimination of plasmodia carrying mosquitoes, and to different departments of the W.P. A. for carrying on the work recently in Chickasaw County. Much has been done along this line.

Okolona has only three industrial plants that employ more than five workers. The Okolona cheese plant possibly works more than any other plant and is inspected regularly. The hygiene condition at this plant is well cared for, the plant being fully screened against flies and other insects and is provided with sanitary wash rooms, sewerage systems, etc.

The brick factory employs only men and the products of this plant is in the main, material used for construction work and not for human consumption, no inspection of its products are made, however, proper sewerage and sanitary conditions are carried out in the plant.

The ice plant employs only men and the same conditions exists there as does at the brick plant. The ice is manufactured from water obtained from deep wells and is distilled in copper tanks before being manufactured into ice.

Names of R.N. Nurses in and around Okolona:

Mrs. Frank Black, R.N., Okolona

Miss Mattie Lee Mosley, R.N., Okolona

Marjorie Walker (col), R.N., Okolona

Practical Nurses in and near Okolona:

Mrs. Eunice Wagner, Okolona

Miss Gladys Hill, Okolona

Mrs. Ervin Hill, Okolona

Miss Annie Bonds, Okolona

Dr. Hansell's Hospital occupies the entire floor over the Bank of Okolona. Its office is located in the new building and is a five bed hospital, and also

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

maintains an office, reception room and operating room. This hospital is modernly equipped and is adequately prepared to take care of patients requiring any operation. Dr. Hansill's hospital employs a number of nurses, and he enjoys a large business from Okolona and vicinity.

The Wicks Hospital, owned by Dr. A.F. Wicks, occupies the entire lower and upper floor of the Burkitt Building, in Okolona. It is well equipped with X-Ray machines and all diagnosis equipment.

There are seven rooms for patients and a modernly equipped operating room.

Dr. Murphree practiced medicine in the Okolona community from the early eighties until about 1900. He enjoyed a wide range of practice in this community. The entire community was greatly grieved by his untimely death which occured in 1900, when he, his oldest son and two brothers, Mr. Clarks were killed at the same in what was thought to have been a duel between the men.

Dr. Miller returned from the Civil War quite a young man and after due preparation entered into the practice of medicine in Okolona in the seventies. He was considered a learned physician and enjoyed a wide range of practice in the community.

Dr. R.N. Saddler came to Okolona in the early nineties from Pontotoc and entered into the practice of medicine in Okolona. Dr. Saddler was the type, known as the old time family physician and catered almost to family practice.

Dr. Buchanan was a physician of the old school type and began his practice of medicine in Chickasaw County soon after the close of the Civil War. He was known as the family type physician and generally compounded his own prescriptions.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

Information obtained for this Assignment from the following :

Health Syllabus, State of Mississippi

Dr. J. Rice Williams (Chickasaw County Health Officer)

Dr. V.B. Philpot (Surgeon Houston Hospital)

Dr. D.F. Morgan, Okolona

Mr. Reuben Davis, Houston (Oldest Citizen in Chickasaw County)

Mr. Ike Hightower, Houston (Night Marshal of Houston)

Mrs. Naomi Ball Sigler, R.N., Houston

Dr. Whitfield, State Board of Health

Gladys Eyrich, State Board of Health

Dr. Henry Boswell, Sanitorium, Mississippi.

Mrs. J.C. Hightower

Mrs. J.C. Hightower, Historian
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Assignment # 24

Dr. Tyndal, and Dr. Green were physicians of almost the same type as Dr. Buchanan and Dr. Saddler. In those days the only mode of travel for the doctors was on horseback and they carried the medicine which was prescribed for the patient in Saddle-bags. These were commonly called "pill-bags".

The sacrifice and hardships borne by these old physicians can hardly be expressed in words as they were called out day and night and were forced to travel over roads that were almost impassable even on horseback.

Chickasaw County

Historical Research Project

Supplementary Material on Health Assignment # 24

Prominent Doctors of the County

Dr. J. M. Green came from Winchester, Tennessee to Okolona, Mississippi in 1849. He was at the time a young medical student, attending the University of Tennessee at Columbia. After graduating there he entered Transylvania College at Lexington, Kentucky, where he received his medical degree. A member of the faculty there when he was in school was a surgeon in Napoleon's army; it is thought that his name was Meade.

He began the practice of medicine sometime in the 1850's, just an old saddle bag country doctor, but was a very good one and a great humanitarian. Miss Kate Bodenhammer, who taught for many years in the Okolona school, claimed the distinction of being the first baby Dr. Green ushered in to the world.

When Dr. Green married, the Ruble home was given to him as a wedding present. A few years later Dr. Green sold this house to Mr. Pinkey Herndon of Okolona for four thousand dollars. Mr. Herndon paid for the house in Confederate Money which became worthless shortly afterwards, therefore Dr. Green did not realize a penny from the sale of the house.

Dr. J. M. Britney moved to Okolona from South Carolina in an ox wagon eighty or more years ago and began the practice of medicine. Very little can be remembered about him, and as for his education, qualifications, etc. nothing could be learned. Mr. W. G. Mabry, Jr. now has an old piano that he bought from Dr. Britney after he moved it from South Carolina.

Old Doctors (continued)

Dr. John S. Cain moved to Okolona from Pontotoc in 1866, coming from Tennessee. He practiced medicine in Pontotoc several years before and during the Civil War. He was considered a good doctor and was a prominent citizen. He also owned a drug store in Okolona . After a number of years he left and went to Nashville, selling the drug store to Harry Moore.

There were three other doctors contemporaries of those mentioned above- Dr. Davenport, Dr. Tyndall, and Dr. Wheeler. Dr. Davenport was an early ~~xxxxxx~~ settler in the county, coming here from Tennessee. He was a learned man as well as a good doctor, and was considered especially good as a mathematician. Dr. Tyndall died in Okolona about fifty years ago. Dr. Wheeler came here from Tennessee, practiced medicine a number of years and moved to Shannon, Mississippi. The only negro doctor in Chickasaw County is a descendant of the slaves owned by Dr. Wheeler's family, and bears the name of Wheeler.

Dr. J. C. Kinney came from Wren, Mississippi to Okolona as a general practitioner about fifteen years ago. While in Okolona he became noted for his Battle Creek Baths, importing a negro, Arthur Johnson, from Memphis, as bath man. These baths it seems are similar to the Hot Springs Baths. It is said that Dr. Kinn ey was a perfect "Chesterfield", so to speak as his manner and personal appearance were perfect. He lived in Okolona about seven years then moved to Tupelo where he died.

Chickasaw County
Historical Reseach Project

Old doctors (continued)

Dr. Morgan Shell Evans whose father and grandfather were prominent Chickasaw County doctors, was born October 3, 1893 in Houston.

He received a B.S. Degree with two years of medicine from the University of Mississippi. While there he was Vice-President of the Senior class of medicine and assistant in anatomy. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta Social Fraternity and Phi Chi Medical Fraternity. He then attended Tulane for two years and received one of the best hospital appointments because of his excellent record as a student. He served his enterneship at Charity and Presbyterian hospitals in New Orleans and served during the World War as assistant surgeon at the Charity hospital in Natchez.

His health failed in the spring of 1919 and he returned home to be under the care of his father, Dr. J. A. Evans. He soon became better and entered a partnership practice with his father. He was readily accepted by the people of the county and was unusually successful in his practice. He was well qualified, very energetic and willing, and therefore had a most promising future. He only practiced his chosen profession in Houston for about six months, for he died at the early age of twenty-four from tubercular meningitis. His picture now hangs in the Houston Hospital along with other well loved doctors of the county who have passed on.

Dr. J. C. Walker was born and reared and reared in Houlka, Mississippi. He is the son of Dr. Will Walker and grandson of Dr. W. L. Walker, both prominent in the history of the county .

Chickasaw County

Historical Research Project

Doctors (continued)

Dr. Walker took a pre-medical course at Vanderbilt, in Nashville and graduated from the University of Tennessee at Memphis, specializing in pediatrics and obstetrics. He served his interneship at the Baptist Hospital in Memphis.

His first practice was in his home town, Houlka. Later he moveddto Houston where he had a flourishing practice for several years. Them he moved to Jackson. He was on the staff at the Insane Hospital for four years during the Murphree- Whitfield administration. Later he worked at the Jackson Infirmary for four years.

He is now one of Jackson's leading specialists, confining his services to pediatrics and obstetrics.

Mabel C. Calvin

Mabel C. Calvin, Historian
Chickasaw County
Historical Research Project

Chickasaw County

References for doctors:

Mrs. Molly Abbott, Okolona, Mississippi

W. G. Mabry, Jr., Okolona, Mississippi

Mattie Lee Buchanan, Okolonam Mississippi

Mrs. J.A. Evans, Houston, Mississippi

Dr. Will Walker, Houlka, Mississippi

Typist:
Margaret Sue Shell

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Historian:
Mabel C. Calvin

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

August 9, 1937

SUBJECT: RE: ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES

ASSIGNMENT # 29

I. Organizations:

Houston Lodge no. 67

Among the institutions of Houston, the Masonic Lodge is one of the oldest. It was chartered January 20, 1846, just ten years after the formation of the county of Chickasaw and the founding of the town of Houston.

The charter issued by the Mississippi Grand Lodge appointed the following officers to serve the Houston Lodge: Andrew McKeown, Master; Robert Murry, Senior Warden; D. H. Wood, Junior Warden; Samuel Myers, Treasurer; D. W. Misheur, Secretary; S. D. Holloman, Senior Deacon; J. B. Middlebrooks, Junior Deacon, G. B. Harwood, steward and tiler.

In the list of early members is found the names of many men who were very prominent in the early affairs of Houston. Many of themheld political offices and positions of responsibility in the young town and county. The returns of the Houston Lodge no.67 in

Houston Lodge no. 67 (continued)

the year of 1852 shows the following members: J. Ault, J. D. Jennings, J. R. McIntosh, G. W. Thornton, F. G. Wood, W. P. Wood, A. A. Park, W. S. Featherston, J. A. Orr, T. N. Martin, B. Nichols, F. Williams, G. W. Murray, W. H. Crawford, T. M. Blackwell, R. G. Steele, Frank Burkett, J. B. Gladney, S. Myers, T. B. Shearer, A. Barton, J. Ivy, L. A. Gilliland, A. Foster, W. Gray, W. T. Harlem, T. W. Galbreathe, S. M. Gilliland, B. H. Chapman, S. Handley, N. B. Travers, W. Marion, C.M. Marable, G. A. Sturgis, A. M. Robertson, J.H. Williams, S. Baird, and C. P. Baldwin.

The next report found in the records of the Grand Lodge was filed in 1853. According to this report J. A. Orr was then master of the lodge and T. N. Martin was secretary. T. M. Blackwell, W. S. Featherston, R. G. Steele and A. Barton were reported as Past Masters.

As no returns are recorded from 1846 to 1853, the masonic records of these men are lost. In this record of 1853 Judge T. N. Martin's name appears for the first time. He was Master of the Houston Lodge for about seven years. He was a regular attendant at the grand lodge and at one time was appointed Grand Sword Bearer. Later in 1864, he was appointed Junior Gran d Warden. He continued an active interest until his death in 1886

Houston Lodge no 67 (continued)

in Masonic affairs until his death in 1886.

Returning to the Masters of the local lodge, there is found the following succession of Masters: John Thomas, T. N. Martin, J. L. Flaniken, R. G. Steele (3yrs) T. N. Blackwell (2Yrs.) T. N. Martin (4 yrs) W. W. Wood (3 yrs.), W. T. Harlan, R. P. Mitchel (3 yrs) Frank Burkitt (3 yrs) W. W. Wood (2yrs) J. B. Gladney, and T. N. Martin who in 1880 held this place for his last term.

With the exception of one year, M. C. Shell served for eleven years (from 1881 to 1892) the longest term of any master of this lodge. B. F. Collins served this term as Master in 1884. Following Mr. Shell's last term were E. L. Sherwood (2 yrs.) H. B. Abernethy (2 yrs), J. T. Aston, again H. B. Abernathy, J. T. Aston, and in 1900 G. W. Smith.

An interesting fact is noted in the record of 1900. The Lodge which had formerly reached almost one hundred members, in the years of 1900-1901 reported only 15 members. Deaths, demits, and suspensions accounted for the sharp decrease. In 1902 the membership was only 13, but then began a rapid increase and in

Houston Lodge No. 67 (continued)

1911 there were seventy members.

Following G.W.Smith as Master in 1901 was B. F. Collins, J. L. Davis,(2yrs.) J. Rice Williams, John W. Walker, Robert E. Johnson, Joseph W. Pratt, Geo. D. Riley, Joe H. Ford, R. B. Waldrop, J. B. Paden, Elliott Parker, Jesse D. Collins, L. D. Gray, J. Hubert Pearson, L. B. Reid, W. A. Wilkerson, S. D. Goza, J. B. Paden, V. B. Philpot, J. C. Paden J. Grover Taylor, J. B. Hastings, J. C. Paden, Henry C. Wilson, A. L. Canipe, John M. Pearson, J. C. Paden, (3 yrs.) Curtis E. Davis, W. L. Norman, Edward B. Shearer, J. Herbert Miller, Howard Brown, Chas. H. McCraine,which brings the list up to the present time.

The first lodge hall was located in a two story building about where the B. C. Hill Funeral Home now stands. Leaving this location the Lodge bought the old Female Academy building, and used the upper floor until 1930, when they built their present building, a nice brick structure, which also houses the Post Office and The Times Post.

Houston Lodge no. 67 (continued)

The present officers of the Houston Lodge are: H. V. Sigler, Worthy Master; H. A. Tornwall, Senior Warden; M. C. Boyd, Junior Warden; C. R. Miller, Senior Deacon; H. D. McMorrough, Junior Deacon; J. C. Paden, Treasurer; and W.A. Wilkerson, Secretary.

Houston Lodge no. 67 has gained considerable prominence in the Grand Lodge and throughout the subordinate Lodges of the state by furnishing the Grand Lodge two Grand Masters; Dr. J. R. Williams and the lamented Geo. D. Riley.

Dr. Williams served the Grand Lodge as its chief officer in 1912, since which time he has served as Grand Lecturer. He is generally considered the highest authority on Masonic subjects in the state. He probably is acquainted with a greater number of Mississippians than any other citizen of Houston. Frequently citizens who are away from home are asked where their home is. On replying , "Houston", quite often the response is,"Oh, that's Dr. Williams home town. A very successful general practitioner of medicine, Dr. Williams has for the past several years specialized in radiology, which he has continued his success. Inestimable

Houston Lodge no. 67 (continued)

good has been done by this man, and all that know him wish that he may have many more in which to serve his community and his state.

The late Geo. D. Riley served the Grand Lodge as its presiding officer in 1924. Prior to that time he had deputy Grand Lecturer for a number of years. After his service as Grand Master he was for several years chairman of the Masonic Service Committee and member of the Board of Control of the Masonic Homes at Meridian and Columbus, which the Grand Lodge maintains for children of deceased Master Masons. A brilliant and pleasing speaker, Mr. Riley was greatly loved by a host of friends throughout the state, and enjoyed some distinction nationally, especially in Masonic affairs. For twelve years he was Superintendent of Education in Chickasaw County, and was twice honored by the electorate of Mississippi, being elected State Auditor in 1923, and Insurance Commissioneri in 1931. At the time of his death in 1935, he was without opposition for reelection to that position. Genuine sorrow was felt at his untimely demise in the city of Jackson

Houston Lodge no. 67 (continued)

It has been said that more people attended his funeral than any other that has been conducted in that city. The loss of his counsel will long be felt.

The Houston Chapter (Electa) of the Eastern Star was organized Jan. 13, 1908, by Mrs. Mattie Davis, of Okolona, second Grand Matron of Mississippi, and the following were charter members: Mesdames Irlene Boyd, Ama Brand, Mollie Collins, Sudie Crawford, Eva Dorman, Miss Ola Dorman, L. D. Gray, Miss Nora Griffin, Miss Minnie Hall, Mrs. Bell Houston, Mrs. Minnie Johnson, R. E. Johnson, C. P. McWhorter, J. B. Paden, Mrs. Georgia Paden, Mrs. Mattie Pierson, J. W. Pratt, Mrs. Lillie Riley, Mrs. Ritta Shearer, Mrs. Maggie Walker, John Walker, R. B. Waldrop, Mrs. Fisher Waldrop, Dr. J. Rice Williams, Mrs. Emma Hall, Rush H. Knox, Mrs. Florence Knox, W. H. Milsaps, Mrs. Dona M. Lindsey, and Curt Walker.

The Worthy Matrons were:

1908-1909-----Mrs. Lillie Riley
1910---------Miss Minnie Hall
1911---------Mrs. Fisher Waldrop
1912---------Mrs. Minnie Johnson
1913--------- Mrs. Maggie Walker (deceased)
1914---------Mrs. Emma Hall
1915---------Miss Nora Griffin
1916 --------Mrs. Mattie Pierson (deceased)
1917---------Mrs. Florence Tindall (deceased)
1918--------- Mrs. Annie Wilkerson

CHICKASAW COUNTY

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

1- Garden Clubs in the town of Houston:

There are no garden clubs in the town of Houston, but as wes stated in Assignment # 17, Agriculture and Horticulture , the Federated Woman's Clubs encourage garden and flower activated among the citizens of Houston and include in their year's work flower shows and beautification projects. The Twentieth Century Club planted the shrubs on the court yard and the crepe myrtle trail along Jackson street, while the Culture Club has undertaken the beaufification of the new park.

2- Municipal Park in Houston:

A description of this park will be found in assignment # 16, Fine Arts. It may be added,however, that the land for the park proper, which includes six and one half acres, was purchased from the Dulaney estate at a cost of two thousand dollars. About fifteen business men bought this land with the exception of three lots, paying one thousand dollars for it, while Mr. W. N. Ethridge bought the remaining three lots at a cost of about one thousand dollars and deeded it to the town also. Practically nothing has been done to improve the

CHICKASAW COUNTY

park this year (1937), though it has afforded q uite a bit of pleasure to the citizens this summer. Band concerts are had here every Sunday evening and picnics are very frequent. Swimming is enjoyed every day.

3- Mrs. Corrine Winter Dunn was born and reared in Houston. She attended the Houston Public and High School, studying, in addition to the usual literary work, piano, voice and dramatics, graduating in the latter. Later she attended Blue Mountain College, where she specialized and received her diploma in dramatics. Although she studied piano and voice at Blue Mountain she did not receive a diploma and has achieved more distinction in dramatics than in music. She taught dramatics at the Agricultural College at Moorehead, Mississippi and at Arcola. Since her marriage Mrs. Dunn hasnot continued her work except in a voluntary and incidental way.

Mrs. Dunn's sister, Mrs. A. D. Harrington of Houston, is a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory and Sherwood Music School at Chicago, ppst graduate of Cincinnati Conservatory, received a Teacher's training course at the American Conservatory, Chicago,

and Sherwood Music School, and a Kindergarten Course at the American Conservatory. She has taught piano and harmony in Houston for fifteen years and has been a pianist at the Baptist Church for a number of years.

Chickasaw

OKOLONA CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The Carnegie Library in Okolona is one of the most artistic buildings in the county. It is of the modern Renaissance Type of architecture, built of red brick with pilastered trimmingsof white. The main floor is handsomely furnished with heavy oak library furniture; the lower floor, or basement contains the furnace room, rest rooms and an assembly room.

The grounds surrounding the building are artistically landscaped with evergreen shrubbery and choice flowers; in the center of the front lawn is a semi-circle of green sward, outlined by the wide concrete walk, is a large bed of bright colored flowers; in the rear rearof the building is a playground for children. It contains a wading pool, slides, swings, etc. Surrounding the pool is a vine covered arbor or trellis which not only adds to the artistic effect but provides shade for the children as well. Lombardy poplars furnish a back ground to the whole.

Original

James B. Gordon

A senator from Mississippi born in Cotton Gin Port, Monroe County, Mississippi, Dec. 6, 1833. Removed with his parents to Pontotoc County in 1834, attended the public schools, St. Thomas Hall, Holly Springs, Mississippi and La Grand de College, Alabama. Was graduated from the University of Mississippi at Oxford in 1855; becamee a planter and was also a newspaper and magazine writer; member of the State House of Representatives in 1857 and 1859; located in Okolona, Mississippi in 1859; during the Civil War served as a Colonel in the Confederate Army with Cavalry regiments he had raised and organized. Special Commissioner of the Confideracy to visit European countries in 1864. He was captured in the harbor of Wilmington, N.C. on his return in Jan. 1864 but escaped Feb. 22, 1865 and fled to Canada; surrendered to General Dix in New York City and received a passport to his home. Again he was a member of the State House of Representatives in 1876, and 1886; member of the State senate 1904-1906; appointed to the United States senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Anselm J. McLaurin, and served from Dec. 27, 1909 to Feb. 22, 1910. He was not a candidate for re-election, but resumed agricultural persuits and literary activities. He died in Okolona, Chickasaw County Mississippi, Nov. 28, 1912; interment in the Old Fellows Cemetery.

REFERENCE: Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927, at Archives and History.

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James Gordon, Congressman, author and poet, was born December 6, 1833 at Quincy, Monroe County, Mississippi, and is the son of Robert Gordon and wife, Mary (Walton) Gordon. His ancestors came to America from England and Scotland and settled in Virginia., thence to Mississippi.[1]

The father of the subject of this sketch settled in the Chickasaw Nation before its transfer to the United States; was founder of Aberdeen, Miss., and a witness to the treaty with the Chickasaws; his home in Pontotoc County was known as Lochinvar.[1]

Mr. Gordon attended the primary schools of Pontotoc County, attended Lagrange Preparatory school in 1850; entered the University of Mississippi in 1852 and received his A B degree in the class of 1855.[1-3]

In 1859 the Gordon family moved to Okolona; he enlisted in the Cpnfederate Army February 7, 1861, as Captain of Chickasaw Rangers, Company B, Jeff Davis Legion - armed and equipped company at his own expense; organized the Second Regiment Mississippi Calvary and was commissioned Colonel; serving under General Stewart, Van Dorn, Jackson, Forrest and Armstrong.[1]

He was a member of the Mississippi Legislature in 1857, 1878 and 1886; elected to State Senate from Thirty-first District, November 3, 1903.[1]

Col. Gordon was a Democrat; has served on State Committee; member of the Presbyterian church; Mason, Knight Templar and Odd Fellow.

He was married February 7, 1856, to Caroline Virginia Wiley, daughter of Yancy Wiley and wife, Annie Thompson, of Lafayette County,[1]

Mississippi. Mrs. Gordon is a niece of Jacob Thompson, Secretary of Interior of President Buchanan's Cabinet; her ancestors came to Mississippi from North Carolina.[1]

Colonel and Mrs. Gordon have two children, Annie (Gordon) Barrow and Robert James.[1]

In the summer of 1864 he was sent to England with letters of marque to sell bonds to fit out a privateering boat. This was done at Glasgow. He was captured in the harbor at Wilmington, N. C. on his return in 1865. After many experiences as a prisoner, he was released on February 22 and allowed to escape to Canada. While in Canada he met Jacob Thompson and J. Wilkes Booth. For some months he rested under suspicion of conspiracy with Booth in the killing of Lincoln. A ten thousand dollar reward was offered for his apprehension. His friends fixed it so he could return to the United States - he gave himself up to General Dix, proved his innocence and was given a passport home. He was disfranchised for ten years.[2]

After the War Between the States he and his father returned to p Pontotoc County and built the noted Lochinvar home.[2]

Colonel was typical of the "Old South" and a gentleman of the "Old South." Sunny of disposition and possessed of a poise no heights or depth could disturb. At one time he was reputed to be one of the richest men in North Mississippi. The other he drove a milk cart, yet always the same Sunny Jim. Some one asked him if he was not sorry he had spent his money so freely and he replied he was not a bit sorry for he had enjoyed spending it. When he lost[2]

his home, the noted Lochinvar, which had been his father's and his own; yet he went away whistling. Having been a planter he now secured a small farm near Okolona and bought a few cows and started a dairy. He worked in the fields, tended to the cows and marketed his produce; always doing a full days work along with those he employed. Within ten years he was independent; again serving in the State Senate in 1904 and in 1909 served sixty days in Congress, an unexpired time. How well he filled the place for the short time, sixty days, how the whole nation approved of his only utterances before the august body. How that for days the editorial columns of the American press were literally teeming with the lavish praise of Colonel Gordon, the "Gentleman from Mississippi". His fellow seantors gave him this name as he had invited every member of the Senate to be his guest to see the play called "The Gentleman from Mississippi".[2]

Was widely known as a sportsman and a writer.

His contributions to magazines under the non de plum of "Pious Jeems" are known on both sides of the Atlantic. Was author of a book of poems, "the Old Plantation and other poems", the most noted of which is "The Old Plantation", which is a description of the plantation life as it existed at the close of the War Between the States and some others were: "the Only Sinner Left", "Death of the Old Hunter", etc. Col Gordon was very fond of hunting, kept a pack of hounds for fox hunting, and also enjoyed hunting deer and birds - he was considered and excellent shot and was a successful hunter. A friend said he thought nothing of paying $500.00 for a bird dog when he was in the[2]

money. He was very generous when he had the money and always tried to help the widows and ambitious boys to get an education. Once he heard a widow trying to borrow money to send her son to college and he offered to lend it to her and would not take a note for the loan. It is said, after he had lost his home and everything, one of the widows he had befriended gave him a small farm his life time. After the death of his first wife in February 1903, he married Miss Ella N. Neilson on April 28, 1904 - of a prominent Oxford family with whom he spent happily[2] his eventful closing years of his life. She died childless.

In 1910 he was appointed a trustee on the Board of Trustees for the University of Mississippi and served until his death, 1912.[3] The crowning honor of his public life came in his old age when on December 27, 1909 he was appointed by Governor Noel to fill the vacancy in the United States Senate caused by the death of Hon. A. J McLauren - he served until February 22, 1910.[2]

1. Official and Statistical Register
State of Mississippi - 1904 - page 505
Edited and compiled by Dunbar Rowland
Printed by Press of the Brandon Printing Co.
Mashville, Tenn.

2. Okolona Messenger - weekly newspaper
Edited by Ervie and Jewel Quinn, Nov. 1912

3. Historical Catalogue - University of Mississippi
1849-1909 -
Edited Marsahll & Bruce Co. printed © 1910

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Additional Information
Col. James Gordon

Col. James Gordon wrote the "Early Methodism in Pontotoc for a Woman's edition" of "The People's Banner" in November, 1895. The article was reproduced in a similar special edition of "The Sentinel", Oct.24,1912. Sometime in 1864 Col. Gordon had resigned his command and accepted an embassy with Hon. Jacob Thompson, from the Confederate government to Canada. The object of this mission to Canada was to organize Southern sympathizers on the Northern border and mid-Western States. But the sunrrender came and the assassination of President Lincoln prevented any definite results. A price was put on the commissioners, including Col. Gordon, by the Federal government, and they fled to England and Scotland until the passions of the times cooled, and it was safe to return to their native country and resume their citizenship.

The "Chickasaw Rangers," his original Civil War company, Col.Gordon outfitted and equipped at his own expense. Every item of expense, from the soldiers' uniforms to the horses, arms, saddles, bridles,etc., was borne by the prodigal young Scothman, and there is no question but that he rendered loyal, faithful serive to the Confederacy from the first to the last, and throughout his life he was devoted to his country, state, neighbors and friends.

At the outbreak of the war, Col. Gordon was perhaps the wealthiest young man in Mississippi. He was as great a spendthrift as his father was gifted with acquiring wealth - the exact opposite of his thrifty Scotch father. The last of his wealth went with "Lochinvar" under foreclosure proceedings in 1891. He has often said that when he bade farewell to his ancestral estate, his fortune amounted to $1.25 cash and a wagon load of household goods, which took him to Okolona, where some of his Northern friends had provided him a small home and a few acres of ground. Here he was elevated

Additional Information
Col. James Gordon

"from a milk cart to the United States Senator" by governatorial appointment, and made a "farewell speech" which gave him world-wide fame, and gave the brave old gentleman a chance to pass from mortal ken in a blaze of glory. In many respects he was a knightly soul.

Some of his friends from the North often came down to hunt with him and staid the winter when he lived at "Lochinvar".

Col. Gordon did considerable writing in his earlier years, chiefly contributions to the local papers, such as weddings, obituaries, etc. He was also a contributor to national publications, such as "Field and Stream," on hunting subjects.

Information from E. T. Winston's book on Pontotoc.

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Col. James Gordon was a trustee at Mississippi State College during the years 1910-12.

From record of Mississippi State College, by B. P. Brooks, Financial Secretary/

Typist:
Margaret Shell

Historian:
Mabel Calvin

Historical Research Project

Chickasaw County

August 22, 1937

Sketch of Prominent Dentists and their Work in the County.

Some fifty years ago the only dentist of which Chickasaw County could boast was an itinerant doctor named Hosea Porter. Mr. Porter's home was in Pontotoc, it seems, but he travelled all over Chickasaw County doing dental work in the home of his patients. Sometimes he would remain a week at one home, making a set of false teeth. Present day dentists say that his teeth were everlasting- platinum pegs were used in his plates. He also used a very fine quality of porcelain which the modern day dentists can not obtain. He always extracted teeth free of charge and the usual fee for a new set was twenty dollars.

Dr. J. Rice Willams remembers that he always drove a two wheeled, one horse cart and whistled under his breath.

Several of the very old citizens of the county are still wearing plates made by old Dr. Porter.

Dr. W. L. Walker, father of Dr. Will Waker of Houlka, was one of Houston's older dentists. He studied dentistry under George Clements at Macon and afterward practiced in Houston for several years- between 1850 and 1860. He had his office where the Stevenson's Motor Company now is. Afterwards Dr. Walker studied Medicine and became a practicing phisician.

Dentists (continued)

During the latter forties and early fifties there were in Okolona two dentists named Dixon and Hunter. Mr. W. G. Mabry who is one of the older citizens of Okolona remembers them, but he was a small boy at the time of their residence here and does not remember anything definite about them. Neither of these men have relatives in Okolona who might give information concerning them.

Two other dentists of Okolona were J. N. Love and a Dr. Jamison. They lived here about twenty five years ago and at the same time, both having offices on main street. The only definite thing that could be learned about them was that Love had an invalid wife and Jamison was a drunkard.

Dr. Andrew J. Moore, son of C. C. Moore and grandson of Lewis Moore who was one of the earliest settlers of Chickasaw County, was born and reared in Houston. He attended the Atlanta School of Dentistry and after graduation came back to Houston and began his dental practice in 1892. This he continued for about eighteen years when he was forced to retire from his frofession because of sciatic rheumatism in his hands. He then went into the Drug business with Mr. Bates Tabb, the firm being known as Moore and Tabb. In 1912 he moved to Itta Bena where he now resides.

There was another dentist in Houston just after the Civil War- a Dr. Nesbitt. Then these was Dr. Keith Moffat and his son Carothars Moffat who both had good dental practices in Houston. Dr. Carothers Moffat left Houston and went to Memphis where he attained quite a bit of prominence before he died a few years ago.

J. N. Smith and C. B. Baker were dental partners in Houston in

the early part of the twentieth century. They had an office over the old State Bank which was located where the Chevrolet Agency now is. About 1911 Dr. Baker left Houston to practice in Amory. Then in 1913 Dr. Doyle Stubblefield who is a prominent dentist of Houston at the present time, bought out Dr. Smith. It is not known where Dr. Smith went.

A contemporary of Smith and Baker was a man from Calhoun City- a Dr. Tom Webb. It seems that he was not very prominent as a dentist and finally committed suicide. Dr. R. S. Blue then bought out his office and continued to practice there today.

Dr. Doyle Stubblefield of Houston is a very prominent dentist. He was born at Banner, Mississippi and moved to Sarepta when he was six years old. His family lived there until he was twenty-two years old. He finished from the Sarepta High School and then entered the Draughn's Business College at Nashville, Tennessee from which he graduated. He received a degree from Louisville College of Dentistry, at Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Stubblefield began his practice in Houlka and after about a year moved to Houston and bought the office of Dr. J. M. Smith. He opened his office on August 3, 1913. Since that day he has had an active practice in Houston. He is a splendid dentist and enjoys a large practice from Chickasaw County and nearby counties.

Dr. Richmond Smith Blue, D. D. S., was born at Elzey in Calhoun County. Receiving his elementary education at Elzey, he entered the Mississippi Normal College at Houston which he attended

for several years. In 1903 he enrolled in the School of Dentistry at the University of Tennessee in Nashville and graduated with first honors in 1907. During his senior year he was awarded the dean's medal for the best gold filling put in by any senior.

After graduation he located in Memphis where he had an extraordinarily good practice. After the death of his father in 1912 Dr. Blue came back home to attend to the affairs of his father's estate and decided to locate in Houston, where he has been for the last twenty-five years. He has won an excellent reputation for himself as a dentist and enjoys a large and extensive practice in this section of the state.

Dr. J. C. Luper was born and reared at Prentiss, Mississippi. He graduated from the School of Dentistry at Vanderbilt University, however he went back to his home town and practiced dentistry three years between his junior and senior years.

After graduation he came to Okolona where he has been for the last twenty years. He is a very good dentist and is a wide awake citizen as well, being ever interested in anything that will make for the development of his city.

Mabel C. Calvin

Mabel C. Calvin, Historian
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Chickasaw County

References from which material was secured:

Dr. J. R. Williams, Houston, Mississippi
Dr. Will Walker, Houlka, Mississippi
W. B. Mabry, Jr. Okolona, Mississippi
Ed Elias, Okolona, Mississippi
B. E. Moore, Houston, Mississippi
W. A. Harrington, Houston, Mississippi
Dr. Boyle Stubblefield, Houston, Mississippi
Dr. R. S. Blue, Houston, Mississippi
Alice Henley, Okolona, Mississippi

Recent Contricutors to Chickasaw County

By Elliot Parker, Houston, Miss.

A history of Chickasaw County up to t he troublous times of 1875 has already been prepared by one much more competent for the task than is your humble servant. He described the character and spirit of our forefathers who braved the dangers of a wild country, inhabited only by Indians and ferocious animals, cleared the forests, established homes, schools, and churches and developed the intelligent and industrious citizenship that has always charterized the county. He told how our fathers , duri ng the Civil War, sacrificed their lives and fortunes in defense of a principle they held most dear; how they returned to their devestated and desolated homes and country in '65, and under changed and most difficult conditions restored the happiness and prosperity of the land. He told of the trying times of reconstruction, and of the heroic fight that was made to rid our land of carpetbaggers and to restore our government to white control.

I have been asked to undertake the impossible task of bringing this unfinished history down to date. Todo only a reasonably fair justice to this undertaking would require months of research and study, and I have had only a week. I have undertaken a brief account of a few of the influences and persons that have given prominence to the county in later, years, and shaped its progress. In doing this I can catalogue only a few of the names of persons who have become more or less prominent in the thought and action of the times--such names as I happen to recall as I write, and I will therefore necessarily omit many that deserve to be mentioned. And right here I wish to state that in cataloging the names of the more or less prominent persons I do not mean to convey the idea that they are the only ones who have contributed to the fame, honor, and progress of the county, for the humble sons of toil contributed their share, and they deserve as much glory as the others. We all can not be leaders

in thought. Some of us must be leaders in work, and the latter are just as important in our social scheme as is the former, although their praide is rarely sung.They are inspired by the same patriotic devotion that characterizes the other class, but the world does not take time to consider it.

Chickasaw County has always been an agricultural county, and hence there has been no great accumulation of wealth within its borders. Her people have been and are now comparatively poor in material wealth,but rich in the finer qualities of life.Many of her sons have attained renown in the various fields of human endeavor, and have exerted wholesome influence in the communites where they lived and labored. The Buena Vista Normal College at Buena Vista was established in 1884, and the Mississippi Normal college at Houston in 1885 afforded ppportunity for boys and girls of liberal means to get an education, and they sent out each year many young men and women with enlarged vision new determination and deep aspiration. These scattered to the four winds of the earth and began their labours.Thus it is that Chickasaw County has produced more such characters than has any other county in the state.

Until afew years ago Buena Vista was the most perfect garden spot to be found in the county, and was noted far and wide for the intelligence and prosperity of its people. There went out from this community some eminent lawyers,among whom might be mentioned W.E.Baskin, who died in Meridian a few years ago;Robert McIntosh of St. Louis, also now dead, two brothers Robert and Charles Williams of St. Louis, an elder brother and younger brother of the late John C. Williams of beloved memory.

There also went out from this community several distinguished preachers among whom we mention the three Spraggin brothers: Ed and Charles, Methodist preachers some where in Texas; and Hal who after filling some of the best pulpits in Mississippi, transferred to the Memphis Conference (These last two mentioned are products of the Buena Vista Normal College.)

We also mention the two Thornton brothers, E.E. and M. K. E.E. or Elijah, after many years of usefulness in various parts of Mississippi died in Houston a few years ago. M. K. or Duke now gray and bent with the years, lived in Bessemer, Alabama, retired from active work.

Okolona furnished A.T.Stoval for many years a leading attorney of Morth Mississippi, and now president of the Columbus and Greenville Railway. His son,Bob Clark, although young in years, is already a distinguished lawyer, and gives promise of attaining as great distinction as his illustrious father.

Congress, aflatwood community with but one store, but with a live church and Sunday school, did well its part in producing preachers. The J. A. Lewis family alone produced several eminent preachers and one fine lawyer. Tom Lewis was a"big" preacher. After transferring to the Memphis Conference, he lived and died in Memphis. Eddie and Silas Lewis two younger brothers, are preaching somewhere in Missisippi. W. T. Lewis is pastor of the Methodist Church. W. N. Lewis another brother, was a distinguished lawyer of Davis, Oklahoma, where he died a few years ago. This community also furnished Dr. Will Crosthwait, a distinguished surgeon of Waco, Texas, as well as atalented sister, the present Superintendent of Education of this county.

Houston furnished J.E. Harrington, C. H. Moffit, W. N. Bradford, and J. H. Ford all brilliant attorneys; also J. P.Tabb, Eugene Stovall, Will Lyles and J.T. Griffin who all attained prominence in the business world.

Houlka furnished Dr. W. C. Walker who has spent the better part of his life in ministering to the sick and afflicted.

There are many more prominent sons of Chickasaw whose names should be mentioned but I do not know them all.

Besides the native soms there a great many adopted sons that are prominent, among whom we mention Judge Frazee of Okolona, once U. S. District Attorney for this district. R.H. Knox, district Attorney, Attorney General

of the state, and now state Senator from this district; Jeff Busby, former county attorney and Congressman from this district for twelve years.

Among the country doctors(those who served the country population) we might mention the names of Drs. Purkey and J. L. Evans of Houston, both long since gone to their reward. Dr. Evans left behind him two sons, Drs. J. S. And J. A. Evans, who followed in his footsteps and who never refused to respond to a call when it was possible to go. Dr. Gus is now dead but tender memories of him are firmly fixed in the minds of those he loved and served. Dr.s Murdock and Abbott of Buena Vista belong to this class, Also Dr. J. W. Abernethy of Atlanta, and his son, Dr. Green Abernethy.

Among the country preachers were Bros. Gideon, Seale, Henderson, and Smith of the Baptist persuasion; Thomas Lowery, whose progeny is numerous in and around Houston, and elsewhere. J. T. Carothers, whose stentorian voice was the wonder of all who heard him. He was of the Presbyterian faith.

Mrs. J. N. Strickland
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Canvassers:
Mabel Calvin,
Rubye Cook.

Chickasaw County
Historical Research Project
August 18, 1936
Assignment #13
Subject: Interviews

accepted S.L.

Lucy Pulliam McBee, 68 years old, is a typical Southern Mammy. She has lived with the Pulliam family at Buena Vista all her life and her mother was a slave in the Pulliam family.

It was a pleasure to Lucy to talk of her "white folks" and mother. "I know just what I have heard the old folks tell."

"My mother's name was Judie and when Marse Bob left Georgia about 1840, my ma was just ten years old. They left her behind and she ran away and caught up with the covered wagon a day's journey away from home. It was cold weather and she was barefoot so Marse Bob made one of the boys take off his shoes and give them to Ma. Marse Bob had eight sons and two daughters and about 75 slaves. One time while on the way Marse Bob stopped at a store to get hats for the boys and when the storekeeper had fitted all the boys, he wouldn't let Marse Bob pay for the hats, because there were so many of them.

They first came to a place on the Chuquatanchee and stayed one year. They were all sick so much that Marse Bob came to the very place where Marse Stanley's house is now and built a kitchen and some log cabins for the slaves and moved in. My ma cooked the first meal of vittels ever cooked in Buena Vista. The regular cook was sick and Marse Bob asked Ma if she could cook. "Yessir", she said, so she cooked in the new kitchen on the fireplace. She was a house girl for a long time, then she was put in charge of the dairy.

Marse Bob built two more rooms with an attic and it was here the family lived and kept boarders.

When the Mexican War broke out, there was one of the bo s went to war.

There when the war what freed the negroes started there was several of the Pulliams who went at the same time. They all ate dinner together, marched around the dinner table, and went off to war. There was one Dr. who did not go and a younger boy born after they came to Buean Vista who was too young to go.

When Marse Bob wanted to "whup" one of his slaves, all he had to do was tell them he was going to sell them and they would be good. When the war was over, all his slaves stayed on with him. They all loved him and he was good to them. My ma worked for the Pulliams all her life and I has too. She was a mid-wife and helped all these younger folks with their babies. She believed in catnip tea, said if the baby did not break out with hives, it wouldn't live to be grown.

Lucy has a native talent for decoration. She can take a piece of paper and cut intricate and really beautiful designs. She said she had seen the old folks cut papers for shelves and she just took it up. Her designs would be suitable for embroidery.

Lucy is now in the employ of Mrs. Jack Pulliam and says she reckons she will just stay here as long as she can work.

Interview with Mrs. Dolly Wofford Dendy of Houston, Miss., July 23

Mrs. Dolly Wofford Dendy was born of sturdy pioneer parents in Chickasaw County in the year of 1850. When she was seven years of age, her father bought and moved to a farm 4½ miles west of Pleasant Ridge Church.

In the year of 1867, she was married to Mr. Jim Dendy, with whom she lived happily for 67 years, when he died in 1934. Mr. Dendy came to Chickasaw County when a small child and lived about in different parts of the county until his father bought a farm of 160 acres 2 miles west of Pleasant Ridge Church. He was to pay $500 for the farm, $100 down and $100 per year until the farm was paid for. War came and almost ruined things for the family. However, through hard work the place was paid for.

In the year that Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dendy were married, they bought a home 5 miles north of Pleasant Ridge Church and to this union 16 children were born. Three of the children died in infancy and 13 were raised to be grown. All the children except one were born on this old home place.

Mrs. Dendy was a very active worker in her home. She did all the house work, carding, spinning, and weaving all the clothes for the family and keeping up with it.

She said, "We worked hard, lived at home and didn't see many people, but we were so happy and always had room at our tables for any neighbors. She took time to visit her neighbors and delights in talking of the "good old times" since she doesn't know so much about the new times.

They always had plenty of home grown food, vegetables, meat and dried fruits. Since canning was not so generally practiced, she used a method like this in making a grape conserve. She put a layer of grapes and covered them with molasses, until the stone jar was filled. It was then put into a cool place until it fermented. The juice was then poured out and recovered with syrup. This made a very delicious conserve.

Dye made of walnut hulls was made by boiling the hulls, and then dipping the cloth into the dye. Also dye wasmade by placing a layer of leaves, and a layer of thread. This was covered with water, set for two or three days. She also told of using bark of red oak, white oak, and bark of red oak, swe t gum for dyes, which made a dove color or light gray.

In addition to clothing, she made coverlets and counterpanes. About 32 years ago Mr. and Mrs. Dendy moved to Houston where he was engaged in running a gin. He was considered one of the best ginners in the county. He was noted for his honesty and integrity. He died i n the ye r of 1934. Mrs. Dendy kept house for a while, but now is living among her children.

Mrs. Dendy said she never bought a box of soap as she made her own. She savedall the meat scraps and waste grease and mixed it with lye rum from hardwood ashes. The ashes were kept in a dry place until time to make the soap when they were put into an ash hopper, which was made of a barrel with the bottom out. This was placed on a platform with a decided lean to drain the lye. The bottom was filled with shucks. Then the water was poured into the barrel and when lye drip ed through strong enough to float an egg, it was mixed with grease and boiled. It made a jelly and was put away in wooden barrells.

Mrs. Dendy said that she enjoyed this interview more than she had anything in a long time, as she really loved to talk of old times, and that there were so few people now who had time to listen.

Interview with Mrs. Savaley, Houlka, Miss.

Mrs. Savaley, now residing on a part of the original Savaley place near Houlka, which was settled by Judge Stein and bought by Savaley in ____. Mrs. Savaley is now nearing her seventy-ninth birthday and is rather feeble, but is still looks after the affairs around her home, and has an active mind and vivid recollections of her early experiences and activities.

She was only four years of age at the beginning of the war, but she remembers very vividly some of the experiences during the war. She stated that they kept all valuable s hidden away from the house. When one of the neighbor boys came over to borrow the gun. Her mother went out to get the gun and shot-pouch, and when she came in she foudn the yard and house full of Soldiers. She threw the gun under the porch, but forgot the shot-pouch. The soldiers ate all the food that was cooked and confiscated all the uncooked food, then began ransaking the place. One soldier asked her what the shot pouch was and she quickly siad that it was a bag her husband had used in hunting. He left her alone

but began searching the house again with the soldiers. She then went to the commanding officer and told him that the soldiers had taken all her food, and asked him if he would protect her home. The officer had the soldiers to withdraw. On another occasion the Federal soldiers were sighted by one of the negroes who was plowing. He unhitched his mule and came racing to the house to give the alarm. Her mother kept the little negroe babies at the "big house" on pallets while the women were at work as they were considered of such value. Shebalso kept her money in a pouch next to her body in the day and under her pillow at night. By the time the slave reached the house the soldiers were in the yard. Her mother remembered having left the money pouch under her pillow so she rushed and got it and put it between the quilts where the little negro babies were. When the soldiers had eaten all they could find they asked her for what money she had She turned the pocket of her dress wrong side out to show that she had no money. One of them started toward her to search her and she reached back and picked up a shovel and said,"If you lay your hand on me, I'll brain you with this shovel. They did not molest her any further. The mule disappeared with the soldiers and was nevered heard of again.

Mrs. Savely said she well remembered the guns shooting all night on one occasion, and the next her mother and a neighbor went to the battlefield and were horrified at the sights they saw of mangled and dead bodies.

One of the happiest memories was of the occasion when she rode on horseback to visit the Hills and Hedgepeths near Houston, a distance of about ten miles.Her father always kept a good saddle horse and side saddle for and she was an excellent horsewoman. She still has the side saddle in her attic.

Okolona, about ten miles distant, was the nearest shopping center and the biannual shopping excursions were something to look foward to.

She said plans were made days before hand, measurements estimated and memorandas made. On the day that the women all went to town they would get up long before daylight and load on the wagons and off to town they would go. The roads were not good especially in the winter time. She said that the supply of clothing was bought to last for six months and this meant that yards and yards of material had to be bought at that ti me. "You know there was nothing ready made in those days." she said.

The Savely's bought their property from Judge Stein, grandfather to Miss Carrie Marion who lives lives near Houlka in the old Stein home. They built a beautiful home on the land. There were seven children in the Savely family, one of whom was George, the husband of Mrs. Savely who gave us this interview. When the father died the property was divided in a manner that seemed to be a custom in that time. All the heirs agreed on the division and this was put into writing. This was put in seven plain white envelops and shuffled. Then an envelop was placed in each of seven chairs. The heirs then marched into the room and took their seats as they chose. Whatever part of the property each got was accepted. The original Savely home which was across from the present George Savely place, was burned several years ago. There was no one living at the place at the time and no one ever knew how the fire originated. The present George Savely home is a comfortable, substantial, two story house with immense shade trees, box hedge, cape jasmine, and other shrubbery typical of Antibellum days. Mrs. Savely said that at one time she had enormous quantities of grapes. She made the wine for the sacrement for years, and gave grapes to every one who wanted them.

Mr. Savely died several years ago and Mrs. Savely lives alone with a daughter, Miss Modena Savely.

Her youngest son's birthday was ahappy occasion to her recently. She said she was alone and had just eaten her dinner and fed the hired hands, when she heard someone talking and on looking out she saw her son

and his wife and children coming in with a huge box. The son had told his wife the day before that he had rather spend his birthday with his mother than anything. She had prepared a lovely lunch and they had come from Alabama to spend the day with Mrs. Savely. They invited some of the other relatives to come also and Mrs. Savely beamingly said,"I put two tables together, got out silver, linen and china, and made tea and we had a grand dinner. It was one of the happiest days of my life."

Mrs. Savely's attitude and philosophy of life is marvelous and inspiring. She said when her last son married and left her one of the neighbors was sympathizing with her and asked what in the world she was going to do. "I am going to do the best I can and trust God to provide a way". And He did. My daughter who had been away from home for a number of years came home and secured a good position. I never allow myself to worry." she said.

Interview with W.T.Johnson, successful farmer, retired Mail Carrier, and present Representative to the State Legislature.

On being invited to go on a historical trek with the canvassers, Mr. Johnson very graciously consented. It was at his home in Houston that he joined the party which was headed north toward Houlka. The first place of historical interest that was viewed was an old cemetery on the old Reid place, about five and one half miles from Houlka. In this cemetery were buried some of the old settlers of that community, some of whom were:

J.D. Knox------born in 1845-----died in 1912

Eliza McIntosh born in 1840-----died in 1853

C.C.M. Marable-born in 1796-----died in 1879 a valiant soldier during the Mexican War.

Thomad Gates--born in 1784-----died in1844

Sarah Reid, --born 1798-------died in 1843

James Reid----born 1877--assassinated in Mexico in 1910

The Reid family is one of the pioneer families of this section of the county. Thomas B.Reid came to Chickasaw County in 1834 from Pickens District South Carolina via of Sumter County, Ala. He bought a section of land from the Indians, and as years went by ad ed other land until he was a large land holder and slave owner. The Reid home was a center of culture and refinement and it was a sad day when the old home with its innumerable antiques, records, relics and such was destroyed by fire a few years ago.

Mr. Johnson stated that Mr. Warren D. Reid was one of his earlier teachers at Ridge School.

A short distance beyond this and off the main highway, but located on the old Natchez Trace, is the old Johnson home which was bought by

Mr. W. T. Johnson's bachelor uncle, Robert Thompson Johnson in 1857. He bought it from the McIntosh family. He was killed in the war and the property was handed down to Titus Green Johnson in 1870. The home is one of the county's landmarks and has been kept in good repair. Although Mr. Johnson makes his home in Houston, he says he enjoys going to his old home which is his by rights of inheritance and sitting by the same fireplace where his mother sat and in the home where all his children were born. It is a lovely and restful haven. The original McIntosh home was made of logs and was weatherboarded and in excellent condition when Mr. Johnson had it torn away a few years ago. It had been used as kitchen and storeroom by the Johnson family. Mr. Johnson stated that it was a round this old home that the Reid and McIntosh boys had played with the Indian boys, teaching them their games and in turn learning from the Indians.

Mr. Johnson traces his family to the American Revolution and related the following incident which has been handed down from mouth to mouth in his family. "During th e Revolutioary War , John Johnson, Union District South Carolina, was being held by the Tories because of some information they believed he could give. They strung him up on a rope to frighten him into revealing the information. He refused and was drawn up the third time. This time his neck was broken, a climax the Tories did not anticipate. Therein, John Johnson, my paternal ancestry, showed his patriotism." This following piece of information was given by Mrs. Mary Tucker Sims, an Aunt of Mr. Johnson's: "My great grand father Tucker was a Virginian. He came to South Carolina and married his first cousin, Lucy Buford before the Revolutionary War. He settled where Epps Tucker now owns the land in South Carolina. He was in the Revolutionary War from beginning to end.

Mr. Johnson established his descendency by the following record from a family Bible.

James son of John and Sarah born Feb, 7th, 1775
Elizabeth daughter of Sarah Sarton born 1796
Sarah Ann Johnson born March 18, 1814
John P. Johnson born May 11, 1815
Titus Green Johnson born Oct. 6, 1817
Elizabeth Salena Johnson born March 25, 1820
Mary Reid Johnson born Sept. 18, 1825
Evalina Paulina Johnson born Oct. 19, 1828
Robert Thompson Johnson born Aug. 7, 1830
Dan S. Johnson born Feb. 24, 1833

In December 1856, T. G. Johnson, Daniel S. Johnson and Robert Thompson Johnson left Union District, South Carolina with a caravan of fifteen wagons and some seventy-five or more slaves. They were on their way to Texas. On reaching Chickasaw County, coming by way of the Natchez Trace, they found the Reid family, old friends of South Carolina, well established and prospering in the County of Chickasaw. They decided to locate near them. The Johnson family were devout christians and in transit to Mississippi they stopped over and camped each week end for rest and worship. Another caravan encountered them and questioned them as to why they had stopped to camp. On being told, they laughed at the Johnsons and held them up to ridicule but this had no effect on the religious spirit that prevailed in the Johnson caravan. After their rest they went on their way very much refreshed in soul and body. During the week they passed the other caravan with their horses completely exhausted. This continued until the Johnson caravan had left the other too far in arrears to ever see them again.

Mr. Johnson said that this incident has always strengthened his belief in observing the Sabbath as a day of rest as well as worship.

In 1856 Mr. Daniel S. Johnson, uncle of Mr. W.T. Johnson, purchased a farm of several hundred acres, about 2000, from Charley Gates and built the home now occupied by Mrs. Bettie Johnson Carter, his daughter and built a splendid home, which stands as a monument to the thorough workmanship of that day. Some of this land was in cultivation and in 1851 with 9 regular farm hands, 81 bales of cotton and an abundance of corn were produced.

This land is still productive as is evidenced by the record of D.S. Johnson, Jr., who in a contest sponsored by the Okolona, Houston and Calhoun City Railroad produced 105 bu., gaining for him first place.

During the War between the States, Robert Thompson Johnson, an uncle on his father's side, was killed in a skirmish after the Battle of Seven Pines. Another uncle, G.P. Tucker was killed in action. The following letters in Mr. Johnson's possession are interesting as well as informative on conditions and the attitude of one soldier at least.

Camp near Richmond, Va.,
July 25, 1862.

My dear Sister Martha,

Your kind letter of a late date came safe up land, and in a few days, I received a letter from Pa. They were both read with pleasure and interest. I was, as ever, glad to hear from you and to hear of the general good health of the family, and the promise of a plentiful harvest. I am sorry to learn of the deaths of so many of our neighbors, who have fallen in the defense of our country. But they could never fall in a nobler cause. I had not learned of the death of so many of them until I received yours. We have been so much separated from the South Carolina Reg'ts that we are not able to learn anything of them scarcely except through the home correspondence. I understand that nearly all of

of the troups are being taken away from the coast of S.C. and are coming here, and that the men who remain at home are to come into the field and take their places on the coast. So I expect that will call into action all, or quite all, the men left at home. I am glad to see that our government is taking active measures for the prosecution of the war. Unless the war is closed by foreign intervention, I anticipate a great deal of trouble yet. The defeat of McClellan and the lack of unamity in the north renders this a favorable time for intervention to take place; and I am yet inclined to think that perhpas France and England and possibly Russia, may soon take measures for an early cessation of hostilities. If they should fail to interfere, I hope the divisions and dissensions in the north may ultimately cause a general rebellion there, and becoming divided we can soon end the strife. Truly I would be glad for Peace to be concluded, and return to the peaceful enjoyment of home and friends; indeed I would like to get a furlough and spend some time at home even now. But I would not, by any means have Pa to take my place for any period. It matters not how short. Thought home is very dear to me, and I have much attachment for it, yet, with my present notions, though I should remain in the army for ten years with out seeing home, I should not consent for Pa to take my place, as you suggest. My health is still rather feeble at this time. Being anxious to get into the cavalry on account of it being so much easier than the infantry, I have written to Mr. Sims to learn whether there is any member of Captain A.R. Taylor's company who would make an exchange with me. I am inclined to think that I may be able to get an exchange. If I cannot I shall endeavor to remain satisfied. Brother is expecting a Professorship in Hillsboro Military Academy. I hope he will get it. His health is too delicate to justify him to remain a private in ranks especially in the infantry. You mentioned in your letter that you suppose that Sister Mary blames you with the misunderstanding that recently existed. If she ever

intimated such a thing. I have no recollection of it. I hope the matter if not already, may be peacefully and amicably settled. I doubt whether a difficulty has ever been settled unless one or the other party made concessions.

I have seen Augustus Sims several times recently. He is looking well. He is a member of the 11th Miss. Regiment. His camp is just in sight of ours. Brother and I will go to see him soon. Gus is very good company--very agreeable. I am glad to meet up with him. I have not seen Cousin Judge since the fights, but have heard from him, he is safe. His Brig-Gen'l (Griffith) got killed. While taking a walk this morning Brother and I met up with Thomas Glenn. He is well and looks well. He seemed glad to see us. The weather in Virginia is now very pleasant. There has been a plenty of rain. Provisions are extremely high. Butter from $1.00 to $1.25 a pound. Eggs $1.00 per dozen. Chickens, of good size to fry, $1.50. I expect to be deprived of the pleasure of visiting Rogers Church or any other place of public worship in our country for a great while, but I am pleased to see that a spirit of Christianity still prompts our citizens to keep up religious devotions. I am glad to learn that he had several appointments, and hope he may in the name of Gracious Master do great good. Remember me kindly to all my friends. Brother joins me in his love to the family. Believe me to be, my dear Sister,

Your

Affectionate

Brother,

G.P. Tucker

To Miss Martha Tucker
Goshen Hill,
Uninon Dist.
Via
Santuck
P.S.

P.S. Direct to Mr. instead of Corporal G.P. Tucker. I am now a Sargent, 3rd, Sargent of the Company, but I prefer to have my letters directed to Mr. instead of Sargent.

These are the words composed by G. T. Tucker and dictated to the doctor. He lay on his death bed then having been wounded on the 30th Day of August 1862. He died on the 9th of September.

Harenson, Va.

September 4th, 1862

Dear Sister Martha:

I avail myself of the opportunity to inform you of the condition of my wound. I was wounded on Saturday the 30th ult. Dr. Taylor after putting me under the influence of chloroform decided I could not stand the operation of amputation. Said it would only hasten my death, for I was obliged to die. Tell my relations-father, mother, sister, and brother, that I trust I am prepared to meet my God-I hope you will have my remains taken back to South Carolina and there decently intered.

Farewell one and all, I bid you a long farewell, I hope to meet you all in Heaven. Tell Mr. Sims to come immediately after my remains. I am my loving sister,

Your most affectionate brother,

G. P. Tucker

Pikeville community was established by the Gates family long before the War between the States. They owned practically all the land from Egypt to Buena Vista. It is said that one could go from Buena Vista to Aberdeen on the Gates property by taking a circuitous route and that the Gates Brothers did not know their own slaves as they owned over three hundred. The operated a large general store where everything from dry goods to wagons and every kind of garden tools was sold. Dr Tom Gates was the community physician. The Masons owned a two-story frame building in which the Masons from the whole of North-east Mississippi had their meetings. The Gates family owned and operated two shoe factories and operated their own tan-yard where the leather was prepared for the manufacture of the shoes. Some of the shoes made sold for as much as $50.00 a pair.

They,had a contract to make shoes-brogans- for the soldiers at $1.25 a pair. During the war one of the men slaves betrayed his master telling the Federals that shoes were being made and stored at the Gates place. This, of course, made them anxious to destroy the place. They burned everything in the village except the residence of Mr Priest Gates, and that wassaved by placing a heavy guard around the house. Mr Gates was especially anxious to protect the home because of Mrs. Gates and the newly-born baby. However, they might not have spared the home had they known that there were 500 pairs of shoes stored in the attic for the soldiers.

This Pike was a toll road, made from the tan bark from the shoe factories and was very pretty. Even pedestrians had to pay this being the only road across the Chuquantachee.

After the raid, some of Mrs. Gates' friends came to his aid and wanted to lynch the traitor slave, but Mr. Gates said that it would not bring back anything that was burned and the negro was a valuable slave. Several hundred bales of cotton were burned also in this raid.

One of the Gates' slaves, commonly called Free Katie because she had been given her freedom before the War. She was considered a very valuable slave as she was the mother of twenty-seven children and lived to be over a hundred years old. One of her great-grandsons, Edmund Gates still owns and farms her little farm that she bought from Gates' property near Pikeville.

Mrs. Pilgreen said, " There was one negro man who in his natural speaking voice could be heard calling the slaves from one bluff to another, a distance of one and a half miles."

After the war and Reconstruction days the Gates family as many other rich slav owners lost everything and had to begin life over again. It was this same family of Gates, who before the War donated the property to the Episcopalians for the Rose Gates College, school, and church of that faith in Okolona.[1]

The bell that hangs in the belfry of the Episcopal Church at Okolona, Miss. is the beal that was on the first and only steam boat when the Tombigbee river was navigable long before the Civil War running from Aberdeen, Miss. to Mobile, Ala. This boat was used for shipping cotton to Mobile and shipping wholesales supplies to large plantation owners of cotton and slaves negroes to Monroe County and Chickasaw County. The boat was named and christened Bell Gates, who was a sister to Col. S. P. Gates, owner of Pikeville.

After the war when there was no more navigation, this ship was docked on the wharf of Mobile bay in Mobile, Ala. The bell was put in the Mobile musuem. In later years Col. James Gordon, while visiting the Museum in Mobile, found the bell with "Belle Gates" engraved on it. Knowing the family and the history of the beal, he asked for the bell to be given to the little Chapel the Episcopals had just completed in Okolona, which had been made possible by her Father and Mother, Chas. Gates and Rosa Reid Gates.

Belle Gates married young Joe Eckford of Aberdeen, a promising young

Interview MRS Geo. Pilgreen, Okolona

lawyer of North Mississippi. She died in 1925 in Atlanta, Georgia.[1]

Mrs. Laura Knox of Okolona, is the daughter of the late Capt. John B. Tucker, who was Captain of the 28th Miss. Cavalry during the War between the States. Capt. Tucker was the son of Judge Weistol Avery Tucker and nephew of Tillman Tucker, who was governor of Mississippi from 1842-44 and whose portrait hangs in the Hall of Fame at the Capitol in Jackson.

On the maternal side her mother was Martha Hadley, daughter of Nancy Wayne Hadley who was a granddaughter of Anthony Wayne.

Mrs. Knox was born in Aberdeen, Miss. Nov.11, 1860. She married Joe Frank Harrell, Sept. 19, 1870. To this union were born five children. In 1912 Mr. Harrell died and in 1920 his wife was married to William Penn Knox, who for 42 years, was marshall of Okolona.

Mrs. Knox is a charter member of Okolona Chapter U.D.C., No. 117, also a charter member of Ruth Chapter, No. 6 Order of Eastern Star. For the past 45 years she has been a staunch member, teacher and leader in the Christian Church. She was one of the first club members of the town and is still a leader in the blubs of Okolona. It is to Mrs. Knox that the town is indebted for going before the Board of Supervisors of Chickasaw County and securing money with which to have the Confederate soldiers Cemetery fenced and marker erected.

Mrs. Knox evidently has some of the Anthony Wayne "courage and determination", as she carried on her left arm 20 scars left there by giving skin grafts to one unfortunate person of Okolona.[2]

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1 Interview with Miss Bettye Marable, Okolona, Miss. July 10, 1936
2 Interview with Mrs. Laura Wayne Knox, Okolona, Miss. July 10, 1936

Mrs J. W. Strickland
Historical Research Project
Chickasaw County

Interview with Mr. Tom King, Okolona, Miss. June 4th, 1936

Thomas Stuart King, Spanish American War veteran born in Miss. September 6, 1876. Son of Calvin Marion King of Indiana and Mary Chapman of Kentucky. He enlisted in 1898 in camp at Chickamauga, Ga. and the company was just getting ready for active service when Spain was defeated.

Camp Chickamauga was on a mountain overlooking the City of Chattanooga. He relates an interesting story of his life in camp where he had charge of a team and hauled supplies for the camp from Lytle, Ga. At one time disease was rampant in the camp and he helped carry many bodies to a near-by cemetery.

Upon his return from camp he was married to Juliet Munson of Okolona daughter of Dr. Oliver Munson and Juliet Isom, both native Mississippians, but the Munsons came from Conn. and the Isoms from South Carolina.

Mr. King has been an employee of the M. and O. Rail Road at Okolona for the past twenty five years where he has made his home.

Mrs J. W. Strickland
Supervisor Historical Research
Chickasaw County

Rubye Cook
Mabel Calvin

Chickasaw County
Supplement to Assignment 5
September 2, 1936

"During the period of the Revolutionary War this section was sorely afflicted by opposite political sentiments, from which sprang the bitterest strife. Neighbor was arrayed against neighbor, until the excess into which they were led by this antagonism was truly shocking to every sentiment of humanity. Perhaps it is well that no one has attempted to write her history, and that time has faded out the many thrilling traditions that once circulated in this section. Oft have I, when a small boy, sat at the feet of a favorite kinswoman and listened to her stories of these troublous times, as they were told to her by those who experienced in person the horrors which they described.

"At this period, on the road tending southeast from Mrs. Cromer's to what is known as the Dulin place, on land now owned by M. A. Carlisle, Esq., a few hundred yards south of the crossing of Gilders's Creek, there lived Major Thomas Dugan--the debris from the old chimneys may yet be seen on the bluff--and his wife Margaret. They had nine sons and one Daughter--Robert, -----, John, James, William, Hiram, Thomas, Park and George and Margaret. Major Dugan was a staunch whig, and took an active part in the service of the colonies. He was early appointed to the rank of Major, and is supposed to have served with General Sumter. Only two of his sons, Capt. Robert Dungan and a younger brother, -----, were old enough to take an active part in the war. They were also active whigs, and did good service, taking part in all the work of that stirring period. This rendered the Dugan family particularly obnoxious to the Tory element of Mollohon and of Laurens and the Saluda country and subjected them to special and repeated insults and plunder. But the crowning tragedy was thus described:

"On one occasion Captain Dugan and his brother were on a sly visit to their mother, expecting to spend the night with her and on the early morn to hie away to their commands. The hour of midnight had passed and

all was quiet. They had made similar visits before without molestation and were thus beguiled into careless watching. About the hour of 2 A. M. when both the young men were indulging in a few short hours in sleep, and only a faithful mother kept watch lest some harm should befall her two boys , her anxiety was aroused by hearing a slight but not unusual noise in the yard. Going to an opening in the wall, she peered out into the darkness; but all was quiet. Again stilling her fears by reasoning that she was probably mistaken, that it might be only her anxious solicitude exciting her to undue forebodings, she again resumed her quiet vigils. Not many minutes had elapsed before she heard at the back door a gentle but unmistakable rap, immediately followed by a like signal at all the other openings of the house. After this a vigorous knocking at the front door suddenly aroused her worst fears. Entrance was demanded by a dozen or more boisterous voices. There was no mistaking the situation or the purpose of her untimely visitors. Her presence of mind did not forsake her, but speedily mustering her stock of expedients she thrust one of her boys into the opening of the chimney; the other, perhaps more rash, threw himself from the upper window, hoping to elude his pursuers by rapid flight under cover of the darkness; but an unlucky alighting shivered a bone of his leg, which left him in the hands of his bitter foes. The heart rending sequal then begins. The room is suddenly filled by a band of Tories,some of whom are recognized as neighbors, young men not older than th their captives, boys whom that kind matron had nursed in infancy and waited upon their childish whims. With sauage taunts, threats and insults, they toyed with the sensibilities of that fond mother until they were satiated with their own orgies. To carry out their hellish threats and to make sure that no torture would pass unseen, they fired a small house in the yard, in the presence of that mother, they proceeded to hang their victims to the limbs of an oak near by, under the shades of which they had played in childhood while she watched them with fond delight. Is

this not enough? Wait and hear the final sequal. Before the eyes of that mother, with their broad swords, they hewed the limbs and quivering flesh from the bodies of their suspended victims, and when their ingenuity could invent no greater torture, skulked away through the darkness, leaving the mother amid the wailings of her little ones to bear her burden of anguish while they would gloat over their deeds of valor. God nerves his servants to bear the yoke that he permits to rest upon them. After a brief spell, employed in quieting her tortured mind and bringing herself to the full realization of her sad surroundings, she began to collect with her own hands the mangled remains of her murdered boys. Somewhere on the hillside near the scene of theis revolting tragedy she buried the pride of her heart. The precise spot is not known, but no doubt good angels are keeping their vigils over their dust.

From Annals of Newberry by John Belton O'Neall, page 504, 505, 506

The Major Thomas Dugan who is mentioned in the story is an ancestor of the Shell family who live in Houston.

Revolutionary incidents Pages 505-504506 Part II, Part I page 53
Judge Belton Oneal.

JOHN CHAPMAN

Mabel Calvin
Rubye Cook

Chickasaw County

Supplement to Assignment 13.

Interview with Mr Lundy Smith, Postmaster and Merchant of McCondy.

Mr Smith was busy sorting the daily mail which was brought in on a Star Route out of Egypt. He owns and operates a general mercantile store with a good line of everything from lace to trace-chains. After completing the mail he came forward to,"see what I can do for you, please. So you want to write a history on Chickasaw County, well, you want to see some of these old settlers, you don't want to interview me,"he laughingly said. He then proceeded to give such information as he could on the early history of McCondy.

"My father, J.E.Smith, was born in 1832 in Alabama, and came to Chickasaw County with his parents when he was quite small. His father bought a farm, maybe from the Indians, I don't know, and settled in this community. As my father grew up, he was placed in charge of the farm as his father was a very frail man. When the war began he enlisted and left my mother with the small children, I was one of them, He was killed in Peach Tree Hill at,Gettysburg in 1864. He had a premonition that morning that he would be killed and he gave his purse containing some money, notes and other valuables to Jim O.Smith, a cousin, with instructions to give them to his wife. His comrades begged him not to go into battle that day, but he insisted that he had just as well go as anybody. Andrew McCondy and Mary Wilson McCondy, Mrs Smith's parent came from Edinburg , Scotland, about 1854, and lived in Scotland Chicago and after living there a while came to Chickasaw County, settling at McCondy. They bought a store building from J.Harris Smith, where I am now operating this store. This store was burned 52 years ago and the present building was constructed.I am like a man I read,about, I have been about in my day, but it was about McCondy., as I have never lived anywhere else. I have been in this store nearly every day since it was rebuilt, 50 years ago.

When I was a boy the neighbors were three or four miles apart. Some of those I remember were Dr. Jim Ford who came from Tippah County, Dr. J.T. Harrington Sr. who was not a licensed doctor but who did a great deal of practice. He had two sons, T.J.Jr. who became a doctor, and Henry Hill who was one of the first graduates of A. &M. College. He went to Texas as president of Texas State College.

Mrs. Mary Wilson McCondy organized the first Sunday School at McCondy and furnished the song books and literature for years.

I have attended a number of Old Soldiers' Reunions and always had a good time. Those old fellows certainly enjoyed meeting together until most of them got too feeble. I went to Gettysburg to the reunion of the Blues and Grays. One day one of the Yankee soldiers who had lost an arm was looking over the battle ground when Mr. Jim Griffin and I walked up. In the conversation that ensued he asked Mr. Griffin if he was wounded during the war. He replied that he lost a leg at that very place and told him the date that it happened. Do you remember giving a wounded Yankee a drink of water from your canteen? I am that man. Then thay were just like two old friends meeting One soldier who had lost a leg was very active in later years. He could jump on a horse as quick as a cat could jump off a gate post.

I feel that I have just rambled on this afternoon. I have enjoyed talking and hope that I have told you something that has been of help to you."

Chickasaw County

L. B. Reid, Citizen of Houston, native of Chickasa w County and Superintendant of Houston High School for the past thirty years, is a descendant of one of Chickasaw County's earliest settlers. He is very modest and unassuming in his manner and although he may be justly proud of his ancestors, does not boast, but meets the world squarely and asks consideration only on his own merits.

The following is copied from Memoirs of Mississippi Vol. 2 Page 657 which Mr. Reid stated would give a history of the family better than he could give it.

Joseph Reid has for many years been noted for honorable upright dealing and his record is a clean and worthy one. The first of his family of whom he has any definite knowledge was his grandfather, Joseph Reid, who was of Scotch descent but a Virginian by birth. During the Revolutionary War, with three brothers, he served in the struggle with the British, holding the rank of leiutenant. He became a well-to-do planter of South Carolina, filled the position of magistrate. He was also married in that state to Miss Isabella Baskin, of Irish Descent, but a native of the Palmetto state. He died about 1830 and his widow in 1845, both being a member of the Presbyterian Church at the time of their deaths. Their son Thomas B. Reid, the father of the subject of this sketch, was reared in Pickins district, South Carolina his boyhood being spent on the farm. He was one of a family of three sons and six daughters, being the eldest son and the second of the family by order of birth. He received a common school education, and throughout his entire life, followed the calling of a planter, to which he had been reared by his father. In 1823, he was married to Miss Sarah Nicholson, her father having been a planter in good circumstances. In 1834, Thomas B. Reid removed all his family to Sumter County, Alabama, where he remained one year then came to Mississippi reaching Chickasaw County about December 25, 1835. He immediately purchased a section of land, and the succeeding year a half section,

and by he time of his death, had accumelated a good and valuable
propery. He was in the war with the Seminole Indians, and was an
ensin to Captain Kelly's Company. He died in 1858, his wife's death
ocring in 1843, the latter being an earnest member of the Presbyterian,
ourch. They became the parents of eleven Children, eight sons and three
aughters, Joseph, William R. President of the topographical and eng-
inering Corps of Argentine Confederation, South America, (at one time
he received $15000.00 for a map drawn of the Argentine Republic, Mr.
W. T. Johnson stated) Isabella, (deceased) Thomas B. who was killed in
Virginia during the war between the States, Samuel, who resides with the
subject of this sketch, Lemuel N, who resides in Houston; EronR. who
was killed during the war at Seven Pines: Martha, Widow of John G. Brooks
Opelousas, La; Sarah, (deceased) Warren D. who resides with the subject
of this sketch, and George, who was killed in the battle of Gaines Mill
Wirginia. The boyhood days of Joseph Reid were spent in his native
state and Chickasaw County Miss. and up to the age of seventeen attended
the common country school five or six months throughout the year. At
the age of twenty-one, he began life for himself as an overseer on his
father's plantation, continuing until the latters death, when he pur-
chased a portion of his fathers old home place, afterwoodadding an additio
to his share. He is now the owner of four hundredacres of fertile and
well tilled land. He was captain of the Militia prior to the war, and
in 1862 was elected a member of the board of police, in which capacity he
served until 1868-69. From 1870-72 he was a member of the board of
Supervisors and the discharge of all his official duties he was intelligent
faithful and active. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church and is
unmarried. His brother Warren D. was a sargent in Co. H. Eleventh Miss-
issippi, and while with the army Virginia was wounded in a skirmish from th
effects of which he lost the use of his left arm. He was elected to the
position of Circuit Clerk in 1886, the duties of which he faithfully

discharged for two years.

Copied from Memoirs of Miss Vol. I Page 1027

Daniel S. Johnson, planter born in Union Dist, of the Palmetto State in 1835. A son of James and Elisabeth (Sartor) Johnson, they being also natives of that state. James Johnson had very limited opportunities for acquiring an education, but by perservering efforts he managed to acquire a practial English education. Throughout his entire life he followed the calling of a planter, to which he had been reared, and became possessed of a competency. His union resulted in the birth of five sons and four daughters. Titus Green, E. P. and Daniel S. living, and John P., James D. Ann, Elizabeth S. wife of T. D. Hamiston Mary B. and R. T. the latter was killed in a skirimish at Seven Pines, are deceased. Daniel S. was reared in the district in which he was born, and although his advantages like his fathers, were limited, he has become a well informed man and is noted for his sound practical and shrewd views on all matters ofpublic interest. At the age of twenty-one years he began life for himself as a planter, but in 1856 decided that Mississippi offered better advantages to a young man than the East, and accordingly came here in that year with the intention of locating permanently. His efforts as a tiller of the soil have been attended with success, and he is now the owner of fifteen hundred acred of land of which he cultivated about three hundred acres. His principal crops are cotton and corn, but he also raises oats and peas. He is interested to some extent in the raising of stock, selling quite a large number of cattle and sheep annally. In 1860 Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Elizabeth C. Hamilton, of South Carolina, who died only a short time after her marriage. In 1861 Mr. Johnson enlisted in the Confedsrate Army, becoming a member of Captain Hill's Company, but the following year was placed in the quatermaster's department, where he remained

actively lugaged until 1863. From that time until the close of the war he was in Captain Smith's Company Duff's regiment of Mississippi Calvary. During his service he was in the battles of Harrisburg, Selma and Planters ville, about twenty miles from where he was taken prisoner. Conveyed to Selma and kept in a stockade, but made his escape while on the march from that place to Columbus, Ga. While on his way to rejoin his command the war terminated by Lee's surrender. Mr. Johnson was elected a member of theboard of supervisors in 1875, and so amirably did he fill this position that he was reelected for five succeeding terms. In 1890 he was a delegate to the constitutional Convention. He is a member of Houston lodge of the A.M.&.A.M. and is a Royal Arch Mason in the lodge of Houlka. In 1869, Miss C.L. Tucker, a native of Union District, S.C., where she was born in 1845, became his wife and the mother of his six children; Thompson,Bettie, John P. Daniel S.Jr, Margaret and George T., The mother of these children died in 1889, a worthy and consistant member of the Methodist Churchat the time of her death. Her parents were George B. and Nancy Tucker, of North Carolina. Mr Johnson is a steward of the Methodist Church, a class leader, superintendent of the Sunday School at Wesley Chapel.He is a whole-souled,generous and agreeable gentleman, and his numerous fine qualities and traits have won him many friends.

The following was copied from The Times Post, July 7, 1916. It is a tribute to Honorable Daniel S.Johnson, who died on January 16,1919, three years after the sketch was written.

The old soldiers and good old Southern gentlemen are fast moving beyond, but there still remains among many others of his kind in Chickasaw County, a wonderful character of the old school whom the people delight to honor, to revere and highly respect. "Uncle Daniel", as the subject of the sketch is lovingly known by everybody, is 83 years old and has lived one of the most useful and helpful lives this country has been blessed with,

and as yet he is active, useful to his fellow men and regarded by all as the truest follower of the lowly Christ., who went His way doing good. He smiles, he passes the good word and the glad hand- he lives Christianity. Considerate, gracous and cultured he lives the old time Southern Chivalry.

For 75 years Uncle Daniel has been a loyal and working Methodist joining the church when 8 years old, in south Carolina. He has been a steward of Wesley Chapel Church, near his home at Thelma, halfway between Houlka and Houston, for 12 years. Supt. of the Sunday School for 33 years and has never missed a Methodist conference since they were instituted just after the war.s Men have gone out of this Sunday School with the teaching of Uncle Daniel in their hearts and later became noted ministers of the gospel. ~~Then became noted ministers of the Gospel.~~ Then for 57 years he has been a faithful member of the Masonic fraternity, always attending every big meeting. We wonder if any State in the South has any man living who is an active member of the Masons for 52 years and of the Methodists for 75 years?

Born in Union Dist. South Carolina in 1833, he moved to Chickasa in 1856, after establishing a large farm he served in the quartermaste dept, during the first three years of the war, and when the call came for all available men he joined the Eighth Mississippi Cavalry under General Forrest, He participated in one of General Forrest's last ralli and later was captured near Selma. After 12 days he escaped by wading down a creek. Wearing now the long gray coat, he looks the distinguis Colonel.

In 1876, he was chosen supervisor of the co. without opposition among the negroes they having withdrawn their man after Uncle Daniel made the grand Inspirational speech of his life. Carpetbaggers had caused taxes to go up to 32 mills, and his argument convinced the col ored people of the error they were committing by electing these men who desired only to take all and give nothing. Mr. Johnsons friendly

nature among the negroes won for him their confidence and never has he tried the acts of intimidation known so widely at that time. He owned slav before the war and asked of him no more than he required of himself, gave them good homes and food and treated them as human beings. Just this cause him tombe the mediator between the white and black and to him is given the credit of doing more to settle the grievances in this county than any othe man.

In 1890 Uncle Daniel was chosen as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and with that honor goes the happiest and prowdest moment of hi life.

Of his eight brothers and sisters, who are all dead, he is the baby boy. His wife was Miss Cornelia Tucker and his mother a member of the Sortor family who are well known back in the Carolinas. Uncle Daniel has six children and lives on his own well tilled soil with his son, George. One of his sons Dr. Dan S. Johnson, is one of Chickasaw's noted at Houston. To look at the old mansion that belongs to Uncle Daniel and see him standing nearby recalls to the old people the happy days of long ago.

Uncle Daniel is a philosopher, he is truly southern, he loves others, and to his life parents point their children an example of the real Christian, a lovable character and a grand old man. He rides horseback to any town in the county without fatigue and he always does a big amount of work every day, sickness never bothering his strong well built body. To the negroes he is still "Mos Dan'l" and they love and honor him.

We wonder if any of the thousands who daily read and enjoy The Commercial Appeal know of a man who has done more, just as a regular every day farmer for his county and for his God?

Houlka Correspondent to the Commercial Appeal

---

bel Calvin
ye Cook

Supplement to Assignment-3 - old Settlers
August 31, 1936

The Gladney family was instrumental in the culture and progress of Chickasaw County in the period following the War between the States. The following is a history of the family.

The Gladney family was decended from the Scotch-Irish family of Gladneys, who settled in the Carolinas in the early history of the state. The Reverend Richard S. Gladney, father of the subject of this sketch, moved to Pickens County, Alabama where he lived for several years. In 1842 he came to Aberdeen, Mississippi, where he established a college for girls. He educated his children in this school, later sending his four sons to the University of Mississippi. He was a Presbyterian minister and went abroad twice-once he was sent to sell bonds in England for the Memphis and Pensacola Railroad. He also spoke in Chickasaw County in the interest of the first attempted railroad, bought bonds and lost a great deal of money on account of the failure of the railroad to function.

James Beckett Gladney, second son of Richard S. Gladney, volunteered for servive three weeks before his graduation at the University. He joined the Aberdeen Companyi in the 11th Mississipii Regiment and followed the Confederate colors until he fell almost mortally wounded at Gettysberg.

He recovered sufficiently from three wounds to use crutches and began to teach school, as he did for a number of years followinggthe War. During this time he continued the study of law begun at the University, and creditably passed the examination admitting him to the bar. He came to Houston to establish his profession of law. His unusual ability was soon recognized and he was noted for his affable manner and splendid oratory which he had acquired through the best of tutors in the college of which his father was president. He continued his practice of law in Houston until about 1893 when his hearing became too impaired for his work.

He was postmaster of Houston during Cleveland's administration. He also served as Chancery Clerk, filling an unexpired term of the late E. S. Medlin,Sr. In the early eighties, he was appointed County Superintendent of Education by the Governor of the state. At that time the Superintendents were appointed instead of being elected./J. B. Gladney was Superintendent for several terms and was serving in this capacity and was secretary to the committee that brought the Mississippi Normal College to Houston. This institution, established in 1884 by Prof. H.B. Abernathy and wife was the first Normal College ~~xxxxxxxx~~ in the state. It proved to be a noble institution for the upbuilding of character not only in the community but throughout the state and several other states.

It was while taking a great interest in school work that James Beckett Gladney, having been converted during the Civil War through the Bible his mother had given him, joined the Baptist Church of Houston. He was a deacon. He joined the Masons in his early married life.

In 1870 he was married to Ann Barton of Houston. To this union were born two sons, William Lamar and Wallace Gardner. This noble woman died, leaving the baby boys. In 1879 Mr. Gladney was married to Miss Sarah Farr, who proved to be a most noble step-mother and mother. The children of this second marriage are John L. deceased, Annie (Mrs. D. C. Dulaney) of Houston, Maude (Mrs. J.B.Foley) of Ripley, Zilda (Mrs. R.S. Mitchell) of New Albany, and H.Grady of Lincoln,Nebraska. W. Lamar Gladney's family lives in Houlka, Miss. W. Gardner's family lives in Monroe, La. They each have a son living in Monroe and Bastrop, La. respectively..

Beckett Gladney, as he was called by his familiar friends, took much interest in public affairs although he was deaf for twenty years before his death June 1915. He read and kept well posted.[1]

1. Interview with Mrs. D. S. Dulaney

Mrs J. N. Strickland
Supervisor, Historical Research
Chickasaw County

2nd copy

CHICKASAW COUNTY

1877

COUNTY OFFICERS

S.L.Wilson, sheriff; John Dass, treasurer; J.F.Thompson, assessor; H.A.Pattison, surveyor; J.WMcNamee, coroner and ranger.

SUPERVISORS

Joseph Reid, 1st; D.S.Johnson, 2nd; W.B.McDowell, 3rd; U.S.Williams, 4th; J.A.Lewis, 5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

W.A.Beasley, J.H.Holliday,1st; E.A.White, J.H.Stone,2nd; A.J. Slaughter,B.T.Owen,3rd; W.H.Wilson,H.TAllen,4th; T.M.Suber, M.K.Gilder,5th.

CONSTABLES

R.M.StClair,1st; F.A.Stanford,2nd; E.J.Bufford,3rd; H.D.Gideon, 4th; G.R.Wade,5th.

1878 - 1879

COUNTY OFFICERS

S.L.Wilson, sheriff; E.F.Medlitt, chancery clerk; H.B.Lacey, circuit clerk; T.CLyon, treasurer; J.F.Thompson, assessor; H.A. Patterson, surveyor; J.W.McNamee, coroner and anger.

SUPERVISORS

Joseph Reid, 1st; D.S.Johnson,2nd; T.B.Saddler,3rd; R.L.Bean, 4th; J.A.Lewis,5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

E.A.White, J.H.Holliday,1st; W.W.Blding , J.H.Stone,2nd; A.J. Slaughter, John White,3rd; C.Orr, Charles A.Anderson,4th; A.C.Ogletree, J.W.Fullilove,5th.

CONSTABLES

H.J.Thomas,1st; J.W.B.Weldon,2nd; A .N.Griffin,E.J.Buford,3rd; G.R. Carnipe,4th; C.A.Gresham,5th.

1880 - 1881

COUNTY OFFICERS

W.G.Stoval, sheriff; T.C.Lyon, treasurer; J.F.Thompson, assessor; H.A.Pattison, surveyor; J.W.McNamee, coroner and anger.

SUPERVISORS

E.B.Atkinson,1st; D.S.Johnson,2nd; W.H.Cook,3rd; R.L.Bean,4th; J.A.Lewis,5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

B.Murray,S.E.Phillips,1st; J.H.Stone,W.H.Savely,2nd; John White, J.D.Peele, 3rd; John C.Williams, W.H.Wilson,4th; J.A.White, M.K.Gilder,5th.

CONSTABLES

R.Williams, 1st; Burt Delashmet, 2nd; A.N.Griffin,A.H.Killian,3rd; G.R.Canipe,4th; C.A.Gresham,5th.

1882 - 1883

COUNTY OFFICERS

W.G.Stovall, sheriff; E.F.Medlin, chancery clerk; H.B.Lacey, circuit clerk; W.R.Davis, treasurer; J.H.Chenault, assessor; Joe T.Griffin, surveyor.

SUPERVISORS

J.W.McNamee, coroner and ranger; E.BAtkinson,1st; D.S.Johnson, 2nd; W.H.Cook,3rd; M.T.G ardner,4th; M.D.Harrill,5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Wm. Chenault,A.S.Nabors,1st; Frank Stanford,J.W.V.Hunt,2nd; Z.T.Trice, C.B.Brown,3rd; E.W.Burks,G.W.Bowen,4th; XXXXXXXXX M.K.Gild er, W.R.Kendall,5th

CONSTABLES

J.A.Castles,1st; M.B.Delashment,2nd; A.N.Griffin,3rd; H.C.Gilliam, 4th; D.G.Blair,5th.

1884 - 1885

COUNTY OFFICERS

Frank Burkitt, J.A.McArthur, representatives; W.G.Stovall, sheriff; W.R.Davis, treasurer; Jas H.Chenault,assessor; Joe T.Griffin, surveyor; John W.McNamee,coroner and anger.

SUPERVISORS

W.A.B easley,1st; D.S.Johnson,2nd; W.H.Cook 3rd;M.T.Gardner, 4th; M.D.Harrill,5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

D.A.Blair,A.S.Nabors,1st; T.A.Hill,S.W.V.Hunt,Z.T.Trice, F.S. Clapton,3rd; T.Brand, M.A.Bean,4th; M'K.Gilder,W.J.Beasley,5th.

CONSTABLES

A.J.Thurman,1st; M.H.Fleming,2nd; George S.Peel,A. N.Griffin,3rd; Peter McNamee, 4th; A.R.Stringfellow,5th.

1886 - 87 Lacking) 1888 - 1889

COUNTY OFFICERS

W.C.Stovall, sheriff; J.F.Thompson, treasurer; W.J.Lyon,assessor; A.G.Dancy, surveyor; D.K.Woodall, coroner and anger.

SUPERVISORS

E.B.Atkinson,1st; J.H.Stone,2nd; W.H.Cook,3rd; P.S.Parker,4th; J.E.DenBy,5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

F.J.Anderson,J.R.Chenault,1st; B.FGregory,Milt Fleming,2nd; J.M. Robb, Geo Pell,3rd; C.E.Couch, W.E.McKinnon,4th; F.M.Carlisle, W.K.Gilder,5th.

CONSTABLES

Bird Williams,1st; W.M.Wilson,2nd; A.N.Griffin,3rd; W.W. Pulliam,4th; Riley Nichols,5th.

1890 - 1891

COUNTY OFFICERS

E.F.Medlin, chancery clerk; L.F.Baskins, circuit clerk; W.GStovall, sheriff; J.T.Thompson,treasurer; J.D.Smith, assessor; J.T.Griffin, surveyor; F.M.Conipe, coroner and ranger; J.A.Wilkinson,supt. of educati

SUPERVISORS

P.W.Shell,1st; W.H.Griffin, 2nd; W.H.Cook, 3rd; P.S.Parks,4th; J.E. Dendy,5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

J.R.Chenault,T.S.Norbors,1st; B.F.Gregory,W.H.Fleming,2nd; J.M.Babb,F.S.Clopton,3rd; W.E.McKinnon,W.N.Gann,4th; [illegible] J.O.Castlewaite, J.W.Morgan,5th.

CONSTABLES

Dock Williams, 1st; W.M.Wilson,2nd; H.B.Gillespie,A.N.Griffin, 3rd; Jas Bray,4th; J.L.McNamee,5th

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1894 - 1895

COUNTY OFFICERS

E.F.Medlin, chancery clerk; L.F.Baskin,circuit clerk; F.L.Clopton, sheriff; J.D.Smith,treasurer; J.F.Thompson, assessor; J.WOwen, surveyor; S.T.King, supt. of education; A.C.Baird,coroner.

SUPERVISORS

E.J.Hall, 1st; C.N.Mauldin,2nd; W.H.Cook,3rd; R.L.Bean,4th; D.E.Hill,5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

R.M.Peden,E.B.B.Atkinson,1st; M.H.Fleming,J.W.Hamilton,2nd; J.M.Babb, G .H.Cunningham,3rd; W.D.Couch, D.B.Allen,4th; J.A.Summerall, F.M.Carlisle,5th.

CONSTABLES

J.J.Byers,1st; W.F.Winter, J.C.Grimes,2nd; W.P.Knox B.F.King,3rd; F.H.Lynn,4th; D .D.Deudy,5th.

1896 - 1897

COUNTY OFFICERS

Jos. A.McArthur, representative; J.B.Gladney, chancery clerk; L.F. Baskin, circuit clerk; F.S.Clopton, sheriff; J.D.Smith, treasurer; J.F.Thompson, assessor;S.T.King, supt. of educatinn.

SUPERVISORS

1st, E.J.Hall; 2nd, C.N Mauldin; 3rd, W.H.Cook; 4th,S.THall; 5th, D.E.Hill.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, R.M.Peden,E.B.B.Atkinson; 2nd, M.H.Fleming,J.W.Hamilton, W.A.Marion; 3rd, J.M.Babb, G.H.Cunningham; 4th,W.D.Couch, D.B.Allen; 5th, J.M.Summerall, F.M.Carlisle.

CONSTABLES

1st, J.J.Byers; 2nd, W.F.Winter, J.C.Grimes; 3rd, C.C.Jolly, B.F.King; 4th, F.H.Lynn; 5th,D.D.Dendy,W.J.Beasley.

1898 - 1899

COUNTY OFFICERS

G.W.Bean, circuit clerk; E.J.Neal, chancery clerk; T.H.Clopton, sheriff; A.C.Baird, coroner; T.W.Hamilton, treasurer; J.L.Atkinson, assessor; Joe T.Griffin, surveyor; H.B.Abernathy, supt. of education,

SUPERVISORS

1st, C.C.Doss; 2nd, Will T.Johnson; 3rd, W.H.Cook; 4th, H.W.Nelson, 5th, D.E.Hill.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, J.J.Byars, H.R.Neal; 2nd, A.M.Spencer, N.S.Bivens; 3rd, S.H.Jolly, Geo. H.Cunningham; 4th, W.N.Gunn, J.M.Neal; 5th,I.O.Crasthwaite, J.A.Simerall.

CONSTABLES

1st, D.I.Neal; 2nd, E.F.Saxon; 3rd, C.C.Jolly; 4th, F.H.Lynn;5th, Sam Scarbrough

1899 - 1901

COUNTY OFFICERS

G.W.Bean, circuit clerk; E.J.Hall, chancery clerk; T.H.Clopton,sheriff; A.C.Baird, coroner; T.W.Hamilton, treasurer; J.L.Atkinson,assessor; Joe T.Griffin, surveyor; R.B.Waldrop, supt. of education.

SUPERVISORS

1st, C.C.Doss; 2nd, Will T.Johnson; 3rd, W.H.Cook; 4th, H.W.Nelson; 5th, D.E.Hill/

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, J.J.Byars, H.R.Beal; 2nd, A.M.Spencer, N.S.Bivens; 3rd, S.H. Jolly, R.Simril; 4th, W.N.Gunn; J.M.Neal;5th, I.O.Crasthwaite, J.A.Simerall.

CONSTABLES

1st, D.I.Neal;2nd, E.F.Saxon;3rd, C.C.Jolly;4th F.H.Lynn; 5th,Sam Scarbrough.

1901 - 1903

COUNTY OFFICERS

R.B.Waldrop, supt. of education; G.W.Bean, circuit clerk; T.W. Hamilton, chancery clerk; J.W.Hill, sheriff; D.G.Peden, coroner; J.F.Thompson,treasurer; J.E.Dendy, assessor; Joe T.Griffin,surveyor.

SUPERVISORS

1st, M.M.Huffman; 2nd, W.T.Johnson; 3rd, I.V.Abernathy; 4th, W.N. Gann; 5th, D.E.Hill.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, J.J.Byars,Joe L.Davis; 2nd, W.A.Marion,O.Williams; 3rd, R.W. Marable, J.G.Green; 4th, J.M.Neal, D.R.Huffman; 5th,J.A.Summerall, F.M.Carlisle.

CONSTABLES

1st, D.I.Neal; 2nd, E.F.Saxon, Ivy Kimbrough; 3rd, C.C.Jolly, B.F.King; 4th, ~~[illegible]~~ T.C.Morgan,A.B.Carlisle.

Book 1903 - 1905

COUNTY OFFICERS

SAME AS BOOK 1901 - 1903

~~[illegible]~~ SUPERVISORS

SAME AS BOOK 1901 - 1903

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

(Not given)

CONSTABLES

(Not given)

Book 1905 - 1907 1908,09,10,11

COUNTY OFFICERS

R.P.Waldrop, supt. of education; Joe L.Davis, circuit clerk; T.WHamilton, chancery clerk; Geo W.Bean, sheriff; W.A.Wilkinson, treasurer; Ed Chenault, assessor; H.I.Randolph , surveyor; Ward Dawson, coroner.

SUPERVISORS

1st, S.E.Atkinson; 2nd, J.W.Winter; 3rd, J.H.Stone; 4th, J.A. Trenor; 5th, A.J.Wilson.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, D.A.Blair, J.R.Chennault; 2nd, F.J.Walker, Ivy Kimbrough; 3rd, E.N.Abbott, G.S.Pell; 4th, Jesse Gilliam, D.R.Huffman; 5th, G.E.Pate, W.W.Roberts, J.A.Summerall.

CONSTABLES

1st, R.M.Peden; 2nd, Fife Williams, Tom Davis; 3rd, C.C.Jolly, M.A.Johnson; 4th, J.B.Parker; 5th, H.L.Nichols, S.W.Evans.

Book 1907 - 1909 1908,09,10,11

COUNTY OFFICERS

Same as book 1905 0 1907

SUPERVISORS

XXXXXXXX SAME AS BOOK 1905 - 1907

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

(not given)

CONSTABLES

(not given)

Book 1909 - 1911 1912,13,14,15

COUNTY OFFICERS

Geo. D.Riley, supt. of education; Joe L.Davis, circuit clerk; H.E.Brannon, chancery clerk; H.L.Harrington, sheriff; Jas. W.Nabors, treasurer; F.J.Walker, assessor; J.P.Alexander, surveyor; U.Turner, coroner;

SUPERVISORS

1st, E.J.Hall; 2nd, R.N.Boyd; 3rd, J.H.Stone; 4th, W.N.Gann; 5th; J.C.Ross.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, D.A.Blair,J.R.Chennault,L.E.Wooldridge; 2nd, Fife Williams, N.S.Bivins; 3rd, E.N.Abbott,Geo. SPeel; 4th, D.R.Huffman, C.F.Wilson, Walter Finn; 5th, G.E.Pate,J.B.Sturdivant, F.M.Carlisle.

CONSTABLES

1st, J.R.Neal; 2nd, L.A.Turner; 3rd, C.C.Jolly,M.A.Johnson; 4th, B.H.Cox,O.N.Rhodes; 5th, S.W.Evans, E.A.Mixon.

Book 1911 - 1913 1912,13,14,15

COUNTY OFFICERS

SAME AS BOOK 1909 - 1911

SUPERVISORS

SAME AS BOOK 1909 - 1911

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

(not given)

CONSTABLES

(not given)

Book 1913 - 1915

COUNTY OFFICERS

(Torn out)

SUPERVISORS

1st, R.M.Peden; 2nd, Oscar P.Normon; 3rd, Lon Judd; 4th, T.E. Seay; 5th, D.D.Dendy.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, D.A.Blair, J.A.Martin,L.E.Wooldridge; 2nd, Fife Williams, N.S. Bivins; 3rd, H.B.Lacey, Geo. Peele; 4th, W.A.Finn,W.W.Porten; 5th, Eugene Mixon, Albert Carlisle, B.V.McCool.

CONSTABLES

(not given)

Book 1917 - 1921 1920,21,22,23

COUNTY OFFICERS

J.E.Harrington,attorney; Geo. D.Riley, supt. of education; D.S. Bishop, circuit clerk; John C.Williams, chancery clerk; J.C.Beasley, sheriff; A.T.House, treasurer; G.L.Wooldridge,assessor;

SUPERVISORS

1st, J.A.Martin; 2nd, J.N.Bryant; 3rd, P.E.Hadley; 4th, Robt.H. Couch, J.A.Treman; ~~xxxx~~ H.W.Nelson; 5th, A.B.Carlisle.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, D.A.Blair,Chennault; 2nd, J.M.Young, Fife Williams; 3rd, H.B.Lacey, George Peel; 4th, W.W.Porter, W.M.Helms, W.J.Criddle; 5th, C.F. Freeman, J.W.Pate.

CONSTABLES

1st, Joe B.Paulk; 2nd, J.R.Thompson, J.W.Farmer; 3rd, L.Jolly; 4th, B.H.Cox, J.T.Shipley; 5th, Sam Moore, T.N.Carlisle.

Book 1921 - 1923 1924,25,26,27

COUNTY OFFICERS

H.B.Abernathy,attorney; J.M.Pearson, supt. of education; B.M.Smith, circuit clerk; J.C.Williams, chancery clerk; W.J.Williams, sheriff; A.P.Seay,assessor; J.B.Lawson, surveyor.

~~JUSTICEEXOFXTHEXPEACE~~ SUPERVISORS

1st, R.M.Peden; 2nd, J N.Bryant; 3rd,P.E.Hadley; 4th, H.W.Nelson; 5th, J.S.Gordon.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, Rufus Chenault, D.A.Blair; 2nd, Fife Williams, J.M.Young; 3rd, H.B.Lacey; 4th, J.H.Allen,J.R.Huffman; 5th,T.N.Carlisle,J.B.Sturdevant.

CONSTABLES

1st, Will Chenault, J.W.Nabors; 2nd, J.W.Bray,Rufe Parnell; 3rd, L.Jolly; 4th, J.T.Shipley; 5th, Jos Commer,E.W.Criddle.

Book 1923, 1925

COUNTY OFFICERS

SAME AS BOOK 1921 - 1923

SUPERVISORS

SAME AS BOOK 1921 - 1923

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

SAME AS BOOK 1921 - 1923

CONSTABLES

1st, Will Chenault, G.W.Clark, J.W.Nabors; 2nd, J.W.Bray, Rufe Parnell; 3rd L.Jolly,C.B.Evans; 4th, J.T.Shipley, R.T.Turman, J.W.Little; 5th, Jos Commer, E.W.Criddle.

1925 - 1927 Book 1928,29,30,31

COUNTY OFFICERS.

H.B.Abernathy, attorney;W.L.Norman, supt. of education; B.M.Smith, circuit clerk; W.A.Wilkinson, chancery clerk; D.S.Bishop, sheriff; W.B. McNorton, assessor;

SUPERVISORS

1st, R M.Peden; 2nd, J.J.Byars; 3rd, P.E.Hadley; 4th, J.H.Aycock; 5th, J.S.Gordon; 1st, D.A.Blair, J.R.Chenault; 2nd, W.A.Marion, Fife W illiams; 3rd, E.R.Patterson, H.B.Lacy; 4th, J.R.Melton,Harvey Allen, Joe Criddle; 5th, C.E.Verell,Otis Beasley.

CONSTABLES

1st, M.W.Chenault; 2nd, J.J.Thomas,R.W.Pannell; 3rd, J.T.Shipley, C.B.Evans; 4th, J.W.Little, R.F.Turman; 5th, J.B.Henderson

Book 1927 - 1929 1928,29,30,31

COUNTY OFFICERS

SAME AS BOOK 1925 - 1927

SUPERVISORS

SAME AS BOOK 1925 - 1927

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, D.A.Blair,W.M.Huffman,J.R.Chenault; 2nd, W.A.Marion,Fife Williams; 3rd, E.R.Patterson, H.B.Lacy,W.C.Oggl 4th, J.R.Melton, Harvey Allen,Joe Criddle; 5th, C.E.Verell,Otis Beasley,J.T.Summerall.

CONSTABLES

1st, M.W.Chenault, G.W.Clark; 2nd, J.J.Thomas,R.W.Pannell; 3rd, J.T.Shipley, C.B.Eqypt, L.Jolly; 4th, J.W.Little, R.F.Thurman, L.D.Chapman; 5th, J.B.Henderson,J.J.Morris,J.T.Ross.

1929 - 1931 Book 1932,33,34,35

COUNTY OFFICERS

D.I.Neal, sheriff; Joe L.Davis, chancery clerk; B.M.Smith, circuit clerk; Mrs. J.C.Beasley, supt. of education; J.E.Atkinson, assessor; H.B.Abernathy, attorney;

SUPERVISORS

1st,J.C.Alford; 2nd, J.J.Byars; 3rd, E.A.Anderson; 4th,W.R.Doss; 5th, J.S.Gordon.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, John M.Walker, J.R.Chenault, W.M.Huffman; 2nd, T.V.Harris, W.L. Priest; 3rd, C.R.Walker,W.C.Ogg; 4th, B.J.Ford,Robert H.Couch, T.C.Morgan; 5th, C.E.Verell, C.F.Freeman.

CONSTABLES

1st, M.W.Chenault,W.L.Kimbrough; 2nd,W.T.James, B.A.Harris; 3rd,S.J. Jolly,Ewing Spencer; 4th, J.G.Holliday, L.B.Porter; 5th,I.L.Vaughn, B.D.Lancaster.

Book 1931 - 1933 1932,33,34,35

COUNTY OFFICERS

SAME AS BOOK 1929 - 1931

SUPERVISORS

SAME AS BOOK1929 - 1931

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

SAME AS BOOK 1929 - 1931 except B.B.Lanham instead of C.F.Freeman in 5th.

CONSTABLES

XXXXXX SAME AS BOOK 1929 - 1931

Chickasaw County accepted 52 Special

An Account of the Chickasaw Centennial Celebration
By Mabel Calvin: Canvasser

On July 15,16,and 17th Houston and Chickasaw County celebrated their one hundredth birthday with one of the largest and most colorful celebrations ever known in the history of the county. The entire town was elaborately decorated with huge flags, banners, signs of welcome etc. Even the smallest business man showed a fine spirit of cooperation and patriotism by gaily decorating his place of business with the Centennial colors: red, white and blue.

During the whole three day celebration there was not a dull moment. Wednesday morning July 15th, at ten o'clock there was a beautiful and spectacular parade, consisting of about two dozen floats, several beautiful horses locally owned, and the Houston, Tupelo, and Louisville bands. The floats will long be remembered for their beauty and ingenuity. One person was heard to remark that she had never seen prettier floats at Jackson Fair while another person was positive that he had never seen floats at the Cotton Carnival in Memphis as pretty as those in Houston. Forming at the Houston High school building, the parade marched down town, around the square and on to the Municipal park where the Centennial queen was crowned.

The welcome address was very appropiately given by Mayor Ashton Toomer Responses were made by W. A.Scott, a former Houstonian, but now a resident of Cleburne Texas and also president of the Chamber of Commerce of that town. Following this, talks were made by George Moreland and Mr. Soderstrom of the Commercial Appeal in Memphis. All speakers were introduced by Hon. Rush H. Knox, state senator from Chickasaw.

Probably nothing created more interest than the baseball game at two o'clock between the Houston Baseball Club and Indian Braves from the reservation near Philadelphia, Miss. Of course, being keyed to such a high pitch of enthusiasm the Houston team could not help but win.

Nor was there a happier or more enjoyable event than the reunion of

students and graduates of the Houston High school at the High School building at five-thirty, Wednesday afternoon. There has only been a Houston High School since 1905, and every class was represented at this meeting. Old friendships and acquaintances were renewed, celebrities discussed and something told of practically every graduate member especially those of the earlier classes, while probably the things which brought the most laughs were the old pictures brought by many.

At seven-thirty a thousand negroes from throughout the county congregated at the park and sang old plantation melodies and spirituals with a little jazz and dancing for variety. Following the singing was a play by C.C.C. boys from Calhoun City, in which they sought to prove how and to what extent their work is useful and important. At intervals throughout the day and night band concerts were given. While throughout the celebration, from 10 A. M. to 12 P. M., the Ferris Wheel, Merry-Go-Round, and other carnival features were in operation.

Thursday, July 16, the parade of floats, bands from Houston, Okolona, West Point and Grenada and organizations was repeated with an actual wedding on one of the floats. C.A. Arhette, a native of Van Vleet, Chickasaw County who is depot agent at Calhoun City for the O. H. &C.C. Railroad was married on the O. H. & C.C. float during its parade around the square in Houston. The parade reaching the park, a prize was awarded for the best float and the recently completed park and swimming pool were dedicated. At noon there were luncheons at the Houston High School building for alumni of the old Miss. Normal College and at Housto Hotel Cafe for Chamber of Commerce officials and visitors. At two-thirty the horse show at the park attracted quite a number of people.

The pagaent at eight-thirty, depicting the history of Chickasaw County from 1832 to the present time, deserved a "write-up" all by itself, but since there is no place for it in our history, it shall be only briefly re-

viewed as a feature of the Centennial Celebration. The first scene showed the pagaent queen, Miss Columbia and the forty-eight states. While subsequent scenes protrayed the arrival of De Soto and his men along the Natchez Trace, the county inhabitated by Indians, the arrival of the white man, Peace treaty between the Indians and white men, early white settlers, selling of the town lots, early schools and churches, an old fashioned wedding, old fashioned ballet and quadrille, the burning of the county records by Yankee soldiers in 1863 and so on until the grand finale when the entire case of 300 was on the stage at the same time.

Friday, July 17, was taken up with public speakings, Pat Harrison candidate for the U.S. Senate, Jeff Busby, A. L. Ford and Joe Sheffield, candidates for Congressman, from the fourth Congressional district. Lieut. Gov. Snyder and Al Key being the principal speakers;at noon there was an old-fashioned basket dinner on the grounds. At eight o'clock that night the magnificient pagaent was repeated.

About eight thousand people attended this joyous celebration and everyone of them expressed a desire to come back to Houston for its next Centennial and a cordial welcome is extended them.

The Chickasaw County Centennial Celebration
By Rubye Cook, Canvasser

On February 9, 1836 Chickasaw County was organized from territory acquired by the United States government from the Chickasaw Indians. Later on in that same year the county site was located upon land donated by Col. Joel Pinson and was named Houston for the already famous Sam Houston. And now this year,1936, the people of Chickasaw County are celebrating their one hundredth year of grouth and progress as a county. On July 15, 16, and 17th, 1936 a great Centennial Celebration was held in Houston and Chickasaw County.

The city of Houston was beautifully decorated with flags and banners of welcome, all in the centennial colors of red, white, and blue. The gates of the city were thrown open to the throngs of visitors from every section of the state and from other states.

The celebration formally opened on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock when a parade of floats, bands and organizations, headed by City Marshall, Jim Alexander, formed at the Houston High School grounds and marched to the new municipal park, where Mayor Ashton Toomer crowned the Centennial Queen, Miss Mary Elizabeth Haman. The queen and her court made a lovely picture seated on the platform. The court was composed of representative girls from each section of the county. They were Misses Frances Brand, Jewel Barrier, Etna Davis, Martha Medlin, Rosalyn Tabb and Eleanor Wray of Houston, Missis Jeanette Hood and Sissy Griffin of Houlka, Mildred Smith of Sparta and Lois Ann Hansell of Okolona. The Mayor, Mr. Toomer then welcomed the many visitors saying"It is customary to turn the keys of the city over to the visitors, but Houston has no keys. Everything she has, her homes and hearts, are wide open to her guests."Mr. W. A. Scott of Cleburne, Texas a former Houston citizen responded in behalf of the visitors. Mayor Toomer then introduced the other speakers, one of whom was George Moreland of Memphis. Mr. Moreland extended congratulations to Houston on the wonderful success and individuality of the Centennial.

of the Centennial. Mr. Toomer read telegrams of congratulations from the state president of the Exchange club, Jackson Chamber of Commerce, and others. W. N. Etheridge, president of the Chamber of Commerce, them read a program of the remainder of the celebration and urged every one to come and enjoy the hospitality of Houston and Chickasaw County.

At two in the afternoon there was a base ball game between the Choctaw Indians of Neshoba County and the Houston team. It was a good game and created a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of the on lookers. The Houston team was the victor.

At seven in the evening a chorus of one thousand negro voices rendered a program of spirituals and plantation melodies, and the C.C.C. Camp from Calhoun City put on a play depicting the good work of the C. C. C. boys.

One of the most enjoyable event of the day was a meeting of Houston High School Alumni and students. Every class since the first graduating class in 1905 was represented there. The first class of seven members was one hundred per cent in attendence. Many friends who had not seen each other for years renewed acquaintances.

All during the day and evening there were band concerts by visiting bands from West Point, Okolona, Tupelo, Grenada, and Louisville.

On the second day of the festival which was Thursday July 16, the parade was repeated with a great many additions. It was lead again by the Marshall, Jim Alexander, followed by a group of mounted citizens and visitors. Bands scattered at intervals in the parade provided martial music and in their bright colored uniforms made a beautiful sight. Riding in automobiles were the county officials and the mayor and board of Aldermam of Houston. There followed a procession of the most beautiful floats ever seen in this section. Many were beautifully decorated and carried upon them the flower of Chickasaws womanhood, while others clever

and very educational ideas. The first prize was awarded to the Okolona, Houston and Calhoun City Railroad float upon which a real marriage ceremony was performed as it paraded around the square. The Houston Hospital and the Houston Drug Co. placed second and third in a close contest. The prize for uniqueness went to the American Legion whose float was a great white battleship, complete with guns, smoke stacks, and crew. The Houston Compress Company had a very unusual float depicting a plantation scene with bales of cottom and an old darkey and several pickaninnies eating watermelon. The judges were O. F. Soderstrom and George Moreland of Memphis and Mrs. C. L. Mcgehee of Okolona. A series of exhibits that attracted considerable comment was that of the C.C.C Company at Calhoun City. The first truck pictured a section of burned over land upon which sat "Old man depression", the second illustrated the reforest ation work of the C. C. C. and the third a woodland scene with trees under fire protection. Then followed a load of timber, the product of reforestation and fire protection. A hunorous touch was added to the parade by Blairs' Service Station as the faithful little dog, Boots, marched proudly in front of its master, Jim Blair both dressed in bright service station uniforms. Firms and organizations represented in the floats were: City Chevrolet Co., Chickasaw County, Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Kraft-Phenix Cheese Co., Houston Drug Co, Horn Gro. Co., O.H. and C.C. Ry. The Bank of Houston, The Justice Co., Houston Hospital, Houston Compress Co., Commercial Insurance Agency, Ray's Cash Store, Houston Hardware and Furniture Co., Houston Chamber of Commerce, and Houston Exchange Club.

At eleven o'clock the new park and swimming pool was dedicated. W. L. Elkin, District Supervisor of the W.P. A. of Tupelo, formally presented the new pool to the town as a W.P.A Project. Mr. Elkin complimented the Mayor, Ashton Toomer, the Board of Alderman, W. N. Ethridge, and F. M. Holbrooke, Sec. of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, on their

efforts in securing the park and swimming pool for the town. Mayor Toomer accepted on behalf of the town.

Two attractive luncheons filled the noon hour. Alumni of the Mississippi Normak College, a pioneer educational institution, which turned out many distinguished sons and daughters of the county, gathered at the Houston High School building, while Chamber of Commerce officials and other distinguished visitors were entertained at the Houston Hotel Cafe.

Declared one of the most outstanding events of the celebration, the horse show on Thursday afternoon drew a large croud of horse lovers from all over the state.

Thursday evening the curtain rose on a great historical pageant. Presented on a huge outdoor stage with beautiful setting and properties, the production depicted in realistic style the history of the county and the life of its people from the beginning to the present. The success with which the spectacle was presented marked it as an achievment that had brought praise and fame to the county. It was one of the highlights of the Centennial in which around 500 people took part. The enormous cast was selected from all parts of the county. A brief synopsis of the scenes follows: The prologue presented the queen, Miss Mary Elizabeth Haman as "Miss Chickasaw" and her court of attendants, together with Miss Francis Brand as "Miss Columbia, and her attendants who represented the states of the union. Following an address of welcome by Miss Chickasaw and the response by Miss Columbia, the queen and her court and Miss Columbia and her attendants moved to a court of honor to witness the pageant.

First to appear was Father Time with his scythe, after which twelve episodes passed quickly in succession representing the county's history.

The first scene was the coming of DeSota and his explorers over the Indian trails that later became the Natchez Trace. This scene was very colorful with Spanish costumes. Ass they passed on, a ballet featuring

thirty of Houston's lovliest girls were presented. This, a symphony of color and harmony of movement, was symbolic of the creation of civilization. Then followed a vey realastic and picturesque scene of Indian braves and squaws. The squaws did all the work of setting up camp. They put up the tepees, beat the maize into meal, built the fire etc. The braves sat around the camp fire and presently Gen. John Coffee and his men arrived. These affected a treaty of peace with the Red men about a council fire, thus obtaining for the white men the land now known as Chickasaw County.

In the next scene the mail rider impersonating John Donally, of pioneer days, arrived and encountered a group of early settlers.

Another ballet scene followed composed of a group of beautiful Okolona girls. Their dance symbolized the forces of natur e, led by the spirit of the wilderness in opposition to the pioneer of early days. Appearing with them were the pioneer man and woman who finally overcame the obstacles arrayed against them, such as the powers of the river, the mist maidens, Fever, Famine and death; as these were oversome a chorus of voices led by Mrs. C.K.Alexander sang "To Thee Be Victory, On Pioneers."

The organization of the county by an act of the Legislature was next shown, which included a meeting of the first board of police for the discussion of the county site, the meeting place being the home of Malcolm McGee. Other characters depicted were Thomas D. Wooldridge, Littleberry Gilliam, Asa Braddock and Travis Stranger.

The next scene was the public sale of Houston town lots. This scene was put on by the people from the Pearsall community. The producer, told over the loud speaker, how Joel Pinson donated lots for the churches and court house provided the town should be named for Gen. Sam Houston.

The old time school with the teacher and children sitting on long

wooden benches was next splendidly portrayed, followed by the camp meeting of 1839 showing the people coming by wagon and horseback, the ladies on side saddles. Hymns were sung and the preachers prayed and expounded at length.

The next scene, one of the lovliest, was that of a wedding showing the social custom and mode of dress of that period. The bridesmaids and guests attired in hoopskirts and low cut bodices brought forth exclamations of delight.

The burning of the court house containing the county's records, during a raid by the northern soldiers in the Civil war, was probably the most spectacular scene, as a miniature court house was set fire by the federal troops riding real horses.

The next scene, also spectacular, was the coming of the Mobile and Ohio Rail road, the occation concluding with the beautiful old dance, the virginia reel.

Another scene of interest and color was a parade of styles going back nearly one hundred years. These costumes were modeled by descendents of each family to which they belonged.

The second part of the pageant was a patriotic spectacle. Miss Chickasaw county and her attendants again became central figures. Following one another came the dances of the nations which made up the American population. Groups representing various attributes of moderm society each appeared and made a contribution to the general scheme of things. All of these moved in harmony together at the feet of Miss Columbia, and later formed the vision of the future tableau, which broke into the grand triumphal procession, the entire cast working together to the spirited music of the Houston band with William Allen Tornwall at the piano.

It has been estimated that over five thousand people viewed this wonderful pageant. And few of them will forget for quite a long time to come.

The last day of the Centennial, Friday, was given over to public speakings with a basket dinner spread at the park at noon.

The pageant was repeated that night to another large croud.

According to Marshall Jim Alexander not a single accident marred the celebration and the crowds was unusually well behaved and orderly. The merchants report a substantial increase in business for the week. A high class carnival came in for its share of attention being located at the park the entire week.

The Centennial emblem which was used as a sticker and also on the stationary was designed by Miss Louise Ricks anative daughter of the county now of Baylor University, Texas. She id a descendent of pioneer citizens of Woodland.

Press Notices on the Centennial Celebration

FROM THE TIMES POST:

Window Displays Attractive

All of the store windows look as if they, too, were on dress parade, or ready for inspection. The merchants deserve credit for the very beautiful appearance they have given them.

In many of them through generosity of the merchants, are displays of antiques or relics of days gone by. The ladies in the different communities have worked faithfully to collect them and the owners have been generous to lend them. Take time to study them and you will come away more appreciatve of the pioneer settlers and also of the conveniences we of this generation are enjoying.

Two other windows which attract attention are the American Legion Window and the 4-H Club Girls display. Relics from the battlefields of France and other places which were brought back by the soldier boy were shown in the Legion window.

CENTENNIAL SIDELIGHTS by F. M. Holbrook

The Pageant was a faithful and educational review of the noble deeds of Chickasaw County for one hundred years; condensed into two hours with every thing faithfully portrayed. The four hundred members of the cast and director Knowles have well merited the Navy's most coveted honor, the flag signal "Well done". Mot much in the number of words but so expressive of a worthy achievment.

They are still talking about the wonderful Centennial Edition of The Times Post. It is a historical record that should be preserved in every home.

Pegasus was a winged horse and Mercury's feet were so equipped, but these mythological characters must retire to Olympus, making way for W. N. Ethridge, President of the Chamber of Commerce and one of the County's best friends. He must have been winged in every joint, judging by his

unceasing work and ability to show up at the right place at the right time.

Jackson, Memphis, Birmingham, Mobile, Atlanta, Little Rock, and New Orleans papers spread the news of Chickasaw's Centennial. Publicity that could not be bought for $100,000 given to Chickasaw County free. Was it worth it???

Chickasaw County's Birthday

By George Moreland Copied from
The Commercial Appeal
July 24, 1936

That rare old county down in the heart of the prairie section of Mississippi-- beautiful land called Chickasaw-- is one hundred years old and its good and progressive people certainly did let the whole wide world know about it. In fact having been the guest of Chickasaw County and Houston, its exquisite old capital city, I think most of the world not only knew about Chickasaw County's birthday but they all journeyed down to join in celebrating it.

There are many centennials this year. Texas as we know is holding its Centennial, Arkansas is doing the same, and many counties, cities, and towns are celebrating centennial birthdays this year, but for sheer beauty of program,elaborateness of plans, and the superlative hospitality dispensed by the hosts of the occations, it can hardly be possible for any other centennial to be more thoroughly planned and more splendidly presented than was that of Chickasaw County.

When W. N. Ethridge, President of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, invited me down to the Chickasaw Centennial, I accepted exactly as I accept many other invitations, as a part of my routine work. But when I reached Houston somehow I saw that I was in the midst of "something different". This centennial, I discerned, would have a flavor original and all its own.

The capable news correspondents have already told you of the routine

program, or tried to do so, because it would not have been possible to paint a word picture of the splendid program presented during the three days of the festivities. It will now be my task to pick up the stray threads not gathered by the news correspondents.

When I reached Houston I found the city ablaze with color. Flags and buhting were flying everywhere. I scented the spirit of festivities in the air. Proud old Chickasaw was all set to celebrate her hundredth birthday. F. M. Holbrook, secretary of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, accorded me a welcome to the city and from that instant until I left town I was deluged with a hospitality that reached beyond my ability to describe it. In fact so hospital was Houston that after I left town Jim Hester hospitable and progressive farmer, overtook me and loaded me down with watermelons, tomatoes, and other vegetables, just to prove to me that the word hospitality was invented in Chickasaw County.

My good friend Mayor Ashton Toomer of Houston, always filled with friendliness and hospitality, surpassed himself on the occation of the city's centennial. With a daily attendance of perhaps 8,000 people as visitors the mayor had a big job on his handsbut I believe he missed no visitor in his welcome and every body was happy, because Houston's good people seem to posess the happy faculty of making them so. C. K. Alexander, Houstons city clerk, and one of the local workers who "put over" the big celebration, found time, I do not know how, to make every body feel at home and happy. Honest, folks, before I had been in Houston for half an hour I felt just like I had been born there and actually found myself traipsing around welcoming other folks to "our centennial" just like it was mine individually.

There was so much of appealing interest to tell that this columnist sat abashed when attempting this work. There was for instance, the lovely and charming Miss Chickasaw , Mary Elizabeth Haman, who ruled so graciously over the vast throngs who journeyed to Houston to be received at her queenly court. As M

queenly throne. As Miss Columbia, Frances Brand, with her retinue of forty-eight beautiful attendants, one to represent each state, was the center of all eyes.

Then there was the hospitality of banquets, the beauty of attractive floats in the great parade, the assembly of the alumni of historic old Mississippi Normal College, and many other features. The music for the parades and concerts was furnished by several splendid high school bands attired in their brilliant uniforms which added color to the throngs. Bands from Louisville, Tupelo, Grenada, West Point and Okolona, along with the Houston's own high school band, played.

The history of Chickasaw County begins, insofar as the white man played a part in it, when the gallant De Sota and his fearless cohorts marched that way in 1540. Ther is little doubt that De Soto marched through what is now Chickasaw County.

In the spacious court house square at Houston stands a granite marker placed there by the daughters of the American Revolution which indicated that the Natchez Trace passed that way. Over that old trail the Indians for ages unnumbered made their journeys through the wilderness. Over it the white man dared enter the domains of the Chickasaw Indians, later to acquire the land, send the natives toward the setting sun, leaving nothing hinting of their former occupancy behind save the tribes beautiful name which is borne by the county.

Chickasaw County has produced many men whose names figure brilliantly in the nation's history. The pioneer, T.H. Williams, was the man who defeated Sargent S. Prentiss for the Senate. The brilliant Orr family lived at Houston. General Featherston, later a citizen of Marshall County, and one of Dixie's immortal martial heroes, once lived at Houston. The immortal William F. Tucker, one of the Confederacy's gallant leaders, was a citizen of Okolona, and Col. James Gordon, brilliant as a writer, fearless as a sol-

dier, and adept as a statesman, lived in Chickasaw County, and that county's hallowed soil now holds his ashes.

During the century of its existence as a political unit in Mississippi Chickasaw County has written into the pages of the state's history many glorious chapters. There is not a blot or a stain upon its record as a county of Mississippi. Its past is glorious, its present is progressive and its future roseate.

Rare old Chickasaw County, on your hundredth birthday this columnist proudly salutes you.

Mississippi Normal College Alumni Luncheon
Copied from Times Post

The luncheon for the Mississippi Normal College Alumni, at the Houston High School building on july 16th, was one of the most delightful events of the Centennial week. This meeting was arrangedby the members who live in Houston as a "welcome home" to those who live elsewhere. Thirty-eight graduates of this old college were present and were given a most cordial welcome by Minnie Evans Kimball, which was responded to by L. H. Miller of West Point in a few well chosen words.

With Ellie Crosthwait Beasley as toastmistress a very interesting program was rendered during the two course luncheon, which was prepared by Mrs. Jensen and served by Catherine Shell, Corinne Wilson, Fairy Lewis, Virginia Tabb, Catherine Goza McElroy, and Martha Sullivan all being daughters of alumni except Fairy Lewis who is a niece of three of the graduates, Miss Fairy Goza, Mrs. R. E. Goza and Mr. Sam Goza.

After singing America and an invocation by Virgil Scott of Cleburne, Texas, Kate Hill Shoemaker gave a brief history of the school covering the period from 1888, when the school was instituted to the time it closed its doors as a normal college in 1901. many long forgotten incidents were recalled which provoked much merriment with a tinge of saddness for the years have wrought many changes.

Loving tribute was paid by several members to the beloved instructors and friends, Prof. and Mrs. H. B. Abernethy. A fund which is under the direction of Sam Goza, was started to erect a monument to the memory of these two splendid teachers, who gave their lives for the youth of the state and especially in Chickasaw and Pontotoc Counties.

Miss Fairy Goza directed the roll call which was made by classes, making comment s and ex planations about absent members, many of whom have long since gone to their eternal reward.

Old photographs and campus scenes were compared which brought forth many happy reminiscenses of favorite classmates and teachers too numerous

to mention here. After singing Auld Lang Syne and Blest Be the Tie That Binds, reluctant goodbyes were said to the visitors, with the hppe that they might all come together again in another delightful reunion.

Those answering roll call came from all part of Mississippi and some from other states, each ~~xxxxx~~ one living examples of integrity, faithfulness to duty, and a realization of responsibility to humanity, which were some of the lessons learned in the old Mississippi Normal College. These were: Resident members: Mrs. J.C.Beasley, Mrs. and Mrs. D.E.Shell, Mrs. Lula Tabb , Mrs. Annie Gladney Dulaney, Mrs. R.E. Goza, Dr. G..G. Armstrong, W. E.Scott Sr. and Mrs. Scott, Miss Fairy Goza, Mr. Sam Goza, Mrs. Minnie Evens Kimball, and Miss Virginia Petty represented her parents, Mr. amd Mrs. B. F. Pettyof Columbus. The out of town ex-graduates were : Dr. B.F.McNeal and wife, Moorehead, Dr. C.D. Davis, Trebloc, Mrs. Daisy Davis Coyle, Houston, E.W.Goza and wife, Prairie, Ona/S. chenault, Kosciusko Jeff M. Smith and wife Dossville, W.J.Reid, Pittsboro, Jeva for his wife Della Worrall Winter, Houlka, R. F. Whitfield and wife , Jackson, Stella Atkinson Fox, Vaughan, Ada Atkinson Pryor, Calhoun City, Meda McClesky, Jackson, Lon. H. Miller, West Point, Kate Hill Shoemaker, Ellisville, Erline Collins Boyd, Aberdeen,Thomas Burie Scott, Cleburne Texas, Mrs. Daisy Harris Wilson, Houlka. Former students present were: Mrs. D.H.Crawford Woodland, Mrs. Mary McClesky Herring, Vardaman, Isadore Rubel, Columbus, Ben Walker Sr. Tribbett, and visitor Mildred Swain, West Point.

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