R. A. McLEMORE
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
JACKSON

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

This is to certify that the microphotographs appearing on this reel are the accurate, complete and official reproductions listed on the target (title) sheet preceding each volume or series of records.

As reproduced by the Photo-Duplication Laboratory of the Department of Archives and History.

It is further certified that the microphotographic processes were accomplished in a manner and on film which meets with the requirements of the National Bureau of Standards for permanent microphotographic copy.

Richard A. McLemore

RICHARD A. McLEMORE, Director
Mississippi Department of Archives
and History
Jackson, Mississippi

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
P. O. BOX 571
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205



R. A. McLEMORE, PH.D., LIT.D.
DIRECTOR

Because of the diversity of sources and of the fallibility of human memory, it is suggested that documentary material be consulted in verifying data in this volume, as much of the information was obtained through personal interviews.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
For
Mississippi

Source Material
For
Mississippi History

Preliminary Manuscript

Jefferson Davis County

Volume XXXIII

Compiled by
STATE-WIDE HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
Susie V. Powell, State Supervisor

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Project # 2257
Topic: Formation of County
Name of Canvasser - V. Smith
Date of compilation - March 20, 1936

File I

II Formation of County Seat

Written (3)

1. Formation of County:

1. Obtained

(a) By an act of the Legislature approved March 31, 1906, the County of Jefferson Davis was created.

(b) The territory now comprising Jefferson Davis County was carved out of the Counties of Covington and Lawrence, Mississippi, and an equal portion taken from each of Covington and Lawrence Counties to make Jefferson Davis County. The law provided for an election to be held within thirty days after the approval of this act of the legislature to determine whether or not the county should be created. At this time some citizens of Covington County issued a writ of injunction enjoining that this election should not be held. This injunction was dissolved and the election was held and carried in favor of the creation of the county.

(c) Mr. G.W. Holloway, of Carson, then in Covington County was Representative from that county in 1906 and Mr. G. Wood Magee, of Monticello, in Lawrence County was Senator from that county in the same year. These men were instrumental in getting this bill concerning the creation of a new county before the Legislature. The men largely responsible for the creation of this county were: A.G. Williams, H.H. Williams, H.G. Williams, S.S. Dale, Leon Tyrone, F.G. Goodwin, H.F. Walden and R.E. Holloway. These loyal citizens were very persistent and worked faithfully for the formation of Jefferson Davis County.

2. Shape

The county is in the shape of a boot.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

5. Size

Jefferson Davis County contains 406 square miles. The original and present boundaries are on the north by Simpson County, east by Covington County, south by Marion County and west by Lawrence County.

4. Name and Nick Name (if any)

The county is named after the foremost citizen who ever lived in Mississippi; one Jefferson Davis and it is the pride and hope of the citizens of Jefferson Davis County to make good its name, and if nothing prevents it, this county is destined to become one of the brightest stars that glitters in the galaxy of counties south of the A. & V. R.R., if not in the State. The name Jefferson Davis is often shortened to Jeff. Davis as a nick name.

5. County Seat or Seats

(a) At a special election held in April, 1906, the county seat was settled in favor of Prentiss when Prentiss and Carson were both candidates. Prentiss, being the central part of the county, has since the creation of the county been the county seat and is today a prosperous little city.

(b) The original county seat is the present one.

(c) The county seat was named for a pioneer citizen of the county and town, Prentiss Webb Berry, Sr. Mr. Berry owned the greater portion of the land in and around the town and most of the property where business houses and dwellings now stand was purchased from Mr. Berry. The name Berry is a prominent one in the county; Mr. Berry at one time was a member of the Board of Supervisors for two terms.

6. Early Settlements

Of the early settlements in Jefferson Davis County, Mt. Carmel is the oldest. It was formerly peopled by wealthy merchants and planters but at this time it is the home of negroes only. Blountville, now the town of Prentiss, was also an early settlement, as was Bassfield and Carson. Bassfield was homesteaded in 1832 and was named for Jonathan Bass, who was later killed in battle in the Civil War. Hebron was also among the early

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

settlements. It was once a thriving and prosperous old town but the postoffice and all the business houses have been moved one mile west on the railroad and the name changed to Newhebron. However, Hebron is still a live community and maintains a progressive school and church and also a village store. Whitesand, known now as Whitesand Station, must also come in for a share of recognition in these early settlements. Whitesand was originally located on Whitesand Creek; hence its name, but the postoffice was later moved to the present site. Today Whitesand is no more that a flag station but in the days when Jefferson Davis County was young there was not a more prosperous and progressive town in the county.

Gladys McLaurin

Mrs. Gladys McLaurin, Supervisor
Historical Research
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

Ass. III

Copy
Subj. file - 11

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Project # 2267
Topic of Assignment-Narratives on Interviews
Names of Canvassers- Roma Stewart and V. Smith
Date of compilation-March 30, 1936

3

I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:

1. Pioneers:

(a) At a date not exactly known but prior to 1830, Mt. Carmel was established. It was a village of considerable wealth. Eight or ten families lived here. Among the early settlers were: Jake Hollander, Bill Rutledge, Dr. Robert Magee, Dr. J.L. Beavers, Fielding Holloway, Hiram Williams, Sr., D.C. McRaney, E.S. Reagan, Neil Mathison and Absalom C. Powell. For several years a good school was maintained here. There was a Methodist Church one mile south and a Presbyterian Church three miles east. The nearest Baptist Church was five miles away. The people of this town were of the highest type; intelligent and high minded.

Blountville, known now as Prentiss, was first established in 1877. It was named for William Blount who was instrumental in getting a post office at this place. Mail was received once a week from Williamsburg but was later received twice a week from Mt. Carmel. J.A. Blount, a son of William Blount was the first post master at Blountville but after his death he was succeeded by his father. A good school was maintained in this village and also a good Methodist Church. There was only one store and the post office in the early days. Some of the early settlers were: Whiting Magee, George Magee, Hiram Magee, Richard Berry, Hart Tyrone, Steve Bozeman and William Blount.

Another old settlement in this county was Bassfield. It was homesteaded in 1832 and was named for Jonathan Bass.

Hebron was once a thriving and prosperous little town. It was noted chiefly for the excellent school maintained there and also for an active Baptist Church, which is today still standing and over one hundred years old.

(b) None

(c) None

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

(d) Mrs. H. Pelman, an old jewess, of Prentiss, has the largest and most interesting collection of antiques in the county. She and her husband came from the old country about fifty seven years ago. They have been in Prentiss for over twenty years. This old couple has numerous articles of especial interest but perhaps the most interesting things they have are a pair of solid gold candlesticks and a gold tray, four pieces of copper cooking utensils one hundred twenty five years old, a brass fruit bowl made in China in 1811, a brass coffee beater one hundred twenty five years old, a beer cup of wood fifty eight years old, a wine set of blown glass one hundred years old, a silver pitcher that plays a musical tune seventy five years old, a drinking mug one hundred years old, a marble statue fifty eight years old, a wooden pitcher and six glasses lined with glass over one hundred years old, a set of Imperial Crow China made in Austria, a silver waiter and pitcher with four pictures of the king of Poland mounted slightly on each side of the waiter and in the center is an engraving similiar to an oak leaf; the pitcher is one and one half feet high with a lid likened to a pelican. This silver service was given to Mr. and Mrs. Pelman as a wedding gift by Mrs. Pelman's sister fifty eight years ago but the service is eighty two years old, having been used by Mrs. Pelman's sister for twenty four years. All of these things were brought from Poland by Mr. and Mrs. Pelman about fifty seven years ago when they first came to America.

Another very interesting group of antiques is owned by A.H. Hall, who lives six miles east of Prentiss. Among them is a watch made in 1363. This watch has been handed down to each name sake of the original owner, the present A.H. Hall being the fifth generation. The date the watch was made is in the back of the watch also no. 153, Carmichael Greenock which after investigation proved to be in Scotland. The watch is of silver about the size of a silver dollar and about two inches thick. It does not run because of a small spring that is broken. There is a case that the watch fits into. The fob is of leather with a gold charm in the shape of a small buckle. It is seventy years old and was first owned by the present Mr. Hall's father, Dr. A.H.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

Hall. Mr. Hall also has in his possession his father's old pill bags which still contain small vials of medicine. They were bought in 1840. He also has a canteen which was carried through the Civil War by Bill Turnage, father of Mrs. Hall. An old gun and a shot sack which contains two small gourds for powder and shots and two small tin boxes of shots and caps are also in the possession of the Halls. These were bought in 1855 and formerly belonged to Bob Hall.

The Halls also have some interesting books that are very old. Among them is a book written by Herbert Mayo and published in 1834. The book is entitled "Observations of Injuries and Diseases of the Rectum". "The Spectator" by Joseph Addison published by J.J. Woodward, Philadelphia, in 1832, is also among the collection as is "The Dispensatory" by George B. Wood, M.D. and Franklin Bache, M.D., published in 1866.

This family are the possessors of a letter written in 1850 to Dr. A.H. Hall at Mt. Carmel. The letter was written by Dr. Hall's father and mailed in South Carolina. The letter came folded in letter form but it was not in an envelope nor was it stamped. It was sealed with sealing wax. The letter was paid out when delivered to addressee for the sum of fifty cents. The Halls have two bills of sale that belonged to Dr. Hall. One is dated February 5, 1844 and is for a negro girl named Fannie about eighteen years old who sold for $806.00 and the other is dated December 20, 1849 and is for a negro girl named Celia about nine years old who sold for $530.00.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Williams have among their prized possessions a plot of Mt. Carmel that is 101 years old. Mt. Carmel is one of the oldest settlements in this part of the State and it was the home of the parents of Mr. and Mrs. Williams. This plan shows to whom the lots belonged and it is very interesting to know just where all the early settlers lived.

2. Historians:

(a) None

(b) None

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

(c) None

(d) None

(e) Prentiss, with a population of 575 in 1910 and 655 in 1930, is the county seat and largest town. At a special election held in April, 1906, the county seat was settled in favor of Prentiss when Prentiss and Carson were both candidates. Prentiss, being the central part of the county, has since the creation of the county been the county seat and is today a prosperous little city.

3. Officials and Ex-Official:

(a) Miss Lola Griffith, of Prentiss, Mississippi has in her possession two tax receipts left to her by her father, H.T. Griffith, Sr. Charlie Mikell gave them to Mr. Griffith for safe keeping and the receipts are really the property of Mr. Mikell. The receipts originally belonged to I.I. Mikell, father of Charlie Mikell. One is dated 1854 and the other 1855. One is a receipt for the amount of $3.97 on 160 acres of land, poll tax, 1 clock and two slaves. The other one is for the amount of $3.55 on the same property. These receipts are signed by the Sheriff of Lawrence County.

(b) None

(c) None

4. Any Other Interesting Interviews

None

Gladys McLaurin

Mrs. Gladys McLaurin, Supervisor
Historical Research
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Project # 2267
Topic of Assignment-Narratives on Interviews
Names of Canvassers-Roma Stewart and V. Smith
Date ofcompilation-March 30, 1936

I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:

1. Pioneers:

(a) Mrs. A.G. Williams, a resident of Prentiss but formerly a pioneer resident of Mt. Carmel, ~~was interviewed by Mrs. V. Smith, canvasser. Mrs. Williams seemed very interested in the Research Project and was glad to furnish any information that would be of help. She~~ told us ~~the interviewer~~ that Mt. Carmel was established at a date not exactly known but prior to 1830. It was a village of considerable wealth. Eight or ten families lived here. She said that among the early settlers were: Jake Hollander, Bill Rutledge, Dr. Robert Magee, Dr. J.L. Beavers, Fielding Holloway, Hiram Williams,Sr., D.C. McRaney, E.S. Reagan, Neil Mathison and Absalom Powell. She continued further by saying that for several years a good school was maintained here. There was a Methodist Church one mile south and a Presbyterian Church three miles east. The nearest Baptist Church was five miles away. On concluding the interview, Mrs. Williams said that the people of this town were of the highest type; intelligent and high minded.

Mrs. John L. Berry of Prentiss was interviewed, ~~by Supervisor in regard to information about Blountville, known now as Prentiss. Interviewer was~~ and told us ~~by Mrs. Berry~~ that Blountville was first established in 1877. It was named for Mrs. Berry's father, William Blount who was instrumental in getting a post office at this place. Mrs. Berry said that mail was received once a week from Williamsburg but was later received twice a week from Mt. Carmel. J.A. Blount, a son of William Blount, was the first post master at Blountville but after his death he was succeeded by his father. ~~Mrs. Berry~~ she further stated that there was only one store and a post office in the early days. ~~When questioned as to whom the early settlers were, Mrs. Berry said~~

~~that~~ the earliest settlers were: Whiting Magee, George Magee, Hiram Magee, Richard Berry, Hart Tyrone, Steve Bozeman and William Blount.

For information concerning Bassfield, Clifford Bass, present circuit clerk, was interviewed ~~by the Supervisor of Project.~~ but Not much information was secured; ~~however interviewer was~~ we were informed by Mr. Bass that Bassfield was homesteaded in 1832 and was named for Jonathan Bass, grandfather of Clifford Bass.

Mrs. V. Smith contacted Mr. E.H. Walker,pioneer citizen, for facts about Hebron. From information gotten from Mr. Walker, it was learned that Hebron was once a thriving and prosperous little town. It was noted chiefly for the excellent school maintained there and also for an active Baptist Church, which is today still standing and over one hundred years old.

(b)None

(c)None

(d)Mrs. H. Pelman, ~~an old~~ jewess, of Prentiss, has the largest and most interesting collection of antiques in the county. ~~Mrs. V. Smith and Mrs. McLaurin, research workers, called on Mrs. Pelman to view this collection. They~~ We learned that Mrs. Pelman and her husband came from the old country about fifty seven years ago. They have been in Prentiss for over twenty years. This old couple has numerous articles of especial interest ~~that were shown to the Interviewers but some of the most interesting things shown were:~~ among which are a pair of solid gold candlesticks and a gold tray, four pieces of copper cooking utensils one hundred twenty five years old, a brass fruit bowl made in China in 1811, a brass coffee beater one hundred twenty years old, a beer cup of wood fifty eight years old, a wine set of blown glass one hundred years old, a silver pitcher seventy five years old that plays a musical tune,

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

a drinking mug one hundred years old, a marble statue fifty eight years old, a wooden pitcher and six glasses lined with glass over one hundred years old, a set of Imperial Crow China made in Austria, a silver waiter and pitcher with four pictures of the king of Poland mounted slightly on each side of the waiter and in the center is an engraving similar to an oak leaf; the pitcher is one and one half feet high with a lid likened to a pelican. This silver service was given to Mr. and Mrs. Pelman as a wedding gift by Mrs. Pelman's sister fifty eight years ago but the service is eighty two years old, having been used by Mrs. Pelman's sister for twenty four years. Mrs. Pelman said that all these things were brought from Poland when she and Mr. Pelman came to America about fifty seven years ago.

Another pioneer contacted in regard to antiques was A.H. Hall, who lives six miles east of Prentiss. ~~Mrs. Roma Stewart interviewed Mr. Hall who seemed anxious to show the antiques he possesses.~~ Among them is a watch made in 1363. Mr. Hall said that this watch has been handed down to each name sake of the original owner, the present A.H. Hall being the fifth generation. ~~The date the watch was made is in the back of the watch also no. 153, Carmichael, Greenock which after investigation proved to be in Scotland.~~ Mr. Hall pointed out that the watch is of silver about ~~the size of a silver dollar and about two inches thick. It does not run because of a small spring that is broken.~~ Mr. Hall showed Mrs. Stewart ~~a case that the watch fits into and also a fob of leather with a gold charm in the shape of a small buckle. It is seventy years old and was first owned by the present Mr. Hall's father, Dr. A.H. Hall.~~ Mr. Hall also exhibited his father's old pill bags which still contain small vials of medicine. They were bought in 1840. He showed a canteen which was carried through the Civil War by Bill Turnage, father of Mrs. Hall. An old gun and a shot sack which contains two small gourds for powder and shots and

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

two small tin boxes of shots and caps are also in the possession of the Halls. Mr. Hall said that these were bought in 1855 and formerly belonged to Bob Hall, a half brother of Mr. Hall.

The Halls also showed some interesting books that are very old. Among them was a book written by Herbert Mayo and published in 1834. The book was entitled "Observations of Injuries and Diseases of the Rectum". "The Spectator" by Joseph Addison published by J.J. Woodward, Philadelphia, in 1832, was also among the collection proudly shown by Mr. Hall, as was "The Dispensatory" by George B. Wood, M.D. and Franklin Bache, M.D., published in 1866.

This family are the possessors of a letter, ~~which they showed,~~ written in 1850 to Dr. A.H. Hall at Mt. Carmel. The letter was written by Dr. Hall's father and mailed in South Carolina. Mr. Hall said that the letter came folded in letter form but it was not in an envelope or stamped. It was sealed with sealing wax. The letter was paid out when delivered to addressee for the sum of fifty cents. The Halls exhibited two bills of sale that belonged to Dr. Hall. One is dated February 5, 1844 and is for a negro girl named Fannie about eighteen years old who sold for $806.00 and the other is dated December 20, 1849 and is for a negro girl named Celia about nine years old who sold for $530.00

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Williams have among their prized possessions a plot of Mt. Carmel that is 101 years old. ~~Mr. and Mrs. Williams showed this to Mrs. V. Smith, canvasser, when she called to inquire if they had any antiques.~~ Mt. Carmel is one of the oldest settlements in this part of the State and it was the home of the parents of ~~Mr. and Mrs.~~ Williams. ~~Mr. and Mrs. Williams~~ They pointed out that this plan showed to whom the lots in this town belonged, ~~and it was very interesting to know just where all the early settlers lived.~~

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

Miss Lola Griffith, of Prentiss, Mississippi has in her possession two tax receipts left to her by her father, H.T. Griffith, Sr. Charlie Mikell gave them to Mr. Griffith for safe keeping and the receipts are really the property of Mr. Mikell. The receipts originally belonged to I.I. Mikell, father of Charlie Mikell. ~~Miss Griffith related this to Mrs. McLaurin, Supervisor, when she called on Miss Griffith to secure some information relative to the receipts.~~ One receipt is dated 1854 and the other 1855. One is a receipt for the amount of $3.97 on 160 acres of land, poll tax, 1 clock and two slaves. The other one is for the amount of $3.55 on the same property. These receipts are signed by the Sheriff of Lawrence County.

2. Historians:

(a) None

(b) None

(c) None

(d) None

(e) Mr. G.M. Milloy, attorney and also noted for his excellent memory concerning the early history of Jefferson Davis County, ~~was contacted by Mrs. Stewart, canvasser, in regard to this subject. Mrs. Stewart learned from Mr. Milloy that~~ Told us that Prentiss is the largest town and county seat. At a special election held in April, 1906, the county seat was settled in favor of Prentiss when Prentiss and Carson were both candidates. Prentiss, being the central part of the county, has since the creation of the county been the county seat and is today a prosperous little city.

3. Officials and Ex-Official:

(a) None

(b) None

(c) None

4. Any Other Interesting Interviews:

None

Gladys McLaurin

Mrs. Gladys McLaurin, Supervisor
Historical Research, Jeff. Davis Co.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Topic of Assignment - Wars
Names of Canvassers-R. Stewart, V. Smith and L. Burkett
Date of Compilation-May 7, 1936

Copy

Assgn

I.

(a) Among the soldier boys from Jefferson Davis County who took an active part in the World War are: Howard E. Rush, Robert Rush, Claude Burkett, Virgil McNease, Fred Bass, Robert Bass, R.C. Stewart, Charlie D. Stewart, B.E. Magee, George M. Garner, J.C. Luper, J.S. Magee, John M. Holloway, Roscoe C. Berry, Griff Lee, Leon Brinson, Dr. Jim Magee, Clyde King, W.C. Barnette, Boyce Barnette, Ted Bozeman, Arthur Tyrone, Tom Bullock, I.H. Applewhite, Grover Luper, Sam Garner, and Hope Burkett.

No other parents in Jefferson Davis County contributed more to the World War than did Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Rush of Prentiss. They had four boys in service at one time, namely: Claude, Pat, Robert and Howard. Howard died in action and Robert died from after effects of the war, while the other two boys returned home safely.

Howard E. Rush belonged to the 320th Field Artillery. He was in a number of battles. He was killed in service October 16, 1918, while bringing a wounded comrade to a first aid post. It was said of him by his superior officers that he was an A-1 man and as brave as they made them.

Robert Rush was ranked as a Corporal. He was so severely gassed and shell shocked that he never regained his health after returning home and he died later in Port Arthur, Texas. (Data from Mrs. W.W. Rush, Prentiss, Miss.)

Claude Burkett volunteered and was called out August 5, 1917. He was in training at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi and at Camp Beauregard. He was sent to France as a replacement June 16, 1918 and was transferred to 319 Field Artillery, 82 Division, stationed at Lacourtine, France. He stayed here a month and was then sent to Marbache Sector. His company held this sector for a month and was then sent to St. Miheil Front where they participated in this battle. Mr. Burkett was moved from here to Meuse Argonne where he fought in a battle for thirty-four days without relief. Mr. Burkett was

in a hospital in France when the Armistice was signed. (Information from Claude Burkett, Bassfield, Mississippi)

Virgil McNease died a noble and heroic death in the Argonne Forest drive in 1918. His body was brought back to Jefferson Davis County for burial in October, 1921.(Data from Newspaper, Pr ntiss Headlight, October, 20, 1921, edition.)

Fred Bass volunteered as a private and went to three camps for training. While in Camp Beauregard, La., he was commissioned as First Lieutenant and later was commissioned as Captain of Dention Corps. He went to Paris, France and was stationed there until Armistice was signed.(Information from Allton Bass, Brother of Fred, Bassfield, Miss.)

Robert Bass volunteered as a private and was in three training camps. While in Camp at Jackson, he was made First Sergeant. He was later sent to DeJean, France where he was in Battery D, 140 Field Artillery.(Data from Claude Burkett,Cousin of Robert, Bassfield, Miss.)

R.C. Stewart engaged in four battles. They were: Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse Argonne. In the Meuse Argonne Battle, he went to the front twice and started for the third time when news was received that the Armistice would be signed.(Data from Mr. Stewart,himself)

Charlie Stewart took an active part in the Meuse Argonne Battle.(Information from Mr. Stewart himself)

B.E. Magee participated in two battles; he fought in the Meuse Argonne Battle and also in the battle of St. Mihiel.(Data from Mr. Magee)

Dr. J.C. Luper held the rank of Lieutenant in Dental Section Reserve Corps. (Data from Prentiss Headlight,May 29, 1919, edition.)

George M. Garner was commissioned as Sergeant in Sec. 14, R.U. No. 322, M.T.C., American E P A P O 713 A (From Prentiss Headlight,May, 1919)

J.S. Magee enlisted as private but was promoted to rank of Lieutenant. (From Headlight, April 10, 1919, edition)

John M. Holloway was a member of the Second U.S. Engineers. They sailed for France in September 1917, Lieutenant Holloway going with them as First Sergeant of his company. In the re-organization of troops in France, Lieutenant Holloway's company was placed with the famous "Rainbow Division". After several weeks of training his company was placed near the Toul sector to do observation work. With their observation training finished, Company B, of Second U.S. Engineers was sent to the Front near Nancy. Later it was sent to St. Mihiel and Verdun to do special service. When the Germans concentrated their forces before Paris in in March 1918, Company B was sent to the front near Chateau Thierry and held in reserve for a counter attack. It was in this fight that Lieutenant Holloway saw active service and in many instances was in hand to hand fights with the Boche, in the drive at Soissions, the capture of Laons, Storming of Meziers, Sedan, Neufchateau and many other adjacent villages and towns. (Information secured from Newspaper, Prentiss Headlight, Feb. 20, 1919, edition.)

Roscoe C. Berry held the rank of Sergeant. (From Headlight, May 15, 1919, edition)

Griff Lee was commissioned a Lieutenant during the War. (Headlight, June 19, 1919, edition.)

Leon Brinson served on the fighting line in several battles. (Headlight, May 15, 1919, edition.)

Dr. Jim Magee held the rank of Captain of a Medical Corps. (headlight, July 25, 1919, edition)

Clyde King died a noble death on the firing line. He was the first soldier to be buried in this county.)Headlight, May 15, 1919)

Two Barnette Brothers, W.C. and Boyce, were both Sergeants during the War.(Headlight, May, 9, 1918, edition)

Ted Bozeman was commissioned as Second Lieutenant.(Headlight

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

March 7, 1918)

Arthur Tyrone served for some time on the front. He belonged to Bat. E, 141st F.A. He was a private. (Information Headlight, May,15, 1919)

Tom Bullock died from wounds received in a battle. His body was brought back to this county for burial. (Information from Mrs. Alpha Bullock, Sister-in-law of Tom, Prentiss, Miss.)

I. H. Applewhite was in five battles, namely; German Offensive in March along North from toward Calais, German Offensive along Marne in July, Marne-Velse, American, French Offensive, St. Mihiel, and Meuse Argonne. Mr. Applewhite was in Thiacourt sector near Metz at close of War. (Information from Mr. Applewhite, himself)

Grover Luper belonged to 142nd Division, Rainbow Division. He was on the front as supply Sergeant during Argonne Forest Battle. He was stationed at Fleville, France. (Information from Mr. Luper personally)

Sam Garner saw active service in several battles. He was seriously wounded in one battle but recovered. (From I.F. Dale, member of American Legion, Prentiss, Mississippi)

Hope Burkett saw active service in several battles. (Information from George Burkett, brother of Hope, Prentiss, Mississippi)

(b) There are only three Spanish American War Veterans in this county. They are: Phil Lebeis, Rupert E. Wilson and Dr. E.N. Blount.

Mr. Lebeis enlisted from James County, New York for five years and served his term. He stayed in the service until the war ended. He was a Corporal. He was in two engagements in Phillipino. He has been a resident of this county for five years. (From Mr. Lebeis, himself)

Rupert E. Wilson enlisted from Rankin County, Mississippi. He was in the service eight months. He served as a private. He was stationed at Chickamauga,Ga., and was there when war was over.(From Mr. Wilson)

Dr. Blount enlisted from Covington County, Mississippi. He was in the service three years. He was a private in Hospital Corps of U.S. Army. He served at St. Louis, San Francisco, Phillipine Islands. He has been a resident of this county for 31 years. (From Dr. Blount, himself)

(c) There are only two surviving veterans of the Civil War in Jefferon Davis County. They are Sam Harper, aged 98, and Pickens Brady, aged 90.

Mr. Harper's mind is very active in spite of his age and he relates some very interesting stories of the war in which he played an active part. He volunteered and was enlisted February 22, 1862. He was 24 years of age when he enlisted. His Captain was T.D. Magee from Mt. Carmel. J.O. Buchanan was his Lieutenant from Mt. Olive. The first battle Mr. Harper was in was at New Hope Church, Ga. The next was at Kennoson Mountain near Atlanta, another at Pine Mountain near Atlanta; one at Altoona Station, Ga.; another at Blakely, Ala. He was wounded in the leg at Franklin, Tenn. and stayed in the hospital several weeks after which he was transferred to Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi. (Data from Mr. Harper,himself)

Mr. Brady saw 10 months active service. He was stationed in Attala County, Mississippi, near Double Springs. He was in Colonel Woods Regiment, Stubbs Batallion. (Data from Mr. Brady,himself)

At this time there are thirteen widows of Civil War Veterans in this county who receive pensions. They are: Mrs. Rosanna Branton, Mrs. C.L. Baker, Mrs. M.E. Davis, Mrs. Elizabeth Easterling, Mrs. Mary Jane Walker, Mrs. Winnie Lee, Mrs. Sarah Dykes, Mrs. India Hathorn, Mrs. Mattie Milloy, Mrs. Fannie Polk, Mrs. Amanda McPhail, Mrs. Joanna Robbins and Mrs. Leona Williams. (From Chancery Clerk, Jeff. Davis County)

There are about 41 surviving slaves in this county. (From ERA Director, Jeff.Davis Co.)

(d) None

(e) None

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

(f) None

2. Copy is attached to manuscript. This is not a roster but it is a list as nearly correct as could be gotten.

3. An exploit in which an active part was taken by a Jefferson Davis County boy was performed by John Milton Holloway. He received many commendations signed by both American and French Commanders. The most highly prized of them all being the Croix-de-Guerre by the French for gallantry in action. At St. Etienne-a-Ames, the town located as it was on an elevation with the Americans on the west in a valley and the Germans on the east hold the river and two bridges opposite the town. The Americans had captured the town in the forenoon but were forced to evacuate it by mid-day. It was necessary to locate the two bridges before storming the town in the afternoon, in order to destroy them with the artillery. Young Holloway, knowing the enemy had reoccupied the town, proceeded cautiously into the place, climbed on a housetop and with field glasses located the two bridges, working under fire the entire time, escaped under fire from the enemy, reported the location of the bridges and they were soon destroyed. The enemy was couped and the town held by the Americans before sun-set.(Newspaper,Headlight, August, 1921 edition)

4. After careful canvassing and reading all available material, we were unable to secure any record of the First Mississippi Regiment.

Mrs Gladys McLaurin

Mrs. Gladys McLaurin, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FORMATION

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Topic of Assignment-Topography of County
Names of Canvassers-V. Smith and L. Burkett
Date of compilation-April 10, 1936

I. WATER-SHEDS

a. There are no rivers in Jefferson Davis County. There are ten minor creeks, namely: Silver, East and West Prong, Whitesand, Big and Little, Bowie, Green's, Holliday's, Dry, Nigger, Black, Gum Swamp, and Clear Run. These are so named for the following reasons: Silver because of the bright, glistening appearance of the water; Whitesand because of the abundance of white sand on the banks of the stream; Bowie, origin of name could not be determined; Green's, because of the mass of green growth in the bed of the creek; Holliday's was named for a family of the same name who formerly lived near the source of this creek; Nigger Creek was named Nigger due to the fact that a white man came from Georgia and settled out on this creek bringing with him the first family of negroes to settle there. Soon after they settled one of the negroes fell into the creek and drowned. Since that time this stream has been Nigger Creek; Gum Swamp was so named for the massive gum trees growing all along it; Clear Run because of the clearness and brightness of the stream; the origin for the names of Dry Creek and Black Creek could not be determined. There are several small creeks and branches in the county but they are all tributaries of the above named streams. (For reference as to correctness of above statements see M.C. Tyrone, Alex Robbins, Sam Harper.)

b. All of these ten streams flow south. Silver, Whitesand, Dry, Green's and Holliday's flow into the Pearl River; Bowie, Gum Swamp, Clear Run, Black and Nigger Creeks empty into the Pascagoula River. (Information derived from a soil map of Jefferson Davis County.)

c. The effect of these creeks on the county is not very noticeable.

"The effect on health of the habitants of the county is none; however the effect on the soil is apparent in that the land is sufficiently drained for agricultural use." These streams have no noticeable effect on the health of the county people. They are beneficial in the way of affording drainage for the County.

II. ELEVATION

a. The highest point in the county is located in the northern part of the county in beat 4, township 9, Range 18 west. The elevation at this point is 500 ft. above sea level. (Information from G.G. Mangum)

b. In the southern part of the county in beat 2, township 5, Range 19 west, is the lowest point in the county, where the bottoms are less than 200 feet above sea level. (Information from G.G. Mangum)

c. "In the southwestern corner of the county lies the Pearl River bottoms and in the southwestern corner lies the Bowie Creek bottoms. These bottoms are located in the southwestern corner of the county, and are found in the southeastern part. These bottoms are inundated for short periods by heavy rainfalls but between rains they are fairly well drained. There are bottom lands lying along the East Prong of Silver Creek in the northwestern part of the county, and along Bowie Creek in the northeastern part of the county, and also along Whitesand Creek in the north central part of the county."

a. None

e. "Found throughout the county are high ridges extending far down between the different lines of drainage, but seldom too steep for cultivation except where the gullies lead down from the ridge top, where it is quite steep. On the steeper slopes the soil is subject to erosion and careful terracing is necessary."

III. LAKES-MARSHES-BAYOUS

a. None

There are no natural lakes in the county.

IV. SPRINGS, WELLS, AND MINERAL WATERS

a. About seven miles north of Prentiss is a spring known as Betsy Spring. It is well known because of its bountiful supply of cool, refreshing

water and also because it is from this spring that Whitesand Creek has its source. ~~It was~~ The spring was so named because ~~there once lived an old lady near this spring by the name of Betsy Williams who used water from this spring.~~ it once furnished water to Betsy Williams, an old lady of pioneer days. There are many other fresh water springs in the county that supply rural people with water for drinking and other purposes. ~~None are very well known only locally by people who get their water supply from these springs.~~

b. Wells

1. There are no artesian wells or mineral waters in Jefferson Davis County. There are only ordinary wells. These wells vary in depth from 40 to 120 feet. ~~On the high places the wells go deeper than on level places. In the wells that go from 60 to 120 feet there is always a bountiful supply of water to be found that is much cooler than water from a shallow well. The water from most of the wells in the county is soft water.~~ There are five deep wells in the county. Two of these wells supply the town of Prentiss with running waterwhich upon being tested has proved to be 100% pure and soft water. The other three wells are located one each at Bassfield for town water supply, at Bourn's Gin in town of Prentiss for private use and one at Prentiss Ice Company's Plant for private use. All these deep wells are 160 feet in depth. (Information from Jno. Sanford, Town Marshall)

2. None

c. None

1 None

Gladys McLaurin

Mrs. Gladys McLaurin, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Topic of Assignment - Soils and Minerals
Names of Canvassers - V. Smith, R. Stewart, and L. Burkett
Date of Compilation - May 8, 1936

I. SOILS

1. The soils of this county are derived chiefly from sedimentary materials of Coastal Plain formations, that is, from beds of sand, sandy clays, and heavy clays, with some local beds of gravel, consisting mainly of chert and quartz. The material of these beds is recognized to have been deposited under marine conditions. It was transported by water from soils representing the decayed products of granite, schist, and other igneous rocks, sandstones, shale, and limestone. In the process of transportation the particles underwent some chamge from abrasion, and were assorted, the fine particles of clay and silt being deposited in deep or quiet water. The coarser particles, and possibly much of the finer material, are chiefly quartzose in character.

2. In Jefferson Davis County sixteen soil types are encountered. They are the Orangeburg fine sandy loam, Ruston sandy loam, Ruston sand, Ruston fine sandy loam, Ruston silt loam, Pheba silt loam, Caddo fine sandy loam, Susquehanna fine sandy loam, Susquehanna silt loam, Cahaba fine sandy loam, Kalmia fine sandy loam, Kalmia silt loam, Ochlockonee fine sandy loam, Ochlockonee silt loam, Bibb fine sandy loam and Bibb silt loam.

The Orangeburg fine sandy loam is a brownish-gray to slightly reddish brown fine sandy loam. The surface ranges from gently rolling to gently and moderately sloping. Drainage is thorough although some of the longer cultivated fields have been seriously injured by wash. The soils of this type are derived from sedimentary material of the Coastal Plain. In some places the surface soil is coarser than is typical, consisting

Copy

assign 7

#3

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, SOILS AND MINERALS

of loamy fine sand.

Ruston sandy loam typically consists of a gray sand or loamy sand passing at about 5 inches into light-gray sand or loamy sand underlain at 12 to 18 inches by a reddish-yellow to dull red, friable sandy clay. This soil has a gently rolling to steeply rolling surface. It is derived from sedimentary material of the Coastal Plain. The surface drainage is good to excessive.

The type soil known as Ruston sand consists of about 4 to 8 inches of grayish loose sand, underlain by reddish-yellow sand, which is slightly more loamy, especially in the lower subsoil. This type soil is from Coastal Plain deposits. It is loose and unretentive and is subject to erosion.

The typical Ruston fine sandy loam is a grayish fine sandy loam which passes at an average depth of about 5 inches into pale yellowish brown fine sandy loam. This, in turn, grades at about 8 to 15 inches into a dull red or yellowish red to reddish-yellow friable fine sandy clay. In some places the lower subsoil, below a depth of about 30 inches is quite compact and more yellowish in color, with grayish and yellowish mottlings. In places the soil is a gray, loamy fine sand or fine sandy loam, which passes abruptly into the fine sandy clay subsoil. Drainage is well established. This soil is derived from the sedimentary material of the Coastal Plain. The surface is gently rolling to steeply rolling.

The Ruston silt loam consists of a gray or light gray silt loam grading at an average depth of about 3 inches into a pale yellowish silt loam, which quickly passes into yellowish silty clay. The surface soil usually contains appreciable quantities of fine sand or very fine sand and in places ranges to a very fine sandy loam. The drainage is good. This soil is derived from sedimentary origin and occurs on level hilltops and

very gentle slopes.

The typical Pheba silt loam is a grayish silt loam passing at about 3 to 5 inches into pale yellow silt loam to silty clay loam, which in turn quickly grades into yellow, moderately friable clay. The lower subsoil characteristically is decidedly compact and mottled with gray and yellowish brown. The surface ranges from nearly level to gently undulating. The origin of this soil is not clear. It is either of sedimentary origin or has been influenced by loess. The drainage is fair.

The Caddo fine sandy loam consists of a grayish fine sandy loam, underlain at about 5 or 6 inches by a pale yellow fine sandy loam. This quickly passes into yellow fine sandy clay, resting at lower depths upon a compact stratum of mottled yellow and gray clay. The drainage ranges from fair to poor as the type occupies comparatively low, gentle slopes or flat situations. The origin is not known.

The surface soil of the typical Susquehanna fine sandy loam is a grayish fine sandy loam, the color changing to yellowish at an average depth of about 5 inches. The subsoil is encountered at about 8 to 12 inches and consists of a dull red, plastic clay, mottled with gray. In many places gray or drab is the prevailing color in the lower subsoil, though frequently yellow or greenish yellow or greenish yellow predominates. The surface is gently to steeply sloping. The surface drainage is fair, and in places good, but the underdrainage is not well developed. This soil is derived from beds of heavy clay of sedimentary origin.

The Cahaba fine sandy loam consists of a gray, brownish-gray or reddish brown loamy fine sand to fine sandy loam, underlain at about 6 to 14 inches by reddish-yellow to yellowish-red fine sandy clay. Drainage is well established. The origin is from old alluvium which was deposited from stream overflows.

The Kalmia fine sandy loam is a gray to brownish-gray fine sandy

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, SOILS AND MINERALS

loam or heavy fine sandy loam, underlain at about 8 to 12 inches by a pale yellow or yellow silty clay loam which grades into yellow moderately friable, silty clay. The lower subsoil is frequently mottled with gray and is quite compact in places. The surface is level and drainage is not well established. The origin is from alluvium laid down from stream overflows.

The Kalmia silt loam consists of a grayish silt loam, underlain at 3 to 5 inches by pale yellow or mottled yellowish and grayish silt loam to silty clay loam. This passes at about 6 to 10 inches into a yellow clay, which usually is quite plastic and mottled with gray in the lower part of the 3 foot section. In places the surface soil is grayish brown. Black concretions are of common occurrence, especially in the lower part of the subsoil. The surface is flat and the drainage is poor. This soil also has its origin from alluvium laid down by stream overflows.

The Ochlockonee fine sandy loam, to a depth of 8 to 14 inches, is a brown fine sandy loam, underlain by lighter brown or yellowish brown heavy fine sandy loam to fine sandy clay. The surface is practically flat. The type is subject to inundation but is mainly well drained between floods. This soil is from Coastal Plain deposits.

The Ochlockonee silt loam is a brown to dark brown, mellow silt loam, passing gradually into lighter brown or yellowish-brown silty clay loam to silty clay. In places the subsoil is slightly mottled with grayish brown or reddish brown, and pockets or thin layers of sandy material are sometimes encountered. The surface is level. The drainage is fair but the type is inundated after heavy rains. This soil is also from Coastal Plain deposits.

The Bibb fine sandy loam is a grayish fine sandy loam, underlain at about 5 to 8 inches by a light-gray or whitish fine sandy loam, which

grades into mottled grayish and yellowish fine sandy loam to fine sandy clay. The surface is level and the drainage is poor. The material is of alluvial origin.

The typical Bibb silt loam is a gray silt loam, which passes below into light-gray or whitish silty loam, and this into light-gray or whitish, compact silty clay or silty clay loam, mottled with yellowish brown and rusty brown, and containing usually some small black and brown concretions. Mottlings of rusty brown are present in both the surface and subsurface material. The surface is low and bottomly and the drainage is poor. The material is of alluvial origin.

3. There are 9 soil series in Jefferson Davis County. They are as follows: Orangeburg, Ruston, Pheba, Caddo, Susquehanna, Cahaba, Kalmia, Ochlockonee, and Bibb. The Orangeburg soils are friable and grayish in color, with red subsoils. In this county they occur, as a rule, on hillsides and on the slopes of stream valleys. The Ruston series is characterized by the grayish color of the surface soils and the reddish-yellow to yellowish-red color and friable structure of the subsoils. The soils of the Pheba series are gray to brownish or yellowish gray, and the subsoils are yellow, mottled with gray and brown in the lower part. The soils of the Caddo series are characterized by the gray to yellow color of the surface soils and by the mottled gray and yellow or gray, yellow and red color and rather stiff structure of the subsoil. The types of the Susquehanna series have grayish surface soils and mottled grayish, reddish, and yellowish plastic subsoils. The surface soils of the Cahaba series are brown to reddish brown, and the subsoils are yellowish red to reddish brown. The Kalmia series is characterized by grayish soils and by yellowish moderately friable subsoils, mottled somewhat with gray in the lower portions. These soils occur on second bottoms which are rarely or never overflowed. The

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, SOILS AND MINERALS

Ochlockonee soils are dark gray to brownish, with brownish or mottled brownish, yellowish, and grayish subsoils. They are composed principally of wash from Coastal Plain soils. The soils of the Bibb series occur in stream bottom land areas where the drainage is poor between overflows. On account of their poor drainage the soils have a gray or light gray color and the subsoils a light gray or mottled gray and yellow color.

4. The Ruston sandy loam is best suited to cotton growing with corn second in importance while oats and cowpeas are grown to a small extent. Ruston sand is of little value because of its loose, unretentive soil and the liability to erosion. This type has been partly cleared but is not cultivated. Ruston fine sandy loam is a very important agricultural soil. Cotton is the leading crop. Corn is grown, but hardly to sufficient extent to supply the farm requirements. The Ruston Silt Loam Type is not extensive and does not play an important part in the agriculture of the county. Probably 60 or 70 per cent of it is cultivated. It is a fairly productive soil. Cotton and corn are the principal crops grown. The Pheba silt loam type is not important in the agricultural economy of the county, because of its low natural productiv ness. A large part of this type is still forested or has only recently been cut over. About 20m to 30 per cent is under cultivation. Cotton and corn are the principal crops. This type furnishes good pasturage for hogs and cattle. The Caddo fine sandy loam is comparatively undeveloped. Much of it is syndicate-owned timber land. Cotton and corn, with a small acreage of oats, are the principal crops grown on this type. About 30 per cent of the Susquehanna fine sandy loam type is cleared and about half of this is in cultivation. Cotton and corn are the chief crops grown. This type is also used to some extent for pasture. The Susquehanna silt loam soil has been avoided as farming land. About 10 per cent of its total area is in cultivation. It is used for pasture land and for the cultivation of

cotton and corn. Owing to the level topography, and the warm, productive, well aerated soil, the Cahaba fine sandy loam type is classed with the best land in the county for general farming. Corn is well adapted to this soil as is also cotton. About half of the total area of the Kalmia fine sandy loam soil is used for farming and it is also considered good farm land with cotton the leading crop. Sugar cane is also grown on this type to good advantage. Not more than 15 per cent of the Kalmia silt loam type is used for farming. Lespedza succeeds on this soil and various native grasses valuable for pasturage grow abundantly. Cotton and corn are the principal crops grown. Cotton and corn are grown to about an equal extent on the Ochlockonee fine sandy loam type. 60 or 70 per cent of this type is utilized for farming. Forage crops also do well on this soil. The Ochlockonee silt loam type is largely utilized for farming. It is a very strong and durable soil. Sugar cane gives heavy yields on this type soil but cotton and corn are the principal crops. The Bibb fine sandy loam type is unimportant both in extent and in agricultural value. Little of this type is cleared and it is used mainly as pasture. The Bibb silt loam soil is not cultivated in this county. It is used principally as pasture, the native lespedza affording good grazing. (Data from Soil Survey of Jefferson Davis County, Miss. by T.M. Bushnell, in Charge, and L. Vincent Davis, 1916.)

5. None

6. None

II. MINERALS

1. None

2.

(a) None

(b) None

(c) There are small quantities of brick clay and white clay scattered over Jefferson Davis County. However the majority of this clay is found

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, SOILS AND MINERALS

on the dividing line of the county extending through the county from near the middle of the north county line southward through Carson and Bassfield, and crossing the southern boundary line in range 17. This clay has never been utilized for commercial purposes and is not used locally for any purpose.(Data from G.G. Mangum, Field Representative,Federal Land Bank, Prentiss, Mississippi)

(d) None

(e) None

(f) None

(g) None

(h) None

(i) None

Mrs Gladys McLaurin

Mrs. Gladys McLaurin, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, SOILS AND MINERALS

AG

RFT

(1) Orig

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Topic of Assignment - Forest and Fauna
Names of Canvassers- V. Smith, L. Burkett and R. Stewart
Date of Compilation - May 28, 1936

Assgn 8 3

1. FOREST RESERVES:

a. National

None

b. State Parks

None

c. Forest Nurseries

None

There are no National Forest Reserves no state parks and no forest nurseries in our county.

Written

Group at end

2. FOREST TREES AND FOREST TYPES: *

a. The pines, cedar and cypress are ~~prominent~~ conifers in Jefferson Davis County. # Pines are divided into five species. They are loblolly, ~~pine~~, longleaf, ~~pine~~, shortleaf, ~~pine~~, slash ~~pine~~, and spruce pine. The loblolly pine may be distinguished from the several other pines by its having three leaves or "straws" in each cluster, deeply divided and rough bark, and very prickly burrs, which when closed are about the size of a duck's egg. The leaves vary mostly from 5 to 8 inches in length and the burrs from 3 to 5 inches. The loblolly is generally larger in size at the same age of other pines, has heavier and longer branches and longer leaves (straws) of a ~~bluish~~ green color. (Information from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmer's Bulletin No. 1517) # Longleaf ~~pine~~ is undoubtedly the most widely known or recognized of all the southern pines. The leaves are mostly from 8 to 15 inches in length and always grow three in a bundle or sheath. The bark is made up of broad, smooth scales. The stem of the tree is straight and averages a little smaller in diameter at any given age than that of the short-leaf, lobolly, or slash pines. The taproot of this pine is nearly as large as the tree just below the surface. The wood ~~of longleaf~~ is harder, stronger and heavier than that of ~~all the~~

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

other ~~southern~~ pines except the slash pine, a close relative. (Data from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Farmer's Bulletin No. 1486) # The distinguishing characteristics of the shortleaf pine are that the leaves or straws are mostly from 3 to 5 inches in length and occur in clusters of either two or three. The cones or burrs are mostly about 2 inches long, with very fine prickles on the cone scales. The trunk is remarkably straight and clean. (From U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Farmer's Bulletin No. 1671.) # The main characteristics by which slash pine may be indentified are the 2-leaf or 3-leaf clusters of long, dark-green leaves; the slender prickle on the cone, pointing straight or slightly curved upward, ~~on the lustrous-brown scale of the fresh mature cone~~; and the early spring candle or shoot, which is light gray, erect, and about one-half inch in diameter. (From U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Farmer's Bulletin No. 1256.) # Spruce pine or cedar pine is characterized by leaves occuring in clusters of two, and are soft, slender, dark green, and mostly from 2 to 3 inches long. The cones are single or in clusters of 2 to 3 inches on short stout stalks. They are one-half to 2 inches long, reddish brown in color and rather lustrous, with thin scales armed with small weak prickles. The bark on young trees and on the upper part of the trunks is smooth, pale gray, becoming noticeable dark on the lower part of the older trees, and slightly and irregularly divided by shallow fissures into flat connected ridges. The wood is light, soft, brittle, close grained and not very strong. (From Extension Bulletin No. 32, May 1929, Forest Trees of Mississippi.) # There are two types of cedar, white and red. The branches of the white cedar or Juniper are very shortnand horizontal, so that even when grown in the open the tree has a long, narrow, conical shape. The leaves are minute, scale like, overlapping, ~~four-ranked,~~ of a bluish green color, and entirely cover the ends

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, FOREST AND FAUNA

of the slender, drooping twigs. The fruit is a rather conspicuous, smooth cone, nearly round, about one-fourth inch in diameter, maturing in one year and containing from four to eight winged seeds. The bark is quite thin, varies in color from ashy gray to light reddish brown, and readily separates into loose plate like scales, which easily peel off in long fibrous strips. The wood is light, soft, close grained, slightly fragrant, especially in contact with water. (From Extension Bulletin No. 32, May, 1929, Forest Trees of Mississippi.) On red cedar are found two kinds of leaves, usually both kinds being found on the same tree. The two kinds of flowers are at the end of minute twigs on separate trees. The fruit, which matures in one season, is pale blue often with a white bloom, one quarter of an inch in diameter, berry-like, enclosing one or two seeds in the sweet flesh. The bark is very thin, reddish brown, peeling off in long, shred like strips. The heart wood is distinctly red, and the sapwood white. (From Extension Bulletin No. 32, May, 1929, Forest Trees of Mississippi.) The cypress, or bald cypress is a tree found exclusively in deep swamps, which are usually flooded for long periods at a time. The bark is silvery to cinnamon red, and finely divided by numerous longitudinal fissures. The leaves are about one-half to three-fourths of an inch in length, arranged in featherlike fashion along two sides of small branchlets, which fall in the autumn with the leaves still attached. The fruit is a rounded cone or "ball", about one inch in diameter, consisting of thick irregular scales. The wood is light, soft, easily worked, and varies in color from a light sapwood to dark brown heartwood. (From Extension Bulletin No. 32, May 1929, Forest Trees of Mississippi.)

b. The hardwood [illegible] in this county consists of oak, maple, gum, dogwood, hickory, birch, black locust, elm, sycamore, magnolia, ironwood, poplar, willow, ash, and catalpa. (From L.E. Bethea, New Hebron, Miss.)

May 27, 1936.)

c. The ~~forest type of~~ fruit bearing trees here are crabapple, beechnut, chestnut, cherry, mulberry, persimmon, huckleberry, sloe, mayhaw, black haw, scarlet haw, [illegible], plum, walnut, and chinquapin. These trees are not used to any commercial advantage. They are valued because of the fruit they bear for the home use of people in this county. (From L.E. Bethea, New Hebron, Miss, May 27, 1936.)

3. LOCATION AND EXTENT OF WOODLANDS:

The forests of this county are widely scattered and not nearly so dense as they were several years ago. ~~The majority of~~ Most of the timber in this county was pine, ~~and it has all been cut.~~ (~~From D.L. Johnson, Bassfield, Miss. May 25, 1936.~~)

~~4. ECONOMIC VALUE OF FORESTS:~~

~~a.~~ The black locust is a good soil conserver and by virtue of its root nodules, it is naturally a soil enricher, ~~The pine is also~~ and it is also used.

~~b. The black locust is~~ used to prevent soil erosion, ~~The locust~~ because it has a strong, spreading root system, ~~which makes it of much value in checking erosion.~~

~~c.~~ The live oak, cotton wood, silver maple are commonly used as a protection against extreme temperatures. For protection of stock in winter the maple, beech, gum and oak are mostly used.

FOREST PRODUCTS

~~d.~~ Timber has long afforded a considerable part of the net cash income from the farm. However most of the pine timber has been cut. The hardwood is sold and used for many things. Selling timber in the form of cordwood, logs, poles, crossties, pulpwood or other products means an increase in income. (All from D.L.Johnson, Bassfield, Miss. May 25, 1936)

5. ~~PRODUCTS FROM THE HOME FOREST:~~ Kind and Amount

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, FOREST AND FAUNA

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Supplement to Assignment # 8, Forest and Fauna
Date of Compilation-Sept. 28, 1936
Name of Canvasser-Verda McPhail

5. Products From The Home Forest: Kind and Amount.

The major part of the products from the forests of this county consists of pine, short leaf, long leaf and rosemary, oak and gum. Some of the pine is found in tracts but most of it is scattered. In the northwestern part of the county in the Old Hebron Community is an 80-A tract of short leaf pine timber belonging to Mrs. John B. Riley. In the eastern part of the county near Bassfield are two tracts of long leaf pine timber which have been sold recently to Lott and Riley, sawmill operators of Bassfield. This timber is reported to give this mill a run of four years time. There is some timber brought to this mill in small quantities. There is also a saw mill in the northwestern part of the county, but most of the products that are brought to this mill come out of Lawrence and Simpson Counties. Only small quantities from farmers is bought ~~in this county~~. (Information from Ed Boyanton, employee of sawmill, New Hebron, Mississippi, Sept. 27, 1936, and also from Alton Bass, resident of Bassfield, Bassfield, Mississippi, September 27, 1936)

A ~~great~~ amount of timber is used for poles, piling and cross ties in this vicinity. Most of these products come from farmers in small quantities. However there have been two tracts of timber purchased recently by a local dealer who will have poles, piling and cross ties made of the entire tracts. ~~xxxxxx~~(Information from W.I. Griffith, tie dealer, Prentiss, Miss. September 20, 1936)

Due to the fact that most of the timber in this county has been cut, there ~~xxxxxxxx~~ is a surplus of stumps which have been used to a

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Supplement To Assignment # 8, Forest and Fauna

commercial advantage. (From W.I. Griffith, Tie dealer, Prentiss, Miss., September 20, 1936)

W.I. Griffith, Prentiss, Mississippi is a local dealer in cross-ties, poles and piling. He buys in large and small quantities and ships by railroad to several different companies. He ships to Miss. Central Railroad, G.M.& N. Railroad, Public Creosoting Co., Indianapolis, Ind., Southern Wood and Preserving Co., Chattanooga, Tenn. Mr. Griffith is a member of the Cross Tie Association and receives the Cross Tie Bulletin listing the various buyers of his products. In this way he keeps in close touch with the business. Prices of poles vary from .60¢ to $1.25, piling varies from $1.25 to $4.00 and ties vary from .25¢ to .50¢; the price depending on the quality and size of product. Oak ties are considered better than the pine or gum. Farmers bring in the greater part of this material in small quantities. Mr. Griffith ships in car load lots. (From W.I. Griffith, dealer, September 27, 1936, Prentiss, Mississippi)

The manufactured lumber from the sawmills of this county is shipped and trucked out to various buyers wherever there is a market. No one concern buys all the products. The price of the manufactured product varies from $15 to $45 per M, while the raw product varies from $3.50 to $7.00 per M. (From Ed Boyanton, Sawmill employee, New Hebbron Mississippi, September 27, 1936)

The stumps are sold to the Hercules Powder Co., Hattiesburg, Miss. These stumps are dynamited out of the ground and trucked or shipped ~~to~~ by rail. Hattiesburg. The price of these stumps is usually $2.25 per ton. Not much profit is derived from the sale of stumps as the cost of delivery and labor very nearly equals amount of pay received for product. At

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, FOREST AND FAUNA

the Hercules Plant, the stumps are put through a process whereby several valuable products are derived from them. (From Ref W.I. Griffith, Prentiss, Mississippi, Sept. 27, 1936)

9. Improvement and reproduction of Home Forests.

Nothing whatever is being done along this line in ~~t~~this county.

10. Street and Highway Trees ~~- Kinds, planting and care of.~~

There are no trees along the streets of towns in this county. There has been some talk of putting out crepe myrtle along the streets of Prentiss but at this time it has not been done. Nothing is being done toward highway beautification in this county. There can be seen many pretty trees and shrubs along the highways but mother nature has done this and not citizens of the county.

11. Wild Flowers:

~~Kind and description~~;

Horse nettle is a small bushy plant that stings when one comes in contact with it. It has a small white flower.

Jimson Weed grows from 1 to 3 ft tall. It has a long, loght blue flower with a disagreeable ~~ordor~~ odor.

Sensitive Briar is a vine-like plant running on the ground, has little, fine leaves and pink, ball-shaped blooms. When the plant is touched it wilts.

White clover has ~~little~~ tiny white flowers. ~~The plant is very rough feeling.~~

Cow vetch has pinnately compound leaves, ending in tendrils. The stems are one to three feet long and tend to lie upon the ground. The flowers are purple pink and grow in clusters.

Wild Sweet William resembles the ~~tame~~ garden sweet william but ~~they are of more~~ the colors ~~than one~~ are; pink, lavender, blue. They grow about 16 inches tall.

Sneeze Weed begins to bloom in August. It has a yellow flower and blooms about 8 weeks. The plant grows to a height of 5 ft.

Dandelions grow in meadows and has a yellow flower.

Black-eyed Susans grow in old ~~brown out~~ land and meadows. The flowers are yellow with black centers.

Sunflowers are large yellow flowers that keep their faces turned to the sun. The plant grows to about 6 feet.

Goldenrod has small, yellow flowers growing in clusters.

Blazing Stars have beautiful ~~xxixxx~~ blooms, rose and purple in color. The plant grows about 36 in high.

Joe Pye Weed has a purple flower.

~~Rough lettuce is a tall slender plant growing in clumps. The leaves are are made like dandelion leaves.~~

~~Pepper Grass bears a small fruit with a spicy taste. The stem of the plant is usually a foot or so high.~~

~~Milk Weed~~ Milkweed has stout stem, two to five feet tall, with a dull purplish pink blossom.

~~Sow Thistle is a plant~~ bearing prickles ~~on the margin of the leaves.~~

Blue Aster is a plant bearing a small blue blossom.

~~Wood Sorrell is a small green plant with purplish leaves. The leaves are eaten by children sometimes.~~

Morning Glory is a vine found growing on fences and upon other plants. The flowers are a pretty blue in color and bloom early in the morning.

Passion Flower is a vine plant having a light blue flower. It also bears a berry that when ripe has a sweet odor.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, FOREST AND FAUNA

~~PAGE 5~~ 9

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Supplement to Assignment # 8, Forest and Fauna

Violets grow in concealed spots in the woods, ~~They~~ bloom in the spring. The blooms are small ~~x~~ and vary from ~~the big~~ blue with yellow centers to ~~the small~~ purple, ~~The max odor~~ of these blossoms ~~is~~ very fragrant. wild Rose is a thorny plant similiar to the tame rose. The blooms are pink and are easily shattered.

Honey Suckle grows in ~~the~~ swamps and damp places. The bushes sometimes grow to ~~a~~ tree size. The blooms are pink shaded to rose, and have a very sweet smell.

Jasmine is a vine running to a great height in trees. ~~The~~ foliage ~~is~~ dark green. The blooms grow in cluster ~~largely~~ and are ~~a~~ bright yellow. Jasmine blooms in the spring, ~~It~~ grows in swampy places and is often seen growing along the roadside.

Mullien grows in poor soil. It has a thick leaf and a yellow flower that ~~gro~~ grows on a long stem.

Poke Weed grows 4 to 6 feet tall, with big foliage and clusters of berries that turn purple when they are ripe.

Catnip is a small, low bush, with green foliage and small purple flowers. The leaves of this plant are used for making tea, ~~for babies~~. dried

Onion springs up in early spring. It has a small white and yellow flower with a disagreeable odor and grows on thrown-out land.

Butterfly Weed has orange colored flowers and grows about 2 feet tall.

Ox-eye Daisy is a tiny plant growing in meadows and pasture lands. The flowers are ~~blue~~ purple and lavender blooms. (~~Some is common knowledge and some from Biology Text Book "Our Living World"~~)

Ruth C. Sutton
Ruth C. Sutton, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, FOREST AND FAUNA

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

Topic of Assignment-Trees

Name of Canvasser-Georgia McGehee

Date of Compilation-April 28, 1937

Assignment # 25

1. Purpose - Location, preservation and history of certain trees.

1. Historic Trees.

At the present time there are no trees in Jefferson Davis County of any historical value. There were two big Oak trees at Mt. Carmel, in District one, that seven men were hanged on during the Civil War. We could not find out just why they were hanged. Mr. Adam Williams a resident of that section in later years said it was thought they were aiding deserters. These trees died in 1936.

We had another tree until just a few years back that a slave made his home in for a long time during the Civil war. He was hiding from his master. The trunk was spreading and large enough for a bed and other things that he used. He cut a door from the trunk of the tree and fitted back for a shutter. Further up the tree was a hole for ventilation. This tree is alos gone.

2. Largest trees.

The largest trees in Jeff. Davis County are oaks, beech, and pines.

3. Freak or unusual trees.

We have had a few freakish trees in Jefferson Davis County but none to be found at present.

There were two trees at Bethany church that grew on the same stump, black gum and sweet gum. This tree was cut down a few years ago. On this same church ground there were two giant re oaks, with pole that had grown bextween them. Holes were bored in this pole and pegs were driven in it for the women to hang their riding skirts on. These trees were cut down a few years ago.

4 Fine specimens of flowering trees.

No county in Mississippi can boast of prettier trees than Jefferson Davis. Giant oaks, hickory, maple gum both black and sweet, elm, beech and many others.

We have a great variety of ornamental and flowerig trees. Among the most beautiful of all our flowering trees are the tulip maple, cowcumber and flowering poplar. They are not so large but when in bloom they are georgeous. It is a beautiful sight to see, and a perfect picture, is the

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, TREES

cowcumber in bloom, resembling the magnolia but much larger. Their beauty is unhanced by their wide green foliage. These trees bloom in June and can be found along most any of the streams, as they require shade and moisture. No prettier scene can be witnessed anywhere than along Holidays Creek when these trees are in bloom.

Another beautiful tree that we have is the holly. There is one on the farm of Mrs. John Berry just outside of the corporation of Prentiss. It is the largest of its kind in the county, is a beautiful tree and perfect in shape. It would make a beautiful picture.

Among the beautiful tress are the dogwood, both pink and white, the redbud, and magnolia.

ll. Procedure:

A. Locate such trees.

b. List them by location and name.

1. Red Oak located in district five on the farm of John Laird.
2. Beech located in district four on the Nat Cole Place
3. Water oak located in district five on the farm of John Laird.

4. Holly located district one on the farm of Mrs.John Berry.
5. Cowcumber along Holidays Creek.
6. Flowering Poplar along the creek banks.

a. Name of tree, location and historic connections; also what is being done to preserve tree.

Red oak loxcated on the farm of John Laird. This tree has no historic connection and nothing is being done to preserve the tree.

2. Beech located on the Nat Cole place is a very old tree but nothing historically known about it. Nothing being done to preserve it.

3. Water oak located on the farm of John Laird is probably the oldest tree in the county. The pioneer settlers of this part of the county left this tree when they built their home. We have no way of telling just how old this tree is.

4. Holly located on the farm of Mrs. John Berry.It is not historically connected but is one of the largest and most beautiful of its kind. Nothing preserving it except nature. This was a large tree in 1906.

5. Cowcumber located on Holidays Creek. Nature is taking

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, TREES

care of this tree.

6. Flowering Poplar located on highway thirteen, eight miles south of Prentiss.

b. Location, species, and circumference four and one-half feet above ground.

Located on the farm of John Laird is a Red Oak tree which is thirteen feet in circumference.

Located on the farm of John Laird is a Water Oak which is twenty eight feet in circumference.

Located on the Nat Cole place is a Beech which is eighteen feet in circumference.

Located on the Madison Holcombe place five miles south east of Bassfield is a Red Oak which is fifteen feet and five inches in circumference.

c. Location, kind and description of the unique characteristics of the tree.

The above named trees have no unique characteristics and no historical value. The people of the county do not seem to be interested in taking care of the old trees. Most of them have been cut and made into wood.

The cowcumber blooms are similar to the magnolia except much larger.

The Flowering Poplar have blooms similar to tulips, and are a greenish yellow with orange tip.

The Redbud is a mass of purple flowers when in bloom.

Any of these trees would make a pretty picture if taken while in bloom.

(Information-Travel over the county and asked information from other people of the county.)

Lucile McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Prentiss, Mississippi
Jefferson Davis County.

Note: We have a large pine tree in this county that is four and one-half feet in diameter, sixty feet high and contains three thousand feet of lumber. It is said that it is the largest pine in the county. This tree is located on the plantation of Nat Cole.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, TREES

Topic of Assignment- Indians
Name of Canvassers- Georgie McGehee, Etta Waller, and Verda McPhail
Date of Compilation- February 22, 1937
Assignment # 9 (Supplement)

I. Early Inhabitants.

All of this territory of which Jefferson Davis is now a part belonged to the great Choctaw Tribe. The Choctaws were decendants of Chohta and his followers. They were one of the most powerful Indian Tribes in Mississippi.

No other Indian Tribe made greater advance in civilization than the Choctaws. They were honest and trustworthy in their dealings. They were good friends and bad enemies, for they never forgot a favor or forgave an injury. The men were physically strong, brave, and able to bear considerable pain without flinching. They were also fond of dress, and spent much of their time adorning themselves with paint, plumes, and jewelry of red, and blue color. They also wore fine metal ornaments for they learned early to make objects of metal.

By the treaty of Mount Dexter concluded November 16, 1805. The Choctaws ceded to the United States an exten sive area, in the Southern portion of the territory, between Amite and Tombigbee rivers comprising 5,987,00 acres, lying north of 31 parallel. From this area roughly speaking were formed 11 counties, from which Jefferson Davis was later formed.(Heart of the South Vol.II- Information)

The early settlers of this territory found many of these Indians here. They migrated down from Ninah Waiya in the southern part of Winston county, near the Neshoba line(orsupposed

to have) down Pearl River, and made their way inland to what is now Jefferson Davis County. (Information- Mississippi History)

At that time it was a vast forest, and good hunting ground. Wild life was plentiful, such game as deer, wild turkey, o'possums, coons, rabbit, beavers, pole cats, skunks, and wild-cats, hawks, and many other birds were here in abundance.

Stories have been handed down from generation to ~~xxxxx~~-generation how the white people (early settlers) ran the red men out. The Choctaws were friendly people, but those found here according to stories told seemed to be very hostile to the white man.

This story was told by Mr. Jeff.Lee, a resident living four miles north of Prentiss, handed down from his great-great-grandfather. The Indians would hide behind bushes and trees and often attack the white settlers unexpectedly.

The Indians had a camp or settlement at the head of ~~xxxxx~~ White-sand Creek. The white settlers decided to attack them. They armed themselves and attacked them early one morning. The Indians fled in confusion, leaving behind them in a clump of bushes, two-new-born babies. The w ite men found them and some of them wanted to kill them, others did not, so they held a little court. Mr. Lee acted as defense lawyer, and the little Indians lives were spared, and sent to the nearest Indian Tribe.

In the southern part of this county, before 1865, there lived according to the oldest citizens, a great number of Indians. Flints, broken pottery, and arrow heads are still to be

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, INDIANS

found in that community.

An old citizen living in that community now says he learned to predict weather from the Indians. If the first three days of February are cold and fair it will be a good fruit year, if warm and cloudy not much fruit. These Indians all left before the close of the war between the States. (Information- Alex Robbins, Bassfield, Miss. February 18, 1937)

b. Customs and Characteristics.

One of the customs which played a large part in Indian life were the Indian dances. Besides the exciting war dances there were many religious dances, and dances in honor of special events. One of their characteristics was their religious belief. The various Indian Tribes were very much alike, most of them believed in an powerful vision God called " The Great Spirit the Giver of Breath". They had no definite idea what this God was like, nor did they have any definite form of worship. They believed in heaven as a " Happy Hunting Ground" where game was plentiful, and Indians could hunt all day. Because of this belief most Indians were not afraid to die.

Indians had many strange beliefs, certain members of their tribes were considered holy. In time of a drought the rain maker was called upon to bring rain. By his prayers and magic spells he was supposed to be able to cause rain to fall.

The medicine man was called in to help people who were sick or in trouble. He had no knowledge of medicine or

surgery, but with hideous masks and strange mumbled woeds, he was supposed to drive out the spirit of devils that were making his patients ill. They also had prophets and fortume-tellers. The Choctaws were often called flat heads from their customs of compressing the heads of male children in infancy.

c. Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances.

There is a interesting legend told about the life of the great Choctaw Chief, Greenwood Le Flore.

His father Lewis Le Fleur was a Frenchmen who came here from Canada. That is how he got the name Le Fleur.

Lewis Le Fleur came to Mobile in the early days of the settlement. He owned a boat on the Mississippi, and grew rich in the extensive trade he carried on with the Indians of our State. One of his trading stations was " Le Fleur's Bluff" on Pearl River. In 1822 this place was elected as the capital and renamed Jackson. It was while trading with the Indians here that Le Fleur fell in love with a beautiful Indian girl named Rebecca. They married, and in 1800 their son Greenwood was born.

When Greenwood was twelve years old, his parents moved to Choctaw county and built a trading station on the Natchez Trace, which had been opened through there, from Natchez to Nashville. Le Fleur kept a hotel for travelers, and stage horses were changed at his place. As Le Fleur was a Frenchman, the place was called Rrench Camp, and you will find it so on your map today.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY /INDIANS

Le Fleur told stories of his younger days in Canada when he was the most popular man in his neighborhood. He was the best dancer among them, and they called him,"The Flower" of their balls. The French words for " the flower" are "le fleur", so he took that name isntead of his real one, and became Lewis Le Fleur since corrupted into Le Flore.

Major Donly carried the United States mail from Nashville to Natchez, and always stopped at French Camp. He took a great liking to little Greenwood and persuaded the father to let him the boy to Nashville to be educated. He took him to his own home and kept him for six years.

Before his stay was over, Greenwood fell in love with Posa Donly, and asked the major's consent to marry her. The major said they were both too young and then forgot all about it. One day Greenwood asked the major what he would do if he were in love with a lady whose parents objected. The major said," I would steal her and run away! The young people promptly acted on his service. The major forgave them and sent for them to come home.

d. Mounds, location, present condition.

When the whites came here, there were mounds, small ones, all over the county.

Most of these mounds have been destroyed. There are two ~~xxxxxxxx~~ now worthy or note. One is in the northern part of the county, near Hebron, the other in the south west near Hepsibia Church.

These mounds were once covered with shells, Indian pottery and arrow heads. There are many of these yet on and near the mounds. They are pyramidal in shape and covered with bushes and trees. They are thought to be Indians burial grounds.

On Dry Creek, on the land now owned by Jas. L. Loflin, Indian skeletons have been unearthed. Just a few years ago three skulls and other bones of the bodies were found in a hole about four feet in diameter. These Indians were undoubtly killed, and thrown together in a hole. On this same place can be found arrow heads, and flint stones today.

e. Prominent Men and Women.

We have been unable to find any record of any Indian men and women of prominence.

II. Now Living In your County.

Bands of roving Indians from Neshoba, Leake, and Winston counties used to come thru this county and camp for four or five weeks. They made beautiful baskets of split cane, red, blue, yellow and green. The Indian women would sell their baskets for groceries, tobacco or anything they could use.

These baskets were bought by some for souvenirs, others used them for different things, lunches, and sewing baskets. There was always a squaw that told fortunes, and a dog in every camp.

The women made the baskets and did all other work, but when on march the women follow meekly behind their husbands.

It has been fifteen years or more since they came to this county.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY INDIANS

There is not a full blood Indian in Jefferson Davis County today. There are a few white people that claim Indian blood, and a mixed negro race.

Practically all that is left of the once powerful Choctaw Tribe are the names they left behind. Bowie, Silver-Creek, Whitesand, and Holidays Creek are said to have been named by the Indians. (Information- Local Citizens)

Lucile McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County
Prentiss, Mississippi

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY /INDIANS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment #15, "Old Homes, Pilgrimage"
Date of Compilation-September 29, 1936
Names of Canvassers-Lula Burkett, Verda McPhail, Edna Cannon

The County Supervisor of Historical Research and her corps of workers Mrs. Lula Burkett, Mrs. Edna Cannon, and Miss Verda McPhail made a tour of the county to visit ante-bellum homes and secure the history of these homes and the people who built them. Mr. L.E. Bethea, county WPA Worker accompanied this party on the tour. Pictures were made of several of the homes and sent to the photographer to be developed.

The old Weathersby home was visited first. This place is located in the Old Hebron Community in the north western part of the county. The house is built on a hill and is unoccupied at present. It is constructed of logs, sawed with a sash saw, power for the saw being furnished with water. No nails were used in the erecting of this home. Pegs and grooves were means of joining the frame together. Two fireplaces one at each end of the house about 4½ feet wide, are still standing. This home was built in 1785 by Isom Weathersby who came to this country from South Carolina with his wife and 12 slaves. They came in covered wagons drawn by oxen, there being five wggons. They settled first on the bank of Silver Creek in a crude cabin and lived there three years before building the house that now stands. Mr. Weathersby was a farmer and also operated a saw mill and grist mill. The descendants of this family are at present prominent residents of this county. (From L.E. Bethea, great great grandson of the builder of this old home, Prentiss, Mississippi September 29, 1936)

Another interesting place visited was the Atwood Old Home. Eight

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 15

years before the Civil War, John Cooper settled what is now called the old Atwood Place. He built the present house as it now stands using the prevailing type of architecture which has become known as the colonial design. The house is a two story frame structure and is located on highway # 42, 2½ miles east of Prentiss, Miss. The material for this building was taken from the pine forest which at that time surrounded the building site. Mr. Cooper built the first sawmill and cotton gin in this vicinity. He used the water from the nearby Little Whitesand Creek as power to run this gin and sawmill. This mill was in use until about 20 years ago. This was a picturesque spot and was a gathering place for the young swimmers who came to the "Old Mill Pond" to go swimming. Its scenic beauty would have truly inspired the writers of "Dawn" "Down By The Old Mill Stream" and "When You And I Were Young Maggie". Mr. Scott Hathorn bought this old place from his father-in-law, John Cooper. Later the place was sold to Bill Atwood and then to J.B. Atwood. It derived its name from its late owners and as time marches on through the years, the house by the side of the road has stood sentinel to the generations of civilization. (From M.C. Tyrone, pioneer resident of this county, Prentiss, Mississippi, September 26, 1936)

The Mikell Home was a very interesting place that was visited. In the year of 1842 this old home was built. It was the year that John Mikell and Miss Luraney White were married. He and his young bride went to work and built this comfortable old home which stands in good preservation today. At this time slaves were sold and Mr. White owned quite a few. He gave Mrs. Mikell a girl slave her own age as a wedding present. This slave came to be known later as "old Aount Mary Ann Hooker" who died last year at the ripe old age of 105 years. To Mr. and Mrs. Mikell were born ten

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
OLD HOMES

children all of whom grew to be useful men and women. Only three of the ten are living at present and they are George Mikell, Mrs. Leona Mcnease and Charlie Mikell who now owns the old place. The Mikell place is located ½ mile from Whitesand. There is some very old furniture in this home including a weight clock 75 years old, a chest of drawers about the same age, an old secretary 100 years old and a pair of andirons over 60 years years old still in use. A picture now hangs on the wall which was made by Mrs. Mikell when she was 12 years of age. This picture is cross stitched in bright colors and is mounted in a frame. There is also a bedspread which was hand woven by Mrs. Mikell. This old home is an interesting place and is a gathering place for friends and relatives. (From Charlie Mikell, Son of the builder, Prentiss, Miss. September 24, 1936)

The next stop was at the Laird Home. It was built by William Blount who was born August 19, 1817 at Mt. Vernon, Posey County, Indiana. Early in life he was left an orphan which fact seemed to have helped him overcome the hardships of life he was to later face. At the age of fifteen he left his home in Indiana and came to live with his Uncle and Aunt Needham and Chellie Blount at Mt. Carmel, Mississippi. His opportunities were few but from an English parentage he had received a fine and noble heritage, a desire to be satisfied with only the beat of the worlds gifts. It was his privilege to attend Mt. Carmel Academy for a few months. Here again he made the most of his opportunity and learned to read, write and cipher quite well.

It was during these school days that he met and won the affection of Polly Loflin. Polly Loflin liked to remember and tell that it was the ruddy glow of William Blount's cheeks that made her first admire him; later she was to learn that this was just an outward show of the truly red blood that flowed through his veins. Filled with young enthousiam, William Blount and his wife built them a two story log house in the heart of a virgin pine forest and one quarter miles north of the present site of Carson, Mississippi, and settled what is locally known as the "Grandma Laird Place". After the death of Needham Blount, William Blount built a one room frame house near his own house for the aunt who had cared for him in his younger days. This room was called the "Aunt Blount Room". After the death of "Aunt Blount", William Blount decided to remodel the "Aunt Blount House" into a new home for himself. He selected from the forest the finest of pine trees, carried them on two wheeled carts to a saw mill located on Whitesand Creek and operated by himself and a Mr. Stirling. Here he had the timber cut into boards with an old fashioned sash saw. Only the hearts of the giant pines were used in building this house. To the original "Aunt Blount Room" he added a wide hall and another large room. Later he added an ell on the rear to be used for a dining room and kitchen. A wide porch enclosed by hand rails extended across the front of the house. This is one of the oldest frame houses in the county and it stands today as solid on its rock foundation as it did when William Blount and his neighbors built it about 100 years ago. Only the best of workmanship was accepted by William Blount in the building of his house. The boards in the floor, walls and ceiling are hand planed, tongue and grooved. They are all 12 inches wide and are the

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
OLD HOMES

of the best heart pine. The rafters are hewn heart pine pegged into the plates with wooden pegs. One ctiticism William Blount always made of the building of the house was that the rafters had been sawed too short, making the roof flat instead of steep as he wished.

The furniture in the home was hewn by hand and made of hickory and pine. Two of the chairs are still being used in the home of Hugh Laird. William Blount was too old to enlist his services in the Civil War but three of his sons fought valiantly for the cause of the south and returned to their home to find their father's thirty slaves freed. Elizabeth Blount was born in 1844 and married William Erastus Laird in 1859. They became owners of the homestead and kept it until 1923 when it was bought by E.L. Miller who still owns it. (From Hugh Laird, Pioneer Resident of this county, Carson, Miss. Sept. 29, 1936)

The N.C. Hathorn old home is a very pretty old place. It is located about 3 miles south west of Bassfield. It is an old fashioned two story log building, ceiled inside and weather boarded on outside. It has one large room on the first floor and two smaller rooms. The large room has a huge fireplace about 6 ft. wide. There is only one large room upstairs. The house has glass windows. The kitchen and dining room are built out from the house. A porch extends to them. Mr. N.C. Hathorn had this home built nearly loo years ago. It is still in good condition and has never had any repairs. Mr. Hathorn was the father of 17 children; Mrs. Ed Speights being the only living child. Mr. Hathorn was married three times. His son-in-law, Mr. Stringer, lives on this old place at the present. (From Mrs. Ed Speights, Daughter of builder, Bassfield, Mississippi, October 1, 1936)

Perhaps the oldest home and certainly the best preserved old place in this county is the Hutchins old place situated in the Old Hebron Community. This house was built by John Hutchins in 1782. It is a one story structure. It was originally made of hand hewed logs and at the present these logs are still in the structure and foundation of the house but are concealed by more modern materials. Two beams made of one log each are still in the structure of the house extending the entire length of the building. The same floors are all over the house and are well preserved. The house has been remodeled recently and it is now a beautiful comfortable country home. Great old trees are in front of the house to add to its beauty. A huge yawning fireplace at one end of the house gives evidence of existence during ante-bellum days. The front door is the same one that was made by the original owner. It is wider than an ordinary door and is of solid pine panels. The door is still swinging with original home made hinges. Five generations have lived in this house, four having been born here. At present Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hutchins occupy this old home. Mr. Hutchins is the great grandson of the original John Hutchins who came from South Carolina in a covered wagon in 1782 and erected this substantial home. As has been said many modern changes have been wrought but there can still be seen traces of old colonial architecture. Some lovely pieces of furniture were found in this home. Among them was a sideboard and a table. Neither was in use but if these articles were repaired a little they would be beautiful fixtures in this old home. (From Lee Hutchins, present owner of this home; address NewHebron, Miss.)

Some other homes were visited on the tour but the histories of them ar

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
OLD HOMES

could not be secured in time for them to be sent in this manuscript. The other histories will be sent soon as a supplement to this assignment.

Ruth C. Sutton

Ruth C. Sutton, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
OLD HOMES

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
A ssignment # 18

Topic of Assignment- WARS Revised (Supplement)
Names of C anvassers- Lula B urkett, Ancie Belle Butler,
Verda McPhail and Georgie McGehee
Date of Compilation- December 7, 1936

I. ARMY UNITS FROM YOUR COUNTY:

Jefferson Davis County did not have any solid units, as some of the boys enlisted in different organizations, others were drafted and sent to different camps to be assigned to some respective unit. Several boys from Bassfield, Miss. enlisted with the 140th Field Artillery which was being organiz ed at Hattiesburg. This was Bat.D. of the 140th Regiment, made up of Mississippi boys.

a. None

b. None

c. None

II. NAMES OF ENLISTED MEN:

Some of the enlisted men who saw active service in the World War was, Claude V. Burkett, Dr. Virgil N. Nicholas, Henry Holloway Charles G. Laird, Clifton Graham, Blanche Polk.

a. Claude V. Burkett enlisted on May 4, 1917 with Bat.D.140th Field Artillery, called into service August, 5, 1917. He sailed from Camp Merret, New Jersey, for France on June, 28. He was assigned to Bat.C. 319 F. A.H.82nd Div. at La.Courtine Fr. Here he under went one months training. He left La.Courtine July 18, 1918 for St Mehlil Front where on Sept.12 to 16 he was engaged in the above named battle. He was also fought on the front lines of the Muse Argnne battle for 23 days. (Information, ClaudeV.Burkett)

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 18

Dr. Virgil N. Nicholas was 1st lieutenant Medical Corps 151st Depot Brigade Camp Devens, Mass. He was stationed here from July, 28, 1917 to December 10, 1918, and then at various Camps. Is now major. He was the only Dr. in this County in Service. (Information Dr. Virgil N. Nicholas, Nov. 29 1936)

Henry C. Holloway- Bugler, belonged to Co. C. 20th Machine Bat. He was on the front lines when the Armistice was signed. (Information Henry C. Holloway November 26, 1936)

Charles G. Laird, Sergeant Hearquarters Co. Personnel Adjutants Detatchment, C amp Green N.C . He was the only limited Service man went from this C ounty. (Information CharlesG.Laird December 30, 1936)

Clifton Graham was a private 805th Pioneer Infantry Sup ly Co. Boarded a ship for France October 3, 1918. He was active on the Clermont, and Argonne fronts and discharged July, 11, 1919. (Information Clifton G raham (col. November 23, 1936)

Blanche Polk was a private in Co. A. 550 Engineers Corps. He did service in France for eight months, Stationed at Brest. (Information Blanche Polk November 23, 1936)

b. None

c. None

d. None

III. LETTERS FROM THE RHONT

~~American Expeditionary Force~~

~~September 16, 1918~~

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, WARS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 18

American Expeditionary Force

September 18, 1918

Dear Homefolks,

How are you all by this time? I am all O.K. We have been giving the German a very warm reception and now we are back for a rest. The German could not find us, so we did not have but two causualty on the rest and they were gassed. Some lucky, Don't you think? The closest shell that hit to us was at least ½ mile away. Don't know how ling it will be before we fire again. I had rather be on the front than any other place in the army. Clyde was sorry to know that you have been sick again. You must take care of yourself, and quit working so hard. Mattie, I was surprised to know that you were at home. Is W.J. still living in town?

Perhaps I will be back home by spring. As we have the German squaling for peace now, and the battles are not over yet. Will tell you thethe news when we get back home. So be good and write when you can.

Love to all,

Claude Burkett

319,F.A. H.

American Expeditionary Force

This letter was copied from the original letter.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 18

Somewhere in France, Monday Night,

November 11, 1918.

My dear Mother:

I wrote you yesterday but so long as today is my birthday and Peace is also in sight will write you a few lines tonight. I have spent the day very leisurely. The big guns that were roaring incessantly this A.M. ceased at 11 ~~o~~ O'clock this morning and I suppose the end has come. Every one seems to think so anyway. The French people are very anxious to show their appreciation to the Americans for the work they have done be shaking hands and saying ("Le Guerre Finis) which means, the war is finished. I don't dnow whether Terrell or Henry either are on the front or not. But I don't think they were three weeks ago. I have not heard from them in about that long. If they went to the front I am sure they have recently gone up!

The next question is now, when will we get back to the good old U.S.A. I know you wonder when, if any one does. There are so many to send home until some will have to remain until last which may be many months. Who will be first to go and who will be last I can't say. There is quite a bit of work to be done over here along the reconstruction line. They may keep us over here for a while on this work. You all must continue to write me as often as possible for I will be as anxious as ever to hear from home. I am going to write you as often as possible and shall expect you to do the same. Within the

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY WARS

last 10 days have passed through some towns that certainly bore the effects of the war. All the buildings in this country are built of stone and hundreds of them have been leveled to the ground. Many towns are completely destroyed, and of course will take some time to rebuild. I am at theY.M.C .A. now writing. Three or four fellows are playing stringed instruments and singing and everyone seems to be in the highest spirits. They have just finished singing "Homeward Bound" and of course they received a big applause at the finish.

I am going to enclose a Christmas card that the Y.M.C.A. is giving out. If you receive it O.K. you can save it until I get there. Well I guess I have about given enough news for this time. Let me hear from you soon. With love to all

Your son,

Laurin

Corp. Laurin L. Holloway
Co. C. 114 F.S. Bn.
American E. Force. France.

Exact copy of original letter.

IV. INTERVIEWS

a. None

b. None

c. None

V. DISTINGUISED COUNTY SOLDIERS OR OFFICERS

a. None

VI. ORGANIZATIONS THAT DID WAR WORK AT HOME

a. None

b. None

c. None

CIVIL WAR

I. BATTLES AND SKIRMISHES IN COUNTY

~~a. None~~

a. None No battles or skmirshes were fought in this part of Mississippi, now known as Jefferson Davis County ,however, she did her part in the war between the States. The women worked untireingly spinning thread and weaving cloth to cloth the soldiers in the army.

II. NAMES OF FIGHTING UNITS FROM COUNTY

a. None

b. None

c. None

III. NAMES OF ENLISTED MEN FROM COUNTY:

There is no way of getting the enlisted men as no roster was made, if so it was burned when the old Courthouse at Old Williamsburg

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY WARS

was burned. (Information, Jas. P. Loflin December 5, 1936)

b. None

c. None

IV. LETTERS FROM FRONT AND FROM WAR PRISONS:

Camp near Chattanooga Tennessee

July 17, 1863

Dear Sisters

I having just received a letter from the formers, I seat myself to address you a few lines in answer which will inform you that I an well and enjoying myself finely. We are stationed at this time about 2 miles South of Chattanooga where we are enjoying ourselves finely, getting plenty of all kinds of luxuries to eat. I will now describe to you what I eat for my dinner, and then you can judge how I live since I crossed the mountains. We ate biscuits, cornbread, bacon, pork, beans, beets, butter, coffee, shugar, Irish potatoes, black pepper, vinigar and eggs allso an apple pie, it is not every day we have such, but every now and then we have those dinners, which help us much. You may think when you are reading the above that I am justing, but I give you my word and hands that the above articles were eaten by me and mess for dinner. Myself, Will and Wiley Williamson compose the mess. Our dinners was well cooked as we are all superior cooks to others of our sex. I will send you a piece in print will inform you how we faired on the march from Shelbyville, but for that now we are doung fine though most at our own expense.

As goverment rashing is cut short in this army to what it has bin. Though Dear Sister think of the dinner I eat today and make yourself happy and know that I will so dign as long as money lasts and I an never without. So I can live when I am in the land of plenty, as I know I am. There is anything hear that we want at the most exorbitant prices, though we will bie mellons from $5.00 to $15.00. I hope you will ever remember me when eating them and think that I too eat them, but at the rate of $10.00 each. I would give you some few words on the retreat from Middle Tennessee, but I wrote all the important to Sis Liz a few days ago, and then the enclosed piece will give you a true scetch only not so bad as it was by half. We we often have to lie in water at night, and eat there was no such thing from dinner the 1st of July till dinner the 4th. I never eat one single mouthful and I give you my word I was near starved out but when I did get to eat you ought to have seen me eat. John Dyess is no where, As to the army there is nothing of importance as it is all here and appears to be immoveable so far as I know. Why we left Middle Tennessee I know not. One thing I know we left and that in quick time, there was one thing I amglad to state, to you on the retreat that is we lost Gus McKinzie and thank God for it. I hope the deceivers hanged him, and one thing else I was glad to hear that was that H. Wilkes was shot but sorry to hear that he almost died, for I hope to God that one day or other every deserter may be struck dead for God knows I hate them and the Yankees I hate as bad and beg you all to hate them. I intend to teach hatred toward them should I ever survive this war. I was sorry to hear of the great misfortune of D. Mls family, but

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY WARS

no more than I expected, you must give all your classmates my respects also MissLou, tell them all to read the piece of poetry th t you find inclosed and think of me. And while they read it see if it takes amy effect. Give all the family my love.

Your brother,
Billy Hathorn

Copy of original letter.

Jackson, Mississippi
May 12. 1863 A.D.

Dear Wife,

After the roll being called, Iseat myself to drop you a few lines which will inform you that I am well at this time, hoping these lines may find you enjoying the same blessings. Mary, we got to Brookhaven on Thursday night and had to stay there till Saturday night, we landed in Jackson all well.

James Garner taken Cramp Colic and like to have died, he came as near dying as ever I saw in my life not to die. Two Doctors Booth and Weathers doctored him. George Ray is very bad off with headache and cold. We will be formed into Regiments tomorrow. Adams will be our coumel, Captain Bryant will be our Lieutenant, Frank Foxworth will be our major. I think we have had enough flower coffee, sugar bacon and old p ckled beef that I know that I know that I can't eat. There came in 69 prisoners came in this morning. I report that there is 900 more in Corinth to come down

here. We have to guard them here in Jackson. There were 2 Yankees Captains, they said they would whip us back in 40 days.

Again to the union, we see a great deal here. The cars are running to Brandon and Mobile, New Orleans and to Corinth. Mary, I am better satisfied than thought I would be. The measles is in our camps at this time. There was about 1300 came up from Brookhaven and in a month the rest. John Clark is in Wilson's Company, he said that Dorothy and all was well except Elisha he was a little sick. Mary, I want to see you and the children very vad, but not like I want to see you. It seems that I have forgot how Sissy looks, and I recken it will be some time before I shall see yoi, if ever, the Lord above knows. I hope the Lord will bless you in all your jouney through life, and save us all, is my prayer forever and ever.

So Goodbye Mary and the Children,

Yours forever,

Tell Father and Mother that I think of them often, I hope the Blessings of the Lord may hover around them and if the Lord is for them who can be against them. I want you all to write to me as you can conveniently.

So Goodbye again,

From John C. Luper to Mary Jane Luper

Copy of original letter.

V. INTERVIEWS:

a. None

b. There was a raiding band of cavalry sent out by General Grant from Port Gibson. Their purpose to destroy railroads tracks

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY WARS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment #18

and everything that came in their way. They came down the old St. Stephens road and passed through old Blountville which is now Prentiss, and a number of citizens ,not soldiers gathered up what guns and other war arms that they could find, followed the raiders. When they had gotten to Williamsburg,Covington County, their men numbered 35 and were jouned there by Dr. Brown, who became their leader.
The Yankees had camped on Rocky Creek, in Jones County . Dr. Brown sent a number of men on to destroy the bridge and guard the creek. They attacked the yankees on different sides, killing two or three, and wounding many. They soon raised a flag of truce. Dr. Brown went over and talked to them. He told them he had 300 men and 1500 behind.They laid down their arms and were taken prisoners of war. Only one confederate was wounded, Erastus Laird, who was home on Furlough was shot in the leg. Mr. Buck Polk was in this shirmish The saying has been handed down, "Buck killed a Yankee with three Buck shot"
These Federal Soldiers that were killed were buried on Rocky Creek and later taken up and buried in the National Park at Vicksburg,Miss.
(Information, Jas.P. Loflin December 5, 1936.)

NOTE: We have combed the County for information on Wars. We have interviewed the best historians, educators and old citizens, and have found very little additional information.

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY WARS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Topic of Assignment - Wars
Names of Canvassers-R. Stewart, V. Smith and L. Burkett
Date of Compilation-May 7, 1936

I.

(a) Among the soldier boys from Jefferson Davis County who took an active part in the World War are: Howard E. Rush, Robert Rush, Claude Burkett, Virgil McNease, Fred Bass, Robert Bass, R.C. Stewart, Charlie D. Stewart, B.E. Magee, George M. Garner, J.C. Luper, J.S. Magee, John M. Holloway, Roscoe C. Berry, Griff Lee, Leon Brinson, Dr. Jim Magee, Clyde King, W.C. Barnette, Boyce Barnette, Ted Bozeman, Arthur Tyrone, Tom Bullock, I.H. Applewhite, Grover Luper, Sam Garner, and Hope Burkett.

No other parents in Jefferson Davis County contributed more to the World War than did Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Rush of Prentiss. They had four boys in service at one time, namely: Claude, Pat, Robert and Howard. Howard died in action and Robert died from after effects of the war, while the other two boys returned home safely.

Howard E. Rush belonged to the 320th Field Artillery. He was in a number of battles. He was killed in service October 16, 1918, while bringing a wounded comrade to a first aid post. It was said of him by his superior officers that he was an A-1 man and as brave as they made them.

Robert Rush was ranked as a Corporal. He was so severely gassed and shell shocked that he never regained his health after returning home and he died later in Port Arthur, Texas.(Data from Mrs. W.W. Rush, Prentiss, Miss.)

Claude Burkett volunteered and was called out August 5, 1917. He was in training at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi and at Camp Beauregard. He was sent to France as a replacement June 16, 1918 and was transferred to 319 Field Artillery, 82 Division, stationed at Lacourtine, France. He stayed here a month and was then sent to Marbache Sector. His company held this sector for a month and was then sent to St. Miheil Front where they participated in this battle. Mr. Burkett was moved from here to Meuse Argonne where he fought in a battle for thirty-four days without relief. Mr. Burkett was

in a hospital in France when the Armistice was signed. (Information from Claude Burkett, Bassfield, Mississippi)

Virgil McNease died a noble and heroic death in the Argonne Forest drive in 1918. His body was brought back to Jefferson Davis County for burial in October, 1921.(Data from Newspaper, Pr ntiss Headlight, October, 20, 1921, edition.)

Fred Bass volunteered as a private and went to three camps for training. While in Camp Beauregard, La., he was commissioned as First Lieutenant and later was commissioned as Captain of Dention Corps. He went to Paris, France and was stationed there until Armistice was signed.(Information from Allton Bass, Brother of Fred, Bassfield, Miss.)

Robert Bass volunteered as a private and was in three training camps. While in Camp at Jackson, he was made First Sergeant. He was later sent to DeJean, France where he was in Battery D, 140 Field Artillery.(Data from Claude Burkett,Cousin of Robert, Bassfield, Miss.)

R.C. Stewart engaged in four battles. They were: Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse Argonne. In the Meuse Argonne Battle, he went to the front twice and started for the third time when news was received that the Armistice would be signed.(Data from Mr. Stewart,himself)

Charlie Stewart took an active part in the Meuse Argonne Battle.(Information from Mr. Stewart himself)

B.E. Magee participated in two battles; he fought in the Meuse Argonne Battle and also in the battle of St. Mihiel.(Data from Mr. Magee)

Dr. J.C. Luper held the rank of Lieutenant in Dental Section Reserve Corps. (Data from Prentiss Headlight,May 29, 1919, edition.)

George M. Garner was commissioned as Sergeant in Sec. 14, R.U. No. 322, M.T.C., American E P A P O 713 A (From Prentiss Headlight,May, 1919)

J.S. Magee enlisted as private but was promoted to rank of Lieutenant. (From Headlight, April 10, 1919, edition)

John M. Holloway was a member of the Second U.S. Engineers. They sailed for France in September 1917, Lieutenant Holloway going with them as First Sergeant of his company. In the re-organization of troops in France, Lieutenant Holloway's company was placed with the famous "Rainbow Division". After several weeks of training his company was placed near the Toul sector to do observation work. With their observation training finished, Company B, of Second U.S. Engineers was sent to the Front near Nancy. Later it was sent to St. Mihiel and Verdun to do special service. When the Germans concentrated their forces before Paris in March 1918, Company B was sent to the front near Chateau Thierry and held in reserve for a counter attack. It was in this fight that Lieutenant Holloway saw active service and in many instances was in hand to hand fights with the Boche, in the drive at Soissions, the capture of Laons, Storming of Meziers, Sedan, Neufchateau and many other adjacent villages and towns. (Information secured from Newspaper, Prentiss Headlight, Feb. 20, 1919, edition.)

Roscoe C. Berry held the rank of Sergeant. (From Headlight, May 15, 1919, edition)

Griff Lee was commissioned a Lieutenant during the War. (Headlight, June 19, 1919, edition.)

Leon Brinson served on the fighting line in several battles. (Headlight, May 15, 1919, edition.)

Dr. Jim Magee held the rank of Captain of a Medical Corps. (headlight, July 25, 1919, edition)

Clyde King died a noble death on the firing line. He was the first soldier to be buried in this county.)Headlight, May 15, 1919)

Two Barnette Brothers, W.C. and Boyce, were both Sergeants during the War.(Headlight, May, 9, 1918, edition)

Ted Bozeman was commissioned as Second Lieutenant.(Headlight

March 7, 1918)

Arthur Tyrone served for some time on the front. He belonged to Bat. E, 141st F.A. He was a private. (Information Headlight, May,15, 1919)

Tom Bullock died from wounds received in a battle. His body was brought back to this county for burial. (Information from Mrs. Alpha Bullock, Sister-in-law of Tom, Prentiss, Miss.)

I. H. Applewhite was in five battles, namely; German Offensive in March along North from toward Calais, German Offensive along Marne in July, Marne-Velse, American, French Offensive, St. Mihiel, and Meuse Argonne. Mr. Applewhite was in Thiacourt sector near Metz at close of War. (Information from Mr. Applewhite, himself)

Grover Luper belonged to 142nd Division, Rainbow Division. He was on the front as supply Sergeant during Argonne Forest Battle. He was stationed at Fleville, France. (Information from Mr. Luper personally)

Sam Garner saw active service in several battles. He was seriously wounded in one battle but recovered. (From I.F. Dale, member of American Legion, Prentiss, Mississippi.)

Hope Burkett saw active service in several battles. (Information from George Burkett, brother of Hope, Prentiss, Mississippi)

(b) There are only three Spanish American War Veterans in this county. They are: Phil Lebeis, Rupert E. Wilson and Dr. E.N. Blount.

Mr. Lebeis enlisted from James County, New York for five years and served his term. He stayed in the service until the war ended. He was a Corporal. He was in two engagements in Phillipino. He has been a resident of this county for five years. (From Mr. Lebeis, himself)

Rupert E. Wilson enlisted from Rankin County, Mississippi. He was in the service eight months. He served as a private. He was stationed at Chickamauga,Ga., and was there when war was over.(From Mr. Wilson)

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY WARS

Dr. Blount enlisted from Covington County, Mississippi. He was in the service three years. He was a private in Hospital Corps of U.S. Army. He served at St. Louis, San Francisco, Phillipine Islands. He has been a resident of this county for 31 years. (From Dr. Blount, himself)

(c) There are only two surviving veterans of the Civil War in Jefferon Davis County. They are Sam Harper, aged 98, and Pickens Brady, aged 90.

Mr. Harper's mind is very active in spite of his age and he relates some very interesting stories of the war in which he played an active part. He volunteered and was enlisted February 22, 1862. He was 24 years of age when he enlisted. His Captain was T.D. Magee from Mt. Carmel. J.O. Buchanan was his Lieutenant from Mt. Olive. The first battle Mr. Harper was in was at New Hope Church, Ga. The next was at Kennesaw Mountain near Atlanta, another at Pine Mountain near Atlanta; one at Altoona Station, Ga.; another at Blakely, Ala. He was wounded in the leg at Franklin, Tenn. and stayed in the hospital several weeks after which he was transferred to Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi. (Data from Mr. Harper,himself)

Mr. Brady saw 10 months active service. He was stationed in Attala County, Mississippi, near Double Springs. He was in Colonel Woods Regiment, Stubbs Batallion. (Data from Mr. Brady,himself)

At this time there are thirteen widows of Civil War Veterans in this county who receive pensions. They are: Mrs. Rosanna Branton, Mrs. C.L. Baker, Mrs. M.E. Davis, Mrs. Elizabeth Easterling, Mrs. Mary Jane Walker, Mrs. Winnie Lee, Mrs. Sarah Dykes, Mrs. India Hathorn, Mrs. Mattie Milloy, Mrs. Fannie Polk, Mrs. Amanda McPhail, Mrs. Joanna Robbins and Mrs. Leona Williams. (From Chancery Clerk, Jeff. Davis County)

There are about 41 surviving slaves in this county. (From ERA Director, Jeff.Davis Co.)

(d) None

(e) None

(f) None

2. Copy is attached to manuscript. This is not a roster but it is a list as nearly correct as could be gotten.

3. An exploit in which an active part was taken by a Jefferson Davis County boy was performed by John Milton Holloway. He received many commendations signed by both American and French Commanders. The most highly prized of them all being the Croix-de-Guerre by the French for gallantry in action. At St. Etienne-a-Ames, the town located as it was on an elevation with the Americans on the west in a valley and the Germans on the east held the river and two bridges opposite the town. The Americans had captured the town in the forenoon but were forced to evacuate it by mid-day. It was necessary to locate the two bridges before storming the town in the afternoon, in order to destroy them with the artillery. Young Holloway, knowing the enemy had reoccupied the town, proceeded cautiously into the place, climbed on a housetop and with field glasses located the two bridges, working under fire the entire time, escaped under fire from the enemy, reported the location of the bridges and they were soon destroyed. The enemy was couped and the town held by the Americans before sun-set.(Newspaper,Headlight, August, 1921 edition)

4. After careful canvassing and reading all available material, we were unable to secure any record of the First Mississippi Regiment.

Mrs. Gladys McLaurin

Mrs. Gladys McLaurin, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY WARS

Civiln War — Jeff. Davis, Co.

War Vet.- Billy Hathorn-Letter

" " - John C.Luper- Letter

" " Jas. P.Loflin

" " Sam Harper- Living Vet.

" " Pickins Brady " "

Spanish American War

Vet. Phil Lebeis-Ref. Himself

" Rupert E.Wilson Ref. Himself

" Dr. E.N.Blunt " "

World War:

Adjutant General's Office, Jackson.

Rev. War- None Given

War of 1812 None Given

Mexican War- None Given.

Topic of Assignment- RECONSTRUCTION
Name of Canvas ars- Georgie McGehee, and
Etta Waller.
Date of Compilation- March 4, 1937
Assignment-# 22

I. Reconstruction

a. Government of County

The war closed with the surrender of Generals; Robert E. Lee, Joseph E. Johnston, Richard Taylor, and Kirby Smith.

General Lee surrendered April 9th, but as most of the Mississippi troops were in the army of General Taylor which surrendered a month later, they were obliged to remain at the front until the planting season had well-nigh passed. On the 6th of May, General Taylor surrendered to General Cangy near Meridian. The soldiers were advised to accept the situation in good faith, cheerfully submit to the authority of the United States, obey its laws, aid in restoring peace, and cultivate friendly relations with those with whom they had so long contested. Having taken an oath not to take up arms against the United States, these ragged and hungry veterans of a lost cause returned to their homes to begin the work of restoration.

The desolation which met the returning soldiers was enough to fill the stoutest heart with despair. The country was almost entirely stripped of livestock, bridges, and fences were gone; tools and farming implements were wanting, there was no credit system, the labor system was deranged by the emancipation of the slaves; and the freedmen gathered

about the towns and military camps, refusing to labor.

Instead of fields of waving grains, only small patches of sickly looking corn could be seen here and there, little cotton having been planted

County courthouses and jails were in bad condition. It was estimated that not one county jail in ten would hold a desperate criminal twenty-four hours.

The Mississippi of 1861-1865 was rural and agricultural; Its people lived on the farm and plantation; communication was difficult; the delivery of letters was irregular; few newspapers were printed and distributed.

Governor Clark called a session of the legislature, which had scarcely assembled in Jackson, and appointed a committee to confer with the President, when it was suddenly dissolved because of an order to arrest its members. The arrest and imprisonment of the governor, which followed, left the State without a government of any kind.

President Johnson appointed Judge Sharkey provisional governor of Mississippi, by proclamation of June 13th. Governor Sharkey's first step in the reorganization of the emasculated civil functions of his State was to direct the county officials who were in office on the 22nd of May 1865, to resume their duties, after they had taken the oath of amnesty. Those who did not come under its provisions but were reserved for special clemency, were temporarily excluded from office.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, RECONSTRUCTION

The military authority not only disreg rded the civil law, but stationed colored troops in many import nt towns. A xxxxxd low cl ss of white men connected with the Freedmen's Bureau caused ill-feeling between the white and the colored people, who had formerly been on good terms.

There were numerous clashes between the white people and negroes, some with civilian blacks who were intoxicated by their sudden freedom and others with the negro soldiers, who often over-asserted their authority. The military authorities were the deep seated cause of the first rupture and discord between the white people and the negroes of the south. In order to better use the negroes, the military made constant efforts to alienate them from the white inhabitants. The whites were invariably arrested by the military officers, who refused to recoginize any writs of the habeas corpus and insisted on trials by martial law.

At the close of the civil war in 1865, under the reconstruction act, the government of the ounties and state was placed in the hands of illiterates, and inexperienced men, and the better class of people were forced to undergo many hardships, because of this state of affairs. Taxes were almost unbearable. Many people were forced to give up their homes on account of excessive taxation. In many places negroes served as officers. Ephriam Magee and Henry Hall of Covington County that part of which is now Jefferson Davis, served as members

of Board of Supervisors.

The great problem that confronted the people of the south was that of rehabilitation. Their farms were all in a very bad state. The slaves on whom, prior to the war, they had to begin life over with nothing at their command, save a will to work and a determination to succeed.

From 1865-1880 was a period of industrial reconstruction. The economic and social system of the old south was terribly shaken, and in many ways destroyed by the upheaval of the early sixties. The waste of the war left the country bare and the agricultural interests as well as other industries of the south prostrated and nearly destroyed. The country was necessarily at the beginning of a new endeavor. Many of the plantations could not be restored because of lack of money, management, and la or , and those that remained were forced i to a sudden transfromation and a complete readjustment.

The farms worked by white labor, while depleted entered at once on a rapid development, while those worked entirely by negroes was face to face with difficulties, which have not been fully over come. But the necessity of lie impels to action, and virture is engendered in human effort.

The abolition of slavery ushered in revolution in the employment, management, and direction of labor. The negro just released from bondage, wanted to give themselves unlimited leisure,

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY RECONSTRUCTION

enjoy new amusement, and they moved often. Verly slowly did the mass of themxsettle down to regular work. Without white supervision their efficiency was very poor and continued to decline. They were averse to white supervision and objected especially to overseers, leaders, or drivers, and plantation bells. They were poor tenants, "cropping" as they did, with the landowner supplying everything except their own labor, production decreased and the soil became more and more impoverished under their cultivation. Wherever they had white supervision their crops were better. The want of reliability as well as capability in the Negro laborer brought great perplexity to the owners of large farms and plantations. White labor in 1865 was hardly to be had, as the unsettled conditions of the south prevented the coming of white immigrants from the North.

Such was the conditions of this County at the close of the war.

In this County during Reconstruction , the officers of the county at that time were ordered to continue their duties.

The old Confederate Veterans of this county that are now living ~~that~~ said during election years the Democrats voted negroes to elect white men by means of threat ~~by means~~ of the KuKlux Klan. Covington and Lawrence counties were Democratic counties Liquor was also used to control the negro vote. The negroes also had confidence in the white people with whom they had lived, and by this they could control their vote.

(Information- ~~Wrkkex~~ Wiley's Mississippi History, Heart of the South, Old Confederate Veterans.)

b. Transportation

Just after the War transportation was very difficult. There were only trails and wagon roads,all horses and mules had been stolen, killed, and died during the struggle. All travel in the county during the reconstruction days was by horse back, ox wagons, and those who could afford it buggies or surries, they were then called. Most of them walked. The nearest railroad was at Wesson and Brookhaven. Twice a year people drove ox wagons to these places to carry their produce, and get yearly supplies. Most of the produce, however, was consumed on the plantations. The old spinning wheel was kept quite busy for many years after the war closed, to keep xa supply of clothes for the family. Aunt Dinah's lyed hominy pot was kept boiling during the winter season.

c. Farm and Plantation ~~kife~~

The plantation, with its fine social qualities, aristocratic mien, commanding wealth, and political power, never dominated the south or any part of it after the sweeping desolations of the sixties.

Many of the old homes were in a state of deteriation. Many of the owners were killed of disabled. The broad avres had become a waste of weeds and bushes, and the owners who had not been ruined, had been reduced to financial straits. Not only so, but the old south with its sentiment, sweetness, wealth, and rare civilization had gone never to be restored. Rehabilitation was in many instances undertaken, but the conditions would not permit such achievement. An aristocracy broken, hopeless, embarassed, however noble and high, could only seek retirement

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, RECONSTRUCTION

a modest
~~to midst~~ surroundings. The society of the south, state, and county had to find a new center. The town and city began to be the gathering-place of the social and economic leaders who had always considered the estates as the proper dwelling places for high humanity.

d. Social life in county

Social functions during the reconstruction period were very few. They had the old time Log Rolling days, when the neighbors would come together and pile the logs on each others farms, and the women would prepare a big feast from the products grown on the farm. The social life during that period consisted more in creating a sympathetic and kindly feeling in the hearts and lives of the people, one for the other, rather than a contest as to who could out run or out dress the other.

II. Political Adjustment

In the county there were some unfortunate features of political reconstruction. Many of the most intelligent citizens were denied any part on the reconstruction program, because the Confederate soldiers were denied the right to vote in any election. There was a tremendous megro majority among the voters. Naturally this was a bad feature as this took the power from men of ability and gave to the uneducated man

Another bad feature of the political situation during the reconstruction was the appearance of the carpet-baggers and scalawags. Working together the two were able to gain much power by influencing the ignorant vote.

In many instances, during election, guns were held on white men by negro guards while they voted. (Information- Sam Harper Bassfield, Miss. February 23, 1937)

b. Economic Adjustment

At the beginning of the reconstruction the people were generally impoverished. Many of their homes had been destroyed; farms had gone to waste, fields were covered or grown up with weeds and bushes; farm tools and implements were gone; fences had been burned or rotted down and live stock had been stolen or disappeared until there was scarcely animals enough left to meet the needs of the farmer. The man power of the county was so depleted, many of the bread winners had been sacrificed by the war, or were disabled for life, so that they could not be considered as factors in the work of Economic organization. So the work of Economic adjustment feel in a large measure upon the shoulders of the women. Many of which , had never before the war been accustomed to performing domestic duties. However, during the four years of struggle many of the wives, mothers, daughters, and sweethearts of men who fell on the battle field or died of disease, had taken on the responsibilities of home and farm life, and were carring on as best they could with what was left in the way of food, livestock, etc.

As a result of the many handicaps facing the people, many homes and land had to be sacrificed because they could not pay

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, RECONSTRUCTION

taxes. However, as time passed on and better government returned, these conditions improved. Taxes were cut down, and many planters were able to reclaim their lands.

Another thing that helped conditions was, that the negro grew more satisfactory and understood his new position in life better. In some instances, where people were able, negroes were hired to work for wages. Others rented land, or worked as share croppers. As a result of this the weed and bush covered fields were once more cultivated. In all of this the women of the county played a major part. They wove and spun, making their own clothes, helped in the farm life, often plowing and doing many things that was known as " field work".

Every place of work undertaken was most difficult because of lack of tools, implements, transportation, and labor.

c. Social Adjustment.

Before the war the uneven distribution of wealth was one of the reasons for many social disturbances.

But after the war when rich planters and people of wealth had lost everything, an even start was had for all and things were more on the level. There was so much to be done after the war in getting homes set up, and gathering up fragments of possessions until not much time was given to social life. However, " All work and no play" makes most every one a very dull person.

Among first social activities of reconstruction days was the old square dances and Virginia Reil. Young people went far, and near through any kind of weather to attend these dances,

and they were a great joy socially. Another form of social life which included older people ,both black and white, were old time log rollings and quiltings.

During log rolling time all friends and neighbors for miles around came to help with the logs, while the wives, daughters, and sweethearts cooked all the good things that could be found. After dinner the negroes were all given a good drink of whiskey to strengthen them up for afternoon. The women usually had up a quilt and quilted during the afternoon. Then at night the negroes went home, and the whites would have a square dance.

Other forms of Social life come from church life, protracted meetings, associations, conventions, etc.

One outstanding social event in shcool life was concerts and especially the Friday adternoon " speech making", when every one said his pet speech. Often, when possible, fathers and mothers came to witness the display of talents of their sons and daughters.

Last, but not least by any meanswas the custom of spending the day with neighbors and members of families. Better still was to go " Saturday " night and stay until Sunday afternoon. One more very interesting social activity and especially at churches was " Horse swapping" with the men, and smoking of pipes made of clay with long cane stems, sitting out in church yards on big logs left there especially for his lady-like act.

d. Educational and Religious adjustment.

Prior to the war, almost the only free schools in the state were those maintained out of the proceeds arising from the sale or lease of sixteen section lands, granted to the state by

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY RECONSTRUCTION

Congress in early part of the century. But most of this land was lost to the schools of this county by mismanagement.

They were open, of course only to white children. The white free schools were few in number and continued only a few months in the year. The only education the negro received, was gotton from the slave owners family. The children in the home often taught the negro children to read and write.

One of the first acts of the reconstruction in Mississippi was the establishment of a system of public schools for the benifit of both races.

With the occupation of the state by the Federal armies, the work of teaching the negroes began. During the days of reconstruction in this section negro schools were taught by white men. Terms of these schools were from 3to 5 months. This was during term ofanegro Supterintendent who defeated Dr.Hall's son of Mt. Carmel.

There was plenty of money for negro schools at this time, and it was easily obtained.

The results of the first year of free education in Mississippi were very incouraging to the constructionist. More schools all over the state and many more in this county were opened.

During the day of reconstruction was like many other phases of our rural life in this county.

Small country churches were scattered here and there over the county. Old Bethany church just 2 miles from Prentiss, County seat of Jefferson D vis county was one of the war time

churches, that had slave gallery in it. Old Hebron church in northern part of the county was also in use during the war, and had a place for slaves to worship in it.

Preachers lived and come great distances on horse back, often had to swim streams, and in many cases had to preach in cold churches. They carried their extra chothing, bible, and personal belongings in saddle bags.

People were greatly handicapped for conveyances to and from church. Often fath rs and moth rs rode on horseback, with a child in their laps and one riding behind each. Services were only held once a week, Saturday and Sunday morning at 11: o'clock. One during the year, a " big meeting" was held that ran for one week. Much good came from such meeting, in both spiritual and social way. On these days two services were held and at noon hour dinn r was s rved on the ground or table built for this purpose.

Amongst the Methodist denominations their preachers were known as " Circuit Riders " and the life of the men was indeed a most sacrificial one. Different old homes in the county were always open to these men of God, and at all times they knew that in the homes the " Prophet Chamber" was awaiting them with a warm welcome.

III.

a. Carper-baggers

The carpet-b ggers were those nothern people who came into

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, RECONSTRUCTION

the south after the war, and during the war was for the purpose of exploiting and furthering their own political and financial interest, without any regard to the welfare of the county. They owned no property, and their sole purpose was to sowx seed of discord and animosity in the hearts and minds of the colored people(who had been freed) against the white citizens, who previous to that time had been their owners, in order that they might use them not only in political affairs, but in every other way that would further the interest of the carpet-baggers and the Scalawags. Immigrants from the north which came later to bear the name of the carpet-baggers, when they first came to Mi sissippi, their purpose was not a political one. These immigrants were soldiers in the Union Army, who during their stay im Mississippi had been attracted by the prospects of great profit in cotton growing.

At the close of the war cotton was worth $1.00 perpound, land could be bought for a song. The cheapness of the land and the high price of cotton were the main factors in bringing these immigrants to Mississippi. These Union soldiers who settled in the state made frequent appeal through letters, and through the press to their northern friends, to join them in the south.

With Inaugration of the Reconstruction policy of 1867 they virturely abandoned the agricultural business, and became office holders. It is incorrect, thereford, to call them cappet-baggers. They did not come south to get offices, for there were none to fill . The causes which lead them to settle in Mississippi

was purely economic and not political. The genuine cappet-baggers who came after the adoption of the reconstruction policy were comparatively few in number.

These carpet-baggers allied themselves with the colored people in order to get their political support. Many of them were destiture of principal, and saw only the spoils of office regardless of the results. After the over throw of the Republicans of 1875, they left the state never to return.

b. Scalawags

The saclawags were the native white Republicans who allied themselves with the carpet-baggers. The honest white patriotic citizens were known as the conservatives, it was through their efforts that the county and state government was finally saved from complete destructions. In many of the counties the officials were ignorant colored politicians who knew nothing of the law or judicial procedure: and who could not read or write. Instruments of writing, judicial document, and papers of importance, were signed and attested by his mark. John McLeod, a republican, was sheriff of Covington county and leader of the scalawags.

c. Conservatives

We have found no part that the Conservatives played in this county.(Information - Garner's Reconstruction, Riley's Mississippi History, Heart of the South, and Citizens)

IV.

a. Freedman Bureau

One of the Institutions of reconstruction days was the

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, RECONSTRUCTION

Freedmans Bureau. It was established by an act of Congress on the first of March 1865. After the establishment of this Bureau, all military authorities were directed to turn over all abandoned properties of any kind to the officers of the Bureau.

It was the duty of officers to inform colored people that it was their right to visit the bureau officers for advice, and information, and protection whenever they felt they were being wronged: that they were free and entitled to wages for their labor, but that freedom did not mean the right to live without work at other peoples expense.

The Freedmen were advised to be patient, to behave, and not to show spite toward former masters, to form lawful and regular marriages. Officers were detailed to visit every locality in the State for the purpose of enforcing the laws of Congress. The duties of the bureau were to supervise and manage all subjects relating to freedmen and refugees.

One of these was to enforce the proclamation of the President. One of the policies of the bureau was to lease all abandoned plantations, and to establish colonies for freedmen.

One of the most useful functions of the bureau was the assistance it afforded in the readjustment of the labor system. In order to prevent dishonest employers from taking advantage of the ~~fmxx~~ freedmen's ignorance, it was ordered that all ~~xxxor~~ labor arguments be made in writing, and copies of same be filed with nearest sub-officer, whose approval was necessary to validity

of same. It will be remembered, too, that the freedmen for the most part refused to make contracts for a year, in the belief that the lands would be distributed among them.

This bureau was established to provide for the freedmen. Many acres of land belonging to confederate soldiers was seized, and leased to free negroes. At the close of the war in 1865, 60,000 acres of land was in possession of the Freedmens Bureau. Every community agent who belonged to the worst class were stationed, and did much harm by distrubing the peace and good-will that existed between the races. Many of these colored people remained faithful to their masters. They remained at home, taking care of the plantations, but they were made to believe by these agents that these people whom they had lived among so long, were not their friends. This bureau was very active in this county, at that time was Lawrence and Covington. No white person could hire a negro for wages without a contract from the Freedmans Bureau.

Jas.P. Loflin has in his possession some of these old contracts.

b. Loyal League

The activities of the carpet-baggers and the Scalawags were greatly aided by the organization of the Loyal League. This league was a secret oath bound organization, and it was through this League that the Negro vote was controlled. Every male Negro from 18 to 70 years, and every white man who would take the oath were eligible for ~~max~~ membership.

A very few, if any white men in this county became members.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, RECONSTRUCTION

There were many evil results of the carpet-bag ers, sacla wags, and Loyal League. Every where there was l wlessness, rioting and at times the life and property of white men were in danger. This condition naturally made responsible white men unhappy. However, it being the nature of a Southern gentlemen not to submit very long to unjustices and insults. Another organization was formed as a solution to this problem, known as the Klan

The C uncils of the Loyal League were the most effective means by which the military Authorities andNorthern Republicans pried the colored vote into the Republican Party.

This L eague was organized in the north during the war. Its purpose was to op ose the Copperheads, and Knights of the Golden Circle. The League consisted of white men. Afterwards councils of the League were formed in the South of Ex-Union soldiers, Whigs as well as officers of the regular army who had taken up residence in the south.

During the campaign of 1867, delegates to the convention formed a council of the Loyal League in every negro community. The or anization was so complete the Republican leaders had no trouble in throwing the negro vote solidly against the native whites . The Freedmens Bureau also aided in the propaganda.
(Information - Heart of the South)

c. Republican Party

Witha Republican man, Governor Ames, at head of State the Republican party was very much in charge of af airs during the days of reconstructi n. The negroes were all Republicans.

In this county , then the county of Lawrence, Mr. Hugh McLeod who lived in the Bassfield vacinity was the Republican Sheriff. A negro who once belonged to a Dr. Hall of Mt. Carmel defeated Dr.Hall's son for Supeeintendent of Education.

Under Governor mes administration, Henry Hall, a negro, was appointed a member of board of upervisors.

During this time the Republican Party was at its height. White men were forced to vote under guard. Negro guards held guns on white men while they voted.Great numbers became so disgusted they would not vote.

But as time went on these matters adjusted themselves, with the help of the Ku Klux Klan, and faithful responsible whites who have always been associated with the Democratic Party.

The election of 1875 meant, in a large way, the finish of the Republican party for entire state as well as this county. For political reasons there is today a few Republicans in this county. The colored race belong to this party;

These representatives of the Republican party do not have any influnece with elections, however.

D. The Democratics of this county were tired of the treatment and the policies of the Freedmens Bureau, Loyal League, Carpet-baggers, Scalawags, and the Republican Party. They could no longer submit to such conditions, and as a solution another organization was formed, known as the Ku Klux Klan.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, RECONSTRUCTION

The socalled Ku Klux Klan is said to have been at first an association of young men for mutual pleasure and amusement. The xxxxx noctural traveling of the freedmen, their habit of running away from labor contracts, the large amount of petit larceny among them at this time, the abandonment of their crops t attend to political meetings, their participation in the Loyal League, and their alleged insolence to former masters created a necessity for some kind of restraint, as the whites be lieved. The Ku Klux Klan organization was designed to accomplish this purpose. In its beginning, it was si ilar to the old slave patrol, and was intended to scare the superstitious blacks into good behavior and obedience. The whites allege that it was to serve as a sort of offset to the Loyal Leagues. These were secret political organizations among the colored pople, and were generally organized and presided over by their white allies. Meetings were usually held at night in some out-of-the-way place, and were harangued by white Republican speakers. These organizations community, and every colored man was a member.

The mysterious orgaization, gruesome rites, and the strange language of the Klan were well calculated to strike terror into the minds of a superstitious race.

The prevailing costume was a long white robe reaching to the knees, and slashed up the side for convenience in running. The covering for the face was a white mask containing holes for the xxx eyes. The headgear was sometimes a high cardboard hat, but

more frequently a sort of cap with long ears or horns xxxxxxxx attached. The front part of the dress was often disfigured with skulls, and crossbones or other hideous designs. The horses ridden by the Ku Klux were diguised quite as effectively as the riders.

The idea was idespread among the negroes during the early days of reconstruction that the Ku Klux were spirits of dead Condeferate soldiers, and were xxxxxx possessed of supernatural powers, such as the ability to take themselves to xxxxxx pieces at will, rattle their bones, and drink whole pailfuls of water.

The Klan played an important part in this county in the adjustment made suring the Reconstruction.

It was the only means of subduing the negroes. True, in time its name came to be associated with deeds of violence and misery. (Information- Garners: Reconstruction in Miss)

Lucile McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County
Prentiss, Mississippi

Jefferson Davis County, Reconstruction

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 14
Topic of Assignment - Outlaw Days
Names of Canvassers- V. Smith, R. Stewart and L. Burkett
Date of Compilation- August 24, 1936

I. Gang and Feud Leaders:

A. In 1875 a man, his wife and children moved to Marion County near what is now the town of Carley, Mississippi. Although this took place just across the line of Jefferson Davis County, the happenings connected with this move vitally concerned citizens of this county at a later date. This newcomer, whose name cannot be called, soon proved himself to be an undesirable citizen and as was the custom in that day several good law abiding men took the man out and whipped him and told that if he did not do better they would make him move away. The man conducted himself no better than formerly so he was asked to leave the country. He refused to do this. Several citizens from this county and Marion, 14 in numer, organized themselves and rode to the man's house after night. They carried their guns with them and upon arrival set fire to the house. They told the man that his wife and children could escape but if he tried to they would shoot him. The woman and her children came out. She asked the men if she might save some of her household goods. They told her yes so the wife proceeded to bring out various articles. Finally all unsuspecting to the crowd of men sitting their horses, she brought out a feather mattress across her shoulder with her husband in it. She carried her burden out of the light and laid it on the ground. Her husband crawled out into some bushes and after taking a good look at every man there he made his way into the woods. From that day he became a killer.

B. Immediately after this incident, things began to happen. It was known that this man had not burned to death but had escaped and had threatened and vowed to kill every man who had come to his house to

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
OUTLAW DAYS

burn it.

C. This man was as good as his word because he in time killed every man of the fourteen but two. One of these two bought his life. He sent word to the killer to find out how much he would require to let him go free. The killer sent back word that he wanted $250 cash, a new spinning machine and the best cow and calf he could find. This man gathered up all this and sent it on a wagon by a friend to the killer's house. The killer cursed the friend of the threatened man and told him to go back and tell his friend to come in person. The man came in person and the killer accepted his price of freedom but cautioned him never to cross his path again. Not only did this murderer kill for his own satisfaction or revenge but he could also be hired to kill. He was hired by a woman to kill the father of the man who related this incident to the canvasser. However the killer did not kill this man because he was instructed to kill only if after careful watching the man made a crooked move. The killer lay in the jamb of a fence from Monday Morning until Saturday Night watching his man who was suspected of killing stock of the woman who hired the killer. Years later when the killer lay on his death bed he sent for this man he had watched for a week to kill and related all the events as above related.

D. The killer was shot by the son of a man whom he had killed exactly one year to the day that the killer himself was fatally wounded. The man lived 15 days after receiving wounds that resulted in his death. It was a relief to people in this county to know this dangerous character was dead. He was a terror to every one in this part of the State. (This was told to Supervisor by Mr. Abb Dyess whose father told it to him. Mr. Dyess is a reliable citizen of this county now living at Carson, Miss.)

A. Another gang of criminals came out of this county. There were six brothers in one family. All of them were not bad. Their father was

murdered and their mother being a mean, scheming, wicked woman, insisted on her sons revenging their father's death.

B. The date of the first influence felt from this gang was in 1870. The father was killed in 1865. Following his death feeling ran high and revenge was threatened and talked. C. This whole family was very contrary and peculiar. They owned a lot of stock and refused to keep it up. The stock was a ruination to crops. Several animals were killed. This family became furious and as a result one of the most prominent men in this county at that time was murdered. Some member of this family had killed him. They would fightm or kill about any trivial matter. One son beacme a robber. He started his operations in 1868 as nearly as could be determined. He robbed houses, stores and people. He was ruthless in his operations. He had several others in his gang but it could not be found just what his method of robbing was. One son is living at present in this county. He never took a very active part in the crimes of his brothers. One son was a nice fellow but he did not live long. Another son remained in this county and married but continued to have affairs with womenwho had no reputation. He was finally shot and killed by a woman at Goss, Miss. Another son who had acquired quite a bit of money for his meanness died of swamp fever. The oldest son and a very handsome man operated a horse thief ring. This will be discussed under another heading.

D. Following the murder of this prominent citizen mentioned above, the citizens had a meeting and decided to make this family leave the State. A negro in the crowd spoke up and said why run a family like that on any good people. He said that we had better control them here. A committee was appointed with Scott Hathorn chairman to go to this family and deliver a message to the effect that if another person was killed a mob would hang every member of the family. There were no more killings.

Jefferson Davis County
Outlaw Days

II. Riots:

None

III. White Caps and Bull Doozers:

A. The purpose of the white caps was to promote and help carry out the moral laws of the country. The north had just bought up timber of the south. The country was not to be imposed on. All men must pay their debts and live a moral life.

B. Joe Goss, Baptist Minister, of Osyka. Mississippi and N.C. Hathorn, Columbia, Mississippi were the leaders in this section.

C. The white caps met once a week every Saturady Night at a designated meeting place. Every member wore hoods. At these meetings the leader would preside and any member could suggest something that should be done to better the community. People who did not do right were whipped, asked to leave the country or punished in some kind of way. Members were received into this organization on the recommendation of any member.

D. The results as a whole were good. The principal was good. In this county a negro was to be whipped for stealing. In the process the negro resisted and some of the white caps became infuriated and the negro was killed. This was the end of the white caps. The organization lasted for two years.

IV. Saloon Days:

A. There was one noted saloon at old Mt. Carmel operated by Fate Benson. It was a frame building. Groceries were also sold. Liquor and groceries were stored on the shelves side by side. Any amountof whiskey could be purchased. The price was .50¢ per gallon. When cash was not available corn could be traded for the liquor.

Sixty-one years ago there was an open saloon one and one-half miles from what is now the town of Carson. This saloon was also operated in connection with a store. Whiskey was kept in barrels and could be bought in any quantity. Hugh McLeod was manager of this saloon.

Bob Collins operated an open saloon at old Blountville but no further information could be secured about this.

All the above mentioned saloons were just common ordinary frame buildings in rural sections. There was nothing attractive or ornate in the buildings.

C. The results were that there were not nearly as many drunken men then as there nowadays. Perhaps in towns and cities the results were disastrous but in the rural sections as was this county at that time the results were not bad nor were they beneficial.

V. Early Horse Thieves and Cattle Rustlers:

A. As has been previously mentioned one son from the discussed family became a horse thief. He and one other notorious character were leaders of this outfit. It finally developed into a horse thief ring, which was operated on a large scale operating from Mississippi to Texas. Horses would be stolen in large numbers and carried to Texas. At one time several horses were stolen in Scott County. These men were traced into this county. Here two men followed and caught them.

B. The horse thief that came from this county was retured to Scott County tried in court and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. He stayed there only a short while before he escaped. After escaping he lay out in Holiday's Creek Swamp and Pearl River Swamp for 17 years. This was near the home of his mother. In 1895 he was killed by an assassin

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
OUTLAW DAYS

at Bryant's Ferry. The fugitive was on his way home from Brookhaven where he had been for a load of fertilizer.

VI. Periodic Outlaws and Deserters:

A. None

VII. Kidnappers:

Previous to the kidnapping related in this manuscript, a bank robbery occurred which has a direct bearing on the incident so it will be written just as it happened.

Two bandits quietly slipped into Prentiss on Thursday Morning March 28, 1935, casually entered the Bank of Blountville from the door on the south side and with drawn pistols commanded the cashier, R.C. Williams, assistant cashier, John W. Burrow, the bookkeeper, Miss Lona Winborn, with two customers making deposits, Fred Dale and Mrs. Alma Rogers, to enter the vault while they ransacked the cash drawer and counters for all available cash, about $1100, of which about $600 was in silver. They left immediately for a waiting car driven by a woman companion, going down the road to Hattiesburg.

The imprisoned employees and customers quickly released themselves by a mechanism on the inside of the vault. The time lock was on the bulk of the money and the bandits were greatly disappointed not to secure more cash than they did. Following the hold up, Sheriff W.H. Mathison and Marshal John Sanford hastily organized a hunt, getting in touch with all sheriffs of adjoining counties. There was much excitement and guns and pistols were very numerous.

The bandit car went down the Hattiesburg road about two miles then took a cross country- road known as "Lovers' Lane" where they got in touch with two other women accomplices and also shifted cars.

They then drove into the Prentiss Columbia Highway and went south; then doubled back into the community south of Whitesand School. Finally they headed back for the Columbia Road but the car slipped into a ditch not very far from the highway. Here the car was abandoned; the men and women separating. The bandits wandered in the woods where it is said they hid the stolen silver. They had machine guns and some ammunition. After roaming around in the fields they came out in the barn lot of Tal Polk, farmer scuth of Prentiss. They saw Mr. Polk's new car and demanded it with a drawn gun. Mr. Polk firmly refused them his car. An argument and shooting scrape followed; Polk turning loose a couple of shots, wounding one of the bandits, but not sufficient to stop him.

At this juncture a travelling man came by and the bandits seized his car at the point of the gun and headed toward Columbia. In a short while they came upon a posse and turned the car around and headed for Prentiss. Officers were expecting the bandits in the car taken from the travelling man as Mr. Polk had phoned in the description of the car. Before arriving in Prentiss the desperadoes abandoned this car and commandeered J.M. Hand's car, a highway employee. With Hand driving, the bandits came up main Street in Prentiss. Hand said that one bandit sat on the seat next to him and kept his foot over Hand's foot on the accelerator, waving friendly greetings to folks as they passed.

By this time John Sanford and C.E. Luper had routed the women companions south of Prentiss as they fled through a field, arresting them and bringing them to jail. These were soon identified as Estelle and Dorothy Davis, noted gangster women, and Mrs. Bergie Johnson, of Carson. Mrs. Johnson stated that she knew nothing of the robbery and

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
OUTLAW DAYS

was only a guest in the automobile, thinking they were on a trip to Jackson. The bandits and the Davis girls had been guests in Mrs. Johnson's home near Carson for two or three days previous to the robbery.

By this time newspaper reporters from New Orleans were in Prentiss and it became known that the bandits were Raymond Hamilton, Southwest Public Enemy Number 1, and Ralph Fults, also a notorious character. It was thought up until this time that the bandits were only amateurs. The women were moved immediately to unknown jails, the Davis sisters being held on federal charges.

Meanwhile citizens and officers had blocked the country road on the east and west with the bandits cooped up on a road about 12 miles north of Prentiss. The bandits had taken possession of another car and were attempting to get away when the possemen demanded a halt. The bandits came from behind cover shooting and overpowered and disarmed the whole posse. They then chose the new Ford Coupe of M.E. Smith, County Agent of Jefferson Davis County, to make their get away in. They made Mr. Smith drive and placed Ralph Baylis, of Prentiss, Hon. E.L. Dent on the rear of the car, sheriff Ennis Crawford and some others on the running board as shields. Working in this fashion and with a precision that was marvelous, they made their escape, carrying Mr. Smith and Baylis with them on a wild ride from north Jeff. Davis County to Memphis.

With Mr. Smith driving and the two bandits with guns in their hands and Ralph Baylis in the turtle shell there was a ride that would put old John Gilpin to shame. They went through New Hebron, Rockport, Hazlehurst, Crystal Springs, Jackson and on to Memphis. Near Terry, Hinds County, they dropped out into the country and the bandits divided the

loot, replenished the car with gas at a country store and headed for Jackson, there taking highway No. 51. About 2:00 o'clock Friday Morning, Hamilton asked Mr. Smith to stop the car, as they must have rest. Then until near daylight, the bandits took time about in watching and sleeping. At Grenada, Hamilton started driving and drove to within a few miles of Memphis.

Baylis was forced to swap clothing with one of the bandits, the latter giving Baylis $12 to boot. Mr. Smith sold his hat to Hamilton for $9.00. Near Memphis the bandits forced both Smith and Baylis into the rumble and did much driving about the suburbs, parking the car later near the Chisca Hotel and locking both their captives in the rumble, stating they they would return shortly and liberate them. The kidnapped men said the place became stuffy and they were about to suffocate and knew it meant death to remain in such a place. They decided to take a chance and broke the lock and escaped. They hired a taxi back to Hernando and there reported to Sheriff Sid Campbell. Mr. Smith and Baylis returned to Prentiss on Saturday and were warmly greeted by hundreds of friends who had felt much uneasiness for them during their absence.

It was a hectic two days experience and when men get old and bearded, they will still be talking about the Prentiss bank robbery and the kidnapping of Smith and Baylis.

As for the bandits they were lost in Memphis headed for the West. At some later date they were captured. Hamilton was electrocuted in Texas for a crime committed prior to this crime. Fults was brought back to Mississippi, tried in a Jefferson Davis County Court and sentenced to life in the state penitentiary where he is at present.

VIII. General Method of Extermination:

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
OUTLAW DAYS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 14

The man who was known as a killer was killed and no one cared to take up where he had left off. In the other case, the good, law abiding citizens took charge and established order. Saloons were abolished by the 18th amendment. Gradually civilization came. Towns sprung up. Officers were elected who were fearless in the discharge of their duties and this county became a safe place to live as did other counties.

Ruth C. Sutton

Ruth C. Sutton, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
OUTLAW DAYS

Assgn. 10

Subject of Assignment-Races and Nationalities of County
Names of Canvassers*Roma Stewart and L. Burkett
Date of Compilation-May 29, 1936

Accepted L.B.

. In Jefferson Davis County there are 6380 white people including 2 Jews, 2 Germans, 1 Irish and 260 Irish descendants, 7901 negroes, no Indians, Chinese, Japanese, or any other nationality. As has been stated in a previous assignment, there are no Indians in the county. (Information from County Sheriff's records, Jefferson Davis County, Prentiss, Mississippi, May 12, 1936)

According to census statistics, the negro race out numbers the white race in this county. There are 600 negro farm owners, the farms having an average size of 75 acres. The majority of these farms are mortgaged. There are 900 negro families who are share renters. No other trade is engaged in by negroes in this county to any extent. However there are 3 negro merchants who are successful business men. (Information from M.E. Smith, County Agent, Prentiss, Miss., May 25, 1936)

One of the most interesting projects in Negro Education in the American South is the Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute located in this county. This Institution has done practically everything that has been done by negroes industrially, educationally, in fine arts, in literature or any beneficial manner.

Founded in 1907 by two negro elementary school teachers, J.E. Johnson and his wife, Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute has grown far beyond its humble beginnings in an old plantation cabin built of chinked boards handsawed by slaves 140 years ago. The original 80 cre tract donated by negro farmers has grown to a great farm of 500 es whose rich crops aid in supporting the enrollment of 317.

The founders of this school, J.E. Johnson and his wife, Bertha

Johnson head the top of the list as prominent negro leaders. Trained at Alcorn A. & M. College to enter the medical profession, Mr. Johnson saw that he could be of greater service to his people by training teachers, artisans, and scientific farmers. Born on a farm, the eldest of 14 children, Johnson attended a little rural school and worked on the farm. At 16 he entered Alcorn College and graduated with a B.S. Degree in 1902 as valedictorian of his class. Mrs. Bertha Johnson assists her husband as teacher in the school. After graduating from Tuskegee Institute, she planned to do missionary work in Africa. Her decision was altered on finding that much was to be done for her own people in the South.

Many prominent negro professional men and women have gone out from this Institute in Jefferson Davis County. Among them are 4 doctors. They are: Dr. Magge now in Pensacola, Florida; Dr. Polk in Arkansas; Dr. A.M. Hall, Jackson, Mississippi; and Dr. L.J. Johnson now located in Minden, Louisiana. Two lawyers received their early education at this school. They are Houstin Hall in Chicago and O.W. Johnson in Greenville, Mississippi. One preacher has succeeded in his profession. He is Rev. G.C. Fairley now pastor of a Methodist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Lula Hawthorne, a native of Jefferson Davis County, took a course in nurses training at Tuskegee Institute where she won a gold medal for scholarship and excellency in her work and is now serving as head nurse in a private hospital, Newark, New Jersey. A.J. Godbolt and Alma Lucas, both graduates of Prentiss Institute, are now serving as County Demonstration and Home Demonstration Agents respectively. Hildan Manson Wesson graduated from Prentiss Institute in 1928 and is now a successful Social Service Worker in Jackson, Mississippi.

Some of the outstanding educators or teachers are as follows:

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
RACES AND NATIONALITIES

Eva Johnson Dawson who graduated from the Institute in 1927. She did her college work at Fisk University and the University of Iowa. She is now serving as Directress of Music at the Institute. Booker T. Griffith graduated in 1921. He took his B.S. and M.S. Degrees at the University of Pittsburgh. He was dean at Prentiss Institute 2 years, Professor of Biology, New Orleans University 6 years and is now serving as Professor of Science at Clark University, Atlanta, Georgia. Among the successful rural school teachers are: Marie Hall, Santa Johnson, Catherine Leonard, Carrie Jones, Raynor Paige, Thelma Morgan, Joseph Otis and Joe Gill.

As with other schools, Prentiss is proud of her student activities. There are an orchestra and several music clubs. A group of young negro men organized into the " Jubilee Singers " have toured the United States. They have become famous and have pleased radio and concert audiences. Many of the school girls take piano lessons and have learned to play skillfully.

Other prominent negro leaders as citizens of the county are: R.D. Polk, E.L. Hall, W.D. McLeod, Henry C. Griffith, and Estes Johnson. (Information from J.E. Johnson, President P.N.I.I., Prentiss, Mississippi, May 15, 1936)

No other race has contributed any thing in any way to the betterment of Jefferson Davis County.

Mrs Gladys McLaurin

Mrs. Gladys McLaurin, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Data for Colored Schools
Date of Compilation-Sept.9, 1936

Assignment #10

I. Following is the names and all data that could be obtained about the colored schools of Jefferson Davis County:

Belvieu, located in Beat # 2, address Oakvale, Miss. There are two teachers; W.J. Holloway is principal. The enrollment is 116 with an average attendance of 76.

Bassfield, located in Beat # 3, address Bassfield, Miss. There are three teachers; A. D. Oatis is principal. The enrollment is 143 with an average attendance of 84.

Black Jack, located in Beat # 3, address Bassfield, Miss. There is one teacher; Maude Haynes. The enrollment is 36 with an average attendance of 27.

Carson, located in Beat # 1, address Carson, Miss. There are two teachers; L.V. Powell is principal. The enrollment is 84 with an average attendance of 75.

Cedar Grove, located in Beat # 1, address Prentiss, Miss. There are two teachers; J.C. Page is principal. The enrollment is 49 with an average attendance of 44.

Dry Hollow, located in Beat # 5, address Silver Creek, Miss. There are two teachers; C.L. Norwood is principal. The enrollment is 103 with an average attendance of 67.

Gallilee, located in Beat # 5, address Silver Creek, Miss. There are two teachers; J.R. Newsome is principal. The enrollment is 71 with an average attendance of 57.

Gray, located in Beat # 4, address Prentiss, Miss. There are two teachers. Paul Polk is principal. The enrollment is 72 with an

Jefferson Davis County
Races and Nationalities

average attendance of 57.

Harper, located in Beat #3, address Bassfield, Miss. There are three teachers; Effie Reece Tate is Principal. The enrollment is 115 with an average attendance of 92.

Haw Pond, located in Beat # 1, address Prentiss, Miss. There are two teachers; Julia D. Barnes is principal. The enrollment is 74 with an average attendance of 61.

Holly Grove, located in Beat # 1, address Silver Creek, Miss. There are two teachers; Mildred McNair is principal. The enrollment is 76 with an average attendance of 65.

Haynes Academy, located in Beat # 2, address Oakvale, Miss. There are two teachers, F.W. Haynes is principal. The enrollment is 103 with an average attendance of 67.

Jerusalem, located in Beat # 4, address Mt. Olive, Miss. There are two teachers; Essie Gray is principal. The enrollment is 79 with an average attendance of 50.

Lucas, located in Beat # 1, address Silver Creek, Miss. There are two teachers; O.L. Williams is principal. The enrollment is 66 with an average attendance of 46.

Mt. Carmel, located in Beat # 4, address Prentiss, Miss. There are two teachers; F.L. Griffith is principal. The enrollment is 119 with an average attendance of 97.

Mt. Zion, located in Beat # 4, address Prentiss, Miss. There are four teachers; C.J. Carson is principal. The enrollment is 128 with an average attendance of 105.

New Zion, Jr. located in Beat # 1, address Prentiss, Miss. There is one teacher; Dora Bass is principal. The enrollment is 43, with an average

attendance of 35.

Newsome, located in Beat # 5, address Prentiss, Miss. There is one teacher; Sisretta Johnson is principal. The enrollment is 36 with an average attendance of 27.

Oak Grove, located in Beat # 5, address Prentiss, Miss. There is one teacher; Essie Hartzog is principal. The enrollment is 43 with an average attendance of 30.

Pine Bluff, located in Beat # 5, address Prentiss, Miss. There are two teachers; Olivia Jones is principal. The enrollment is 108 with an average attendance of 58.

Pine Ridge, located in Beat # 1, address Silver Creek, Miss. There are three teachers; J.H. Armstrong is principal. The enrollment is 71 with an average attendance of 47.

Price, located in Beat # 3, address Bassfield, Miss. There are two teachers; Mary Booth is principal. The enrollment is 91 with an average attendance of 75.

Progress, located in Beat # 1, address Prentiss, Miss. There are four teachers; J.E. Clark is principal. The enrollment is 128 with an average attendance of 105.

Point Pleasant, located in Best # 4, address Mt. Olive, Miss. There are two teachers; L.M. McInnis is principal. The enrollment is 102 with an average attendance of 87.

Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute , Part public and private, located in Beat # 1 in Prentiss, Miss. There are 9 teachers; A.L. Johnson is principal. The enrollment is 282 with an average attendance of 260.

Ridgeland, located in Beat # 3, address Bassfield, Miss. There are two

Jefferson Davis County
Races and Nationalities

teachers; C.G. Graves is principal. The enrollment is 56 with an average attendance of 41.

Santee, located in Beat # 3, address Bassfield, Miss. There is 1 teacher; Annie Bass is principal. The enrollment is 51 with an average a attendance of 36.

Solomon, located in Beat # 2, address Oakvale, Miss. There are two teachers; Rosetta Snyder is principal. The enrollment is 46 with an average attendance of 36.

Spring Hill, located in Beat # 5, address Silver Creek, Miss. There are two teachers; Queene Weathersby is principal. The enrollment is 111 with an average attendance of 77.

Sylvarena, located in Beat# 5, address New Hebron, Miss. There is one teacher; the principal is Mamye Lee. The enrollment is 65 with an average attendance of 40.

Union Line, located in Beat # 1, address Silver Creek, Miss. There is one teacher; Mamye Uston is principal. The enrollment is 36 with an average attendance of 27.

Whitesand, located in Beat # 5, address Prentiss, Miss. There is one teacher; Flora D. White is principal. The enrollment is 93 with an average attendance of 71.

Pine Grove, located in Beat # 3, address Carson, Miss. There is one teacher, Polly Seabren is principal. The enrollment is 40 with an average attendance of 34.

(All of the above information was secured from D.H. Price, County Supt. of Education, Jefferson Davis County, Prentiss, Mississippi.)

II. The Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute is a school and in many cases a home for delinquent negro children above twelve years old. The school was founded in 1907 by two elementary school teachers, J.E. Johnson and his wife, Bertha Johnson. This Institute has grown far beyond its humble beginning in an old plantation cabin built of chinked boards handsawed by slaves 140 years ago. The original 80 acre tract donated by negro farmers has grown to a great farm of 500 acres.

The state gives from four to five months free school through the grammar grades. The Institute takes them through high school and gives them agriculture, trades, and some take the Teacher Training Course.

Mr. Johnson was trained at Alcorn A & M College to enter the medical profession. He saw later however that he could be of greater service to his people by training teachers, artisans and scientific farmers. Johnson was graduated from Alcorn College with a B.S. degree in 1902 as valedictorian of his class. Mrs. Bertha Johnson assists her husband in managing the school. She is a graduate of Tuskegee Institute.
On page 2 of assignment # 10 from Jefferson Davis County will be found a record of outstanding graduates and their achievements.
(This information was secured from J.E. Johnson, President of Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute, Prentiss, Mississippi, May 12, 1936)

Mt. Carmel School was founded in 1906. Will Burkett of Bassfield, Superintendednt of Edueation in Jefferson Davis County at that time assisted Jim Dickens, Dr. Turner and Henry Griffith, negro citizens, in getting this school. In 1922 this school was made a Rosen-

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
PAGES AND NATIONALITIES

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Data for Colored Schools

wald Institution. Some outstanding graduates of this school are: C.C. Griffith, Baptist Preacher, Mary A. Booth, Mary E. Booth, and Olivia Jones, school teachers; Henry Louis Polk, insurance agent in Washington, D.C., Henry Clay Griffith, City Post office Clerk, New York City, Cicero Griffith, post office clerk, Pittsburgh, Pa.; B.T. Griffith, professor of Science , Clark University, Atlanta, Ga.;

Mt. Zion School was first founded in 1870. Owen Brinson was the first principal. The school was made a vocational institution in 1929. Home Economics, progressive farming and agriculture are taught here. Some outstanding graduates are: I.H. Otis, progressive farmer, Daisy Hall, exteacher, G.W. Hall and Charles Hall both progressive farmers and leaders in religious activities.

(Data secured from Henry Griffith, prominent negro resident of this county, Prentiss, Mississippi, September 3, 1936)

A negro woman, Thelma Johnson holds the position of supervisor of the negro schools in Jefferson Davis and Covington Counties. She has a M.A. degree from Columbia University. She is a Supervisor made possible by the Anna T. Jeans, Endowment Fund. She is also paid some money from the county. (From D.H. Price, Prentiss, Miss. Supt. of Education, Jeff. Davis County. September 8, 1936)

Ruth C. Sutton

Ruth C. Sutton, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

Jefferson Davis County
Races and Nationalities

Copy

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Topic of Assignment*Folk-Lore and Folk Customs
Names of Canvassers-Roma Stewart, V. Smith and Lula Burkett
Date of Compilation-May 14, 1936

DIVISIONS OF FOLK CUSTOMS:

1. The first day of January is celebrated as New Year's Day. The routine of celebration is always the same. About five minutes before midnight on the thirty-first day of December, the revelers begin ringing bells, blowing whistles, shooting guns, and making any possible kind of noise. The ringing of the bells brings in the new year. It is an occasion of much merriment. (Information from L. Burkett, Canvasser)

St. Valentine's Day is observed in memory of St. Valentine, a poor man, who made every effort to make people happy. On his birthday, February 14, valentines or love tokens are sent to friends and loved ones. Young people and children have great fun sending comic cards to those they wish to tease. (Information from L. Burkett, Canvasser)

Easter is celebrated as the Resurrection of the Lord from the grave. It is also interpreted as the beginning of Spring. Every year at t is season special religious services are held at churches to commemorate this event. For this occas on, all ladies want new spring hats and dresses to wear. The children celebrate this day by having egg hunts. Pretty colored eggs are hidden by the older people and the children get much enjoyment from finding them. It is believed by children that every bird contributed an egg to have the first Easter egg hunt, and that the bunny rabbit was the little animal chosen to carry the eggs to the homes of children and make a nest to put the eggs in.
(Information from Roma Stewart, Canvasser.)

On the fourth of July a legal holiday is observed in celebration

of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is celebrated each year by having political rallies, picnics, ball games and also by a big display of fireworks. (Information from L. Burkett, Canvasser)

Hallow'een is observed on the 31st of October. This is the time the spooks and goblins are supposed to roam. Parties are given carrying out the Hallow'een Spirit by having decorations of black cats, witches, jack o'lanterns; fortunes are told and contests relating to the holiday spirit are used. (Information from V. Smith, Canvasser)

The World War was ended November 11, 1918, when Armistice was signed in Paris taking effect at 5:00 A.M. Each year since that time, November 11, is celebrated as a legal holiday. The school children have patriotic programs in school. All business houses are closed. Every body pauses on this day to pay tribute to those who participated in the great struggle. (Information from Roma Stewart, Canvasser)

Thanksgiving Day has been celebrated in some way every since the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. It is celebrated in this county by having services at schools and churches counting the bles ings for which we are thankful. It isn also celebrated by having sumptous feasts such as the Pilgrims had after they harvested their first crops.
(Information from Roma Stewart, Canvasser)

December 25 is celebrated the nation over in honor of Christ's birthday. Christmas Eve the children enjoy putting up their Christmas trees and hanging up their stockings for Santa Claus, a ficticious character who comes down the chimney and puts presents on the tree or in the stockings of children who have been good. The next day is Christmas Day, a time of rejoicing. Every little child is up before the sun to see

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, FOLKLORE

what Santa has brought to them. At noon a bountiful dinner is served. People give presnts to their friends in memory of the most precious gift that the world has ever known "Christ,"who taught that is more blessed to give than to receive. (Information from Roma Stewart, Canvasser)

2. A "Black Mammy" influence on birth superstition in this locality is to the effect that an expectant mother can mark her unborn babe by craving food that she can not have. Whatever the food is that she wants and does not get the imprint of that thing will appear on her child. (Information from Adeline Holloway, April 30, 1936, Prentiss, Miss.)

Another superstition is that a bed on which a confined woman is lying with her baby must not be swept under during the time of confinement. If such is done the mother will never get up out of bed.

(Information from Adeline Holloway,Prentiss, Miss., April 30, 1936)

When a death occurs in a home all clocks in this home must be stopped and remain so until the body is carried away. If this is not done another death will follow, so superstition has it.

(Information from Dora Hathorn, Prentiss, Miss., May 6, 1936)

If rain should fall in a newly dug grave, it is a sign of another death in the same family soon or the deceased is blessed.

(Information from Dora Hathorn, Prentiss, Miss., May 6, 1936)

A negro bride will not wear a hat during the wedding ceremony as it is supposed to be bad luck. Even though she is wearing a hat, she removes it just before the ceremony begins.(Information from Rosanna Hill, Prentiss, Miss., May 8, 1936)

It is customary for the couple to be married at the home of the bride. All relatives and close friends are invited before hand to be present to witness the happy occasion. In the meantime a bountiful supply of

food has been prepared for the guests. On the next day the bride and groom depart for the groom's home where close friends and relatives have been invited to a bountiful feast and a period of fun. This is known as "Infare". This custom is not practised as much as formerly. (Information from Roma Stewart, Canvasser)

Pieces of broken china or pottery are placed on graves of negroes because of their liking for bright colors. (Information from Lessie McInnis, Prentiss, Miss., R.F.D., May 1, 1936)

Mrs. Roma Stewart, canvasser, interviewed Adeline Holloway. This is Mrs. Stewarts account of the interview:"Aunt Adeline,is there any harm in killing cats?"

"My God, child, didn't you know a cat has nine lives and if you kill them they'll come back that night and growl around you so lonesome. He'll scratch yo eyes out too. Them black cats is wusser 'n any ub dem. Lawd, chile, I wouldn't kill a cat for nuthin." Aunt Adeline also said,"An old hen crowing ain't no sign of nothin good. Lawd, chile, if I didn't have but one old hen and she crowed, I'd sho break her neck. A whistlin gal and a crowing hen allus comes to a bad end".

3. Perhaps one of the most popular social customs in this locality is the "log rolling". However this custom is not as popular as it was several years ago. When a farmer cleared a new tract of land, he would clear everything off this land except the logs. He would then invite his neighbors and friends to his home for the day for a log rolling. Each man came and brought a hand spike to help carry the logs. It would take six or eight men to carry some of the logs. While working much mem fun and merriment was had by the men. The women of the neighborhood would be invited to come and help prepare the dinner for the men. For no occasion would any more food be prepared than for a log rolling. There was also a

great amount of work accomplished at a function of this kind. (Information by Lula Burkett, Canvasser)

Cotton scrapings have been a custom of negroes since slavery time. Several families form a kind of company and decide among themselves which will be the first to give a scraping. Then after the first one, each has a day as planned. These scrapings are usually enjoyed by every one as they all have a jolly good time together and al ways a big dinner is served in each home where the scraping is in progress. (Information from V. Smith, Canvasser)

Quiltings are held on the same order as cotton scrapings. However quiltings are given by white women and sometimes three or four quilts are finished in one day. (Information by V. Smith, Canvasser)

Pound suppers are usually given to aged persons, pastors of churches, ot to families where serious illness has been. Each family invited carries a pound of groceries or food of some kind. After all packages have been opened, prayer and song service follow.(Information from Ella Rhodes, Prentiss, Miss., May 4, 1936

Surprise suppers are common in this locality for negroes. They are usually given to an aged person or some one who has been away for some length of time and recently returned home to stay. The person for whom the supper is given is taken away from home on some pretext or other on the afternoon of the event and returned without knowing what is to take place. During the absence of the person, the guests arrive, with presents and food prepared for the supper. The table is set and everyone present is placed where the person honored cannot see them. As the honored person enters the door, some one quickly throws a sheet over the person's head and while the crowdsings, rings bells and roars loudly the person is led to the table and seated. When the sheet is lifted, supper is served and each guest gives the honor guest a gift.(Information from Houston Warner and Ella Rhodes,

Prentiss, Mississippi, April 29, 1936.)

4. None

5. Slat Bonnets are worn by women and girls who work out in the fields in the sun. These bonnets are made usually of homespun. Slats of wood or heavy pasteboard about an inch wide are placed between the two pieces of cloth forming the front of the bonnet. These slats are removed when laundered. Fascinators, Mother Hubbards, and Capes are worn mostly by old women at the present time. These fascinators are long wool scarfs of bright colors and are worn over the head. Mother Hubbards are dresses made on long loose lines gathered thickly around a yoke and worn without belts. Often times old time capes are still worn by older women. These capes are of heavy woolen material trimmed with fur. Some are of plush and velvet and trimmed very elaborately with fancy trimmings. (Information from Lula Burkett, Canvasser.)

6. In May, Children's Day is celebrated on Sunday. Programs are given at churches that no one participate in but children. Readings are given, Bible stories are told and songs are sung. Dinner is served on a long table at the noon hour. The program is over about 2:30 in the afternoon. (Information from Roma Stewart, Canvasser)

Homecoming Day is getting to be observed often in this county. These days are sponsored by churches. All old members and former pastors are invited to be present at the old home church for a reunion of old acquaintances and fellowships. A religious service is held and at the noon hour a delightful social hour is enjoyed. (Information from Lula Burkett, Canvasser)

7. Fish Frys are very common among the negroes in this section. One or two families will catch or buy two ot three hundred pounds of fish. They will buy several loaves of bread and several cases of drinks and then invite the public to come to their fish fry. The fish is fried in a huge

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, FOLKLORE

wash pot one third full of grease. Each man present is supposed to buy his girl and himself some of the fish, bread and drinks. If a girl does not have a beau she must buy her own food. After the fish has been consumed, the crowd join in some form of entertainment such as dancing and "crap shooting".

DIVISION OF FOLK TALES:

1. None
2. None
3. None

Mrs Gladys McLaurin
Mrs. Gladys McLaurin, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, FOLKLORE

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

Topic of Assignment-Churches

Name of Canvasser-Georgia McGehee

Date of Compilation-May 7, 1937

Assignment # 26

L. STATISTICS: 1. Number churches of all denomination in county.

There are fourteen Baptist Churches, six Methodist, churches, two Presbyterian churches and one Catholic Church in the county.

a. Name of pastor and frequency of service.

Baptist Churches.

Hebron - Rev. Webb- one-fourth time.

Whitesand - Rev. Dearman - one-half time.

Phalti - Rev. S. L. Walker - one-half time.

Antioch - Rev. B. E. Phillips - one-fourth time.

Prentiss - Rev. L. E. Green - Full time

Oakgrove- Rev. Black - one fourth time.

Dublin - Rev. John Lane - one fourth-time.

Carson - Rev. Lowrey - one fourth time.

Bassfield - Rev. Farr - one fourth tiem.

Victory - Rev. E. I. Farr - one fourth time

Hepzibah - Rev. John Lane - one fourth time

Ebenezer - Rev. Ivan Lowry - one half time

Society Hill - Rev. C. W. Black - one fourth time

Bethany - Rev. S. L. Walker - one fourth time.

Hathorn - Rev. J. H. Lane - one half time.

PRESBYTERIAN:

Prentiss - Rev. F. L. McFadden - full time.

Hopewell - Rev. Harvell Jackson - one half time.

METHODIST:

Prentiss - Rev. L. L. Roberts - one half tiem.

Bassfield - Rev. L. L. Roberts - one fourth time.

Mt. Zion - Rev. L. L. Roberts - one half time - afternoons.

Carson - Rev. L. L. Roberts - one fourth time.

Santee - Rev. J. T. Leggett- one fourth time.

Goodhope - Rev. J. T. Leggett - one fourth time.

CATHOLIC:

Bassfield - Father Tierman - full time.

b. Name, location, and membership of each church.

Hebron - located in north-werstern part of county on highway 13 - two hundred seventy four members.

Whitesand - six miles north from Prentiss - three hundred forty members.

Phalti - twelve miles from Prentiss in north-eastern part of county, two hundred twenty members.

Antioch - six miles east from Prentiss - one hundred twenty one members.

Prentiss - County Seat, Central part of county - three hundred members.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY CHURCHES

members.

Oak Grove - five miles west from Prentiss, one hundred fifty members.

Dublin - on highway forty two, three miles east from Prentiss - one hundred two members.

Carson - seven miles east from Prentiss - one hundred forty one.

Bassfield - twelve miles east from Prentiss -one hundred fifty eight

Victory - eighteen miles from Prentiss on Bouie Creek - one hundred seventy three members.

Hepzibah - twelve miles south west from Prentiss - tow hundred fifty members.

Ebenezer - twelve miles south from Prentiss - two hundred eighty three members.

Society -Hill - fifteen miles south from Prentiss on highway 42 - one hundred seventy two.

Bethany - two and one-half miles south from Prentiss - ~~xwo~~ one hundred members.

Hopewell - northeastern part of county -fourteen miles from Prentiss.-

Prentiss - At Prentiss - sixty members.

Prentiss Methodist - town of Prentiss - tw~~o~~ hundred twenty five members.

Mt. Zion - seven miles north east from Prentiss -one hundred members.

Bassfield - twelve miles east fom Prentiss -one hundred forty one. members

Santee - six miles east from Carson - one hundred thirty members.

Carson - seven miles east from Prentiss - one hundred twenty five members.

Goodhope - eighteen miles east from Carson - one hundred twenty five.

Bassfield Catholic - twelve miles east from Prentiss - four hundred ten members.

c. State Denonination Institutions in your county.

There are no Denominational Institutions in Jefferson Davis County.

11. PIONEER CHURCHES : 1. When and how organized.

Antioch Baptist Church located three miles south of Mt. Carmel was organized May 31, 1884. Two preachers organized the church, Rev. J. G. Chastain who was a missionary and later went to Mexico, Brother T. S. Powell was the other and he also was the first pastor. The charter members were, John Baker, John McPhail, Homer Polk, J. R. McNease, C. D. McNease, N. C. Hathorn, J. F. Williamson, C. S. Brinson, and T. D. Sinclair. Sisters Lula Brinson, M. J. Williamson, Emily Broom, A. S. Holloway, S. R. Hathorn, A. J. and E. M. McNease, Angie and M. J. Garner, Patience and Margie Polk, Ellen and Florence Sinclair, Eunice and Jane Polk.

The new church was moved about two miles south of the old church and constructed in June 27, 1895. The fund was made by volunteer subscription. Some of the most outstanding ministers that served the church were; J. P. Williams 1894-99, then from 1905-06. R. Drummond, 1890-92, J.B.Quinn, 1909.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY CHURCHES

The present pastor is S. L. Walker.

2. Architecture

This church was an old frame building almost oblong with a seating capacity of about one hundred. It had a high pulpit in the back for the preacher, also a small window fo air and ventilation.

3. How financed.

This church was financed by free will offerings.

4. Church activities.

a. All day services.

One week during each summer a revival was held, with two services each day and dinner on the ground.

b. Camp meetings

Antioch is a Baptist Church and they do noe have camp meetings.

c. Singing Schools.

A ten day singing school was often held in the churches during the summer. They were led by a singing teacher, who taught the do, re, me, method. Each pupil paid $1.50 for tuition and also a song book had to be bought. These singing schools were well attended.

d. graveyard workings.

At most all of the churches there is a graveyard. From once or twice a year people of the community have a graveyard

working , always before the beginning of the summer revival.

e. Church discipline.

Each Baptist Church has a Board of Deacons, consisting of at least five of their members. People who disobeyed the rules of the church of the covenant if it was known by one of these deacons or reported to one of them were tried by the church. If they made acknowledgement to the church of their wrongsoing they were kept in the church, if not they severed their relationship.

f. Roll calls.

We do not know if they had roll calls in these pioneer churches.

5. Church organizations.

This church had a Sunday School as far back as we could get information but no other organization.

Bethany Church on Whitesand Creek was organized in 1819, under the labors of Elder John P. Martin, one of the leading pioneer ministers of the state, who was succeeded by Norval [illegible]. Robinson, who also served forty years. Rev. Robinson was succeeded by his son T. E. E. Robinson, who also served forty years. Then T. S. Powell was pastor and was in turn succeeded by J. P. Williams. Rev. Williams was pastor of this church for many years. His pastorate closed in 1902. Since then J. O. Buckley, J. B. Quinn, Mize and Solon Walker have

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, CHURCHES

been pastors of this church.

2. Architecture.

This church was a one room wooden structure, built by John McDonald, the same building still in use. Only once has this church been repaired. It once had a slave gallery. The prettiest place in the county for a church, so many big trees, oaks, gum, elm and others. Some of these died, others were cut, but it is still a pretty place.

4. Church Activities.

The activities of all these pioneer Baptist Churches were practically the same.

5. Church organizations.

No organizations except a Sunday School occassionally.

Hebron Church building is a frame structure, old antebellum in style with a slave gallery. The same house is still in use, except it has been repaired and painted many times.

5. Church organizations.

Church services once a month, and Sunday School occasionally constituted the actitives of the church.

These pioneer churches were financed by free will offerings.

1. When and how organized.

Hopewell Presbyterian church was organized April 1830, under the leadership of Rev. Jacob Rickhow, pastor of the Sharon Presbyterian Church. All the members belonged to Sharon church moved their membership to Hopewell. Some of the charter members were. John McFarland, Mary McFarland, Archable Wilkinson, Mary Wilkinson, Effie McFarland, Daniel McFarland, Archable McCollum, Mary, McCollum, Dugal McFarland and Hugh McFarland.

As the church struggled along other member joined from time to time. The first regular pastor was Rev. P.H.Fullinwider, who served from 1830-34. The first church was a log school house where they worshipped until 1857 when the present church was erected. It is a one room building with balconies built for the slaves.

3. How financed.

This church was financed by contributions.

4. Church activities.

Church activities were very much the same as other pioneer churches. Sunday services and all day meetings.

lll. MODERN CHURCHES

The Modern Churches in the county are: Prentiss Presbyterian, Bassfield Baptist, Carson Methodist, Bassfield

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY CHURCHES

Methodist, Phalti Baptist.

1. Architecture.

Among the first comers to the newly established town of Prentiss were two or three Presbyterian men and women, members of Dry Creek and Hopewell churches. Their pastor Rev. M. S. Smith of Collins proposed to come and preach for them. His offer was eagerly accepted and in July 1905, he preached two days.

The Presbyterian Church located a t Prentiss,Mississippi is a modern structure built of brick with three Sunday School rooms opening into the auditorium and three built in the back. On the second floor of this building there are a kitchen and dining room with a seating capacity of about forty or fifty. There are two rest rooms in this building.

2. Pastors Home.

The pastor of this church lives at Collins, Mississippi and they so not have a pastorium at Prentiss.

3. Church organizations; Sunday Schools, Missionary Circles, Young Peoples Organizations, etc.

The Sunday school was organized in 1905 with Dr. H. G. Williams as Superintendant.

The Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1905 with four members. The society continued to function as an aid until

1921, when Mrs. S. C. Everts, then presbyterial visitor came and organized the Women's Auxiliary. Since that time the work has gone stadily forward. There are now eighteen members in this auxiliary. Bible classes and Home and Foreigh Mission study classes are held each year.

In the summer of 1925 the young people organized the Christian Endeavor. The work done by this organization conforms to the presbyterian progressive program for young people.

4. Noted ministers, missionaries, and outstanding christian workers.

We have a lot of good ministers and christian workers, but none of them are really outstanding.

1. Architecture.

Under the leadership of Rev. J. B. Quinn, the new Baptist church at Passfield was erected at a cost of $16,500,00.This building is built of brick and is 66x60 feet. It has twenty Sunday School rooms. Has double deck Sunday School rooms on each side. There is also an office and pastors study.

2. Pastors Home.

There is a modern pastors home located near the church.

3. Church Organization.

This church maintains a Sunday school, W.M.S. Y.W.A. G.A.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY CHURCHES

III. Modern Churches.

1. Architecture.

The Carson Methodist Church is a modern frame building with a large auditorium, which is well lighted and ventilated by five large windows on each side and tow at the front of the auditorium. Across the rear of this church there are built four nice Sunday School rooms. Two Sunday School classes are taught in the auditorium. Steps extend across the front of a porch at the entrance. The porch has four large post.

2. Pastors Home.

The pastors home is located at Prentiss, Mississippi, seven miles from Carson.

3. Church Organizations.

Since the organization of the church in 1904, there has been a Sunday School. At present the enrollment is about seventy five, most of whom are children . These children are very interested in the lessons taught, and they take part in special programs such as, Childrens Day, Mothers Day, Easter, etc. Some fine leaders are being developed through the Sunday School and Epworth League.

The Young People are organized into an Epworth League with Mr. E. A. Loftin as a very capable leader. Besides their regular programs, they are taught the rules of the church and are very good singers.

The Missionary Society consists of then members ,with eight of these very active. The society meets weekly and they have, Worls Outlook, Bible Study, Missionary programs, and regular business meetings on the fifth Monday. These women are doing a good work. They visit and send trays to the sick and shut ins also flowers. Each year the pack three boxes for the different orphans homes.The Bible and Missionary study leaders give very helpful information and the women enjoy studying the bible together.

1. Architecture.

The Bassfield Methodist is very new, being built in 1937. It is built of Slate siding with very pretty windows in the large auditorium. There is a small porch in front. At the rear of this church there are three stories of Sunday school rooms, with a basement which contains a kitchenette and rooms for Church entertainment. This church is not quite finished but will be very modern in every respect when completed.

2. Pastors Home.

The pastors home is located at Prentiss, Mississippi.

3. This church has a Sunday School, Missionary Society and Epworth League. Preaching services once a month.

1. Architecture.

Phalti Baptist church is the most modern country church in Jefferson Davis County, with a large auditorium, with a

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, CHURCHES

seating capacity of two hundred and fifty. On each side are wings ~~fmx~~ that are used for Sunday School rooms. These wings have removable walls that enlarges the auditorium.

2. There is no pastors home located near this church.

3. Church organization.

Phalti church carries out the full program of the Baptist church. B.Y.PU. W.M.S. Sunday School etc.

4. Noted Ministers, missionaries, and outstanding Christian workers.

Among the native ministers of Jefferson Davis County are: Geogge Butler, Needham Lee, John Bass, Robert Lee, Solon Walker, and Billie Miller. These are Baptist ministers except Billie Miller who belonged to the Methodist faith. There are many others who have held long pastorates in this county, but not native born. Among these are, Rev. Morval Robinson, T.F.H. Robinson, Jim Finley, T. S. Powell, J. P. ~~Miller~~ Williams, J.B. Quinn, J. O. Buckley, Tom Dale, L.D. POsey and T. J. Moore. One missionary has gone out from this county, Miss Sophia Sutton, who is now doing missionary work in the mountains of Kentucky. One Preist has gone out from the catholic church at Bassfield. Eight ~~Four~~ sisters have also gone out from this church: Three Faler girls, two Powell girls, one Burns girl, and Reddoch and one Fagan girl. They are all active workers now.

The priest name is Mallick Burns, who is now known as Father Malachy. This boy was eductaed at ST. Joseph Seminary, Covington, Louisiana. Later he went to ST. Anslens College, Rome, Italy.

INDIAN CHURCHES

LV. There are no Indian Churches in Jefferson Davis County.

V. Negro Churches.

There are eighteen Baptist churches, four Methodist Churches, five Holiness churches in the county.

a. Name of pastor and frequency of service.

Spring Hill - A. R. Davis - one half time

Green Grove - D. Spann - one fourth time.

Mt. Zion - W. M. Mallery - one fourth time.

Silver Creek North -

Oak Grove -

Point Pleasant - Dewey Bond - one fourth time

Jordan Hill -

Palestine -

Shady Grove - W. S. Fortenberry - one fourth time.

Mt. Carmel - Enoch - one fourth time

Mt. Harmony -

Holiday's Creek, Carson - one fourth time

Prentiss First Baptist - J. C. West - one half time.

Galilee - Truvillion - one fourth tiem.

New Zion - H. Brown - one fourth time

Haynes Academy -

Rose Hill -

Bassfield - St. Paul - WL S. Frotenberry- one half time

Bassfield Progress - T. H. Walker - one fourth time

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, CHURCHES

Colored Methodist Churches -

Prentiss -

Bassfield -

Sweet Water -

Holly Springs -

Colored Holiness Churches.

Lucas Sanctified - .

Christ Temple -

Prentiss -

Pentecost -

Carson -

b. Name, location and membership of each church.

Spring Hill - six miles north from Prentiss - seven hundred.

Green Grove - three miles east from Prentiss on highway 13, two hundred members.

Mt. Zion - north east from Prentiss in beat four - five hundred.

Silver Creek -

Oak Grove - northern part of county -

Point Pleasant - fourteen miles north from Prentiss -two hundred.

Pleasant Hill - five miles south from Prentiss -four hundred.

Mordan Hill - three and one half miles south from Prentiss -

Palestine - three miles north from Prentiss -

Shady Grove - ten miles south west from Prentiss.

Mt. Carmel -eight miles north from Prentiss -one hundred fifty.

Mt. Harmony - 12 miles north east from Prentiss -two hundred sisty four.

Holidays Creek- town of Carson -two hundred sixty.

Prentiss First Baptist - town of Prentiss - one hundred fifty.

Galilee - northwest corner of county in beat five-seventy five.

New Zion - Southwest corner of county, beat two-two hundred.

Haynes Academy - fourteen miles south west from Prentiss -

Rock Hill - twelve miles north from Prentiss -

Bassfield St. Paul - twelve miles east from Prentiss, two hundred eighty five.

Bassfield Progress - twelve miles east from Prentiss - one hundred fifty.

Progress - seven miles south west from Prentiss - fifty members.

Prentiss - town of Prentiss -

Bassfield - twelve miles east from Prentiss -

Sweet Water - ten miles east from Prentiss -

Holly Springs - six miles south from Bassfield -

Lucas Sanctified -five miles west from Prentiss -

Christ Temple - eight miles south from Prentiss -

Prentiss - at Prentiss -

Pentecost - three miles north from Carson - seventy five

Carson - Elder Stewart - thirty members - at Carson.

c. State denominational Institutions in your county.

There are no denominational institutions in county.

11. PIONEER CHURCHES.

Mt. Zion was first organized on 1860, a few miles east of where the present church is located. In 1870 the church was

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, CHURCHES

was moved to where it now stands, The first pastor was a white man by the name of Hempstead. The first colored pastor was Joe Alexander. Persons instrumental in organizing the church were: Orange Griffith, Simon Stamps, Dennis Griffith and Ben Hall. There are five hundred members at present. the present pastor is Rev. Mallory.

2. Afchitecture.

The church is oa one room frame building.

3. How financed.

The church was financed by the members .

4. Church activities.

All day services were held at this church at revival time.

The graveyard was worked annually, before the revival.

Church discipline similar to the white peoples.

There were no sunday schools nor societies in those days.

11. Mt. Maharmony Church was organized in 1874. The first pastor was a white man, Rev. Hempstead. We could not learn much history of this church.

2. Architecture.

This church was alos a one room frame building.

3. How financed.

It was financed by its members.

4. Church activities.

Church activities were the same as Mt. Zion.

Pleasant Hill is one of the oldest negro churches in this county, but we have been unable to get the history of it. Will send it later.

MODERN CHURCHES.

lll. Jefferson Davis County does not have a modern church in building, but are modern in their activities. Prentiss and Progress are Modern in their activities carrying out the full program as outlined by their denomination.

2. There are no regular pastors home for negroes in county.

3. These churches have sunday schools, young people and Womens organizations.

(All the infromation for this manuscript was secured from church records, pastors and aged citizens.)

Lucile McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Historian
Historical Research Project
Prentiss, Mississippi
Jefferson Davis County.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY CHURCHES

THE HISTORICAL SKETCH OF HEBRON CHURCH

----By E. H. Walker----

The best data that can be gotten from the Church Record and information from some old people, Hebron Church was organized in May or June 1821. Elders George King and Shaderick King were two ministers present at the organization. The following brethern and sisters were in the organization of the Church, viz.: John Hutchins, Sr., John Myers, Sr., William Gates, Thomas B. Slater, Wright Mitchell and Buel Evans. The Sisters were Mary and Hannah Myers, Nancy Sutton, Sarah Weathersby, Susanna McDale, Frances and Gracy Myers and Mary Deering. The Church was admitted into the Pearl River Association in 1821.

The first Clerk that we have any record of was James Thames. He was succeeded by Cado Mitchell, November 26, 1836.

April 20, 1837, two members of this Church by the name of Reaves were excluded for moving away without asking for letters of dismission and for leaving in debt.

In 1837 the Church decided to observe foot-washing as a Church Ordinance at each annual meeting, In 1838 N. Roberson (Robertson) and James Murray were elected messengers to the Baptist State Convention. In 1839 N. Roberson and wife were dismissed from the Church by letter. During the same year a charge was preferred against a Brother for lying and he was excluded from the Church on that ground.

The first Pastor that we have any record of was James Powell who was called to supply this Church March 25, 1840. It is generally thought that N. Roberson was Pastor as early as 1836. On September 26, 1840, Elder N. Roberson was invited to assist in the ordination of Daniel Butler as a Deacon. In 1844 the Church sent to the State Convention $12.50 for Missions.

In 1844 James Powell asked to be released as Pastor because of failing health. Cado Price was called to be Pastor in 1845. November 22, 1845, Bretheren Francis Walker and James Powell were invited to assist Pastor Cado Price in the ordination of Deacon Hardy Green

In August 1846, there was a motion passed by this Church to the effect that if any one wanted to send any money to the Convention for Home Missions, to send it in his own name and not in the name of the Church. In 1846 William Williams succeeded James Powell as Pastor of this Church.

May 27, 1848, there was a charge made against William Harrison for joining the Masons and after some discussion the motion was lost. November 25, of the same year

Elder Cado Price was again called to the Pastorate of the Church. During the following year the Church agreed to pay the Pastor a salary of $75.00 per annum.

August 25, 1851, the resolution forbidding any member to send money to the Convention for Missions in the name of the Church was rescinded and it was agreed to send $6.00 to the Association for Missionary purposes. In 1852, Brother William Williams was again called to supply the Church and remained Pastor until his death January 21, 1860. In August 1853, Hebron Church withdrew from the Pearl River Association and joined the Strong River Association October 8, 1853, at this Church. The Strong River Association was organized at Hebron Church in 1853.

In 1856 they built the house we worship in today.

On the 23rd day of January, 1858, Brother John Hutchins was elected Clerk of the Church and held that office 24 years. During the same year the first Suncay School was organized and Richmond Walker was elected Superintendent.

January 21st, 1860, Rev. Norvil Roberson was called to supply this Church and he served as Pastor until his death in 1877. He was succeeded by Bro. R.W. Hall who was Pastor until February 25, 1882, he being succeeded by Reverend J. P. ~~Rickey~~ Hemby who served as Pastor until the 25th, ~~1884~~ 1885. During that year F. L. Riley was elected Clerk of the Church.

On September the 25th, 1886, Brother I. H. Anding was called to the Pastorate and served until October 27th, 1887. He was succeeded by Reverend R. Drummond who remained Pastor until September, 1890, when he was succeeded by R. W. Hall who remained Pastor until his health failed December 2nd, 1892. Reverend J. R. Carter followed Reverend R. W. Hall and served the Church until December, 1898, he having served the Church as Pastor for 13 years. Next Pastor was Reverend J. B. Quinn who served until his resignation, April 23rd, 1910. Brother L. D. Posey succeeded Brother Quinn and he remained until December, 1912. He was called as Pastor the second time in 1912. Brother N. A. Edmonds was next called and he remained until September 26th, 1915, when he resigned. During the next two years Reverend J. E. Cranford was our Pastor. He was succeeded in November, 1917 by Reverend J. P. Williams, the present pastor.

Brother J. A. Scarborough was licensed to preach by this Church March, 21, 1874, and was ordained by request of Mt. Zion Church October 25th, 1875. Ordaining Council was Norvil Roberson and H. Jones, this being the first minister licensed and ordained by the Church to this date. Brother G. I. Bethea was licensed to preach by this church ~~xx~~ August 24th, 1919. Some prominent layman have gone from this Church. N. R. Drummond, and is now in the ministry, having recently graduated at South-western Seminary where he is now an Instructor.

It will be interesting to note some progress along different lines. In 1844 this church sent to the State Convention $12.50 for missions; for the same purpose in 1845, $7.50. In 1849 the pastor's salary was $75,00 in 1835, this was the largest Church in the Strong River Association, having a membership of 86. The present membership is 261.

Present Pastor's salary $400.00.

In 1920, 75-Million campaigh budget $1840.00 23.

Bro. J. P. Williams was x called to be Pastor in 1918 and served until 1925. His health failed at this time and he resigned. On the 5th Sunday in May, 1921, Hebron Church celebrated her one hundredth anniversary. Elder J. P. Williams conducted the devotional exercises. Ex-pastor Elder J. P. Hemby read a paper on "The Fundamental Principles for which this Church stood." Elder J. R. Carter discussed the subject " Hebron's Contribution to the Baptists of South Mississippi" The historical sketch was read by S. L. Walker. Mrs Lizzie Bethea Garrison presented the Church witha hand made banner with the following inscription:m"Hebron Church, 1821; Loyalty to Christ."

On the fourth Sunday in May, 1923, S. L. Walker and G. I. Betheawere ordained by this Church. Ordaining Council Elder J. P. Williams, the Pastor, was assisted by Elder J. R. Carter and the Deacons of this Church, namely; E. M. Berry, H. C. Lane and E. M. Berry. Elder J. R. Carter preached the ordination sermon.

On the fourth Sunday in August, 1925, Reverend J. T. Dale was called as Pastor succeeding Reverend J. P. Williams. Elder W. S. Landrum was called in October, 1926 and he served two years. In August, 1929, Elder J. T. Dale was again called as Pastor of the Church and her served until February, 1935, when his health failed. The Church granted him a three months leave of absence but he was never able to return because of ill health. Brother G. I. Bethea served the Church for Brother J. T. Dale until July, 1935, when Brother E. B. Shivers was called and at the present time is still Pastor of this famous old Church.

E. H. Walker was elected Clerk of this Church in September, 1910, and is still serving the Church in this capacity, this being his 26th year. W. C. Hutchins was elected Sunday School Superintendent in 1910 and served until July, 1935. He was succeeded by Bryan Waltman, the present Superintendent.

In 1921, Lee Hutchins was elected Treasurer of this Church and is x still serving.

This Church has services every fourth Sunday at a salary of $360.00 per year.

HISTORY OF THE HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

---By Mrs. Jessie McAlexander--

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church was first organized April, 1830, the church building at that time being a log school house owned by Mr. D. W. McInnis and located on his place about five miles south of the present Church building. The first house being essentially a school house contained no separate place for the slaves to worship but consisted of one large room with a pulpit in the end and with hewn logs for pews. No misical instrument was to be had and the song books used were the "Gospel Hymns" written without music. Some to the singers furnished the "air" while the others sang the songs.

The organization was perfected under the leadership of Reverend Jocob Rickhow who was at the same time pastor of the Sharon Presbyterian Church. All the members of the first organization origianally belonged to the Sharon Church but moved their membership to he newly organized Church of Hopewell. Some of the charter members of the church were John McFarland (Elder) Mary McFarland, Archable Wilkinson, Mary Wilkinson, Effie McFarland, Daniel McFarland, Mary McFarland, Archable McCollum, Mary McCollum, Dugal McFarland and Hugh McFarland.

As the little organization struggled along other members joined from time to time. John McLaurin, Allen Wilkinson, Roderic Mathison, Appalona Flowere, Jewett Flowers, Richard Flowers, John Hamilton, and Elizabeth Stewart were some of the first members to join the church.

For the first seven years after organization, no record was kept of the sessional sessions Although Mr. Rickhow organized the church, apparently the first regular pastor was Rev. P. H. Fullinwider who served the little congergation from 1830 to 1834. During most of this time he was also pastor at Sharon. Rev. Jacob Rickhow became pastor in 1834 and served until Frbruary 1840 when he was succeeded by Rev. A. R. Graves. Mr. Graves was father of Rev. Butler Graves and at the time of his pastorate of the Hopewell Church was also principal of a seminary high school at the site of the present town of Seminary, the town being named for the school.

For sixteen years Mr. Graves kept the little flock together adding members at each series of revival meetings each summer, and in 1856 the members of the church decided to erect a church building, the present Hopewell Church building being the result. Mr. Neil Mathison was awarded the contract and was given until January 1, 1957 to complete the structure. The lumber was all heart pine, sawed by an old time "upright" saw propelled by a waterwheel. The lumber was all dressed, tongued, and grooved by hand and all the posts were morticed into the sills and plates. Many pegs and few nails were used in putting up the building. Balconies were built on each side ~~m~~ to accommodate

the slaves. Contributions of money, time, and materials were given to pay for the church.

For at least part of the time between 1857 and 1859 the church was served by Rev. Thomas D. King. Mr. King died September 5, 1859.

About 1860 rev. J. E. Gibert became pastor and served the church for twenty two years until 1882. No record of the war times is obtainable but it appears that Mr. Gibert kept the little congergation together during the war and during the hectic days following the conflict. The political conflict growing out of capertbag and scalawag rule and the strife ~~xxx~~ incidental to the rise of negroes to power in Mississippi apparently affected the little community very little and did not upset the tranquillity of the little church. The Jaynesville community and the Hopewell Church during the early history contained a large number of Scotch-Irish who took little interest in the conflicts as they related to stirring up race prejudices, and the church was clear of this blot upon its history.

Rev. W. L. Kennedy became pastor of the church in 1883 and served one year. Mr. Kennedy was a brother of Mr. Hector Smith(s wife, Mr. Smith also being faithful in the ministry serving the Sandersville wo k for over fifty year.

Mr. J. W. Mosely followed Mr. Kennedy in 1885 and served the little congergation until 1886. Just before Mr. Mosely completed his work, the Hopewell Presbyterian Church entertained the Presbytery, October 7-11, 1886. Delegates to the meeting were brought from the nearest railroad stations at Hazelhurst, Wesson and Ellisville, each of these places being forty miles from the Hopewell Church. Mr Hugh McLaurin and Milton Pearce made trips for the delegates and sent them back after the meeting, making the trips in mule wagons. One minister objected to coming so far out in the country to hold a Presbytery but during the meeting such interest was aroused that the membership of the church was doubled and the minister said, as he left, that never again would he object to going out to a country church to Presbytery.

Rev. E. J. Currie, at present, president of the Pontotoc Junior College, was pastor of the church from 1889 to 1891. During his pastorate he taught school at Mt. Olive and served the flock at Hopewell. After Mr. Currie resigned to accept a call to the First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg, the Hopewell Church was without a pastor for three years until 1894. Meetings were held once each month as the custom was, during this time by pastors from nearby churches.

In 1894 Rev. W. A. Martin was called as pastor and served the church one year. Ill health forced him to resign and go west, and for another three year period the the church was with out a regular pastor. Preachers were scarce and the lettle congregation was forced to rely upon

the supply work furnished by pastors of nearby churches. The meetings during the summer were held regularly. Rev. A.B. Coyt, Rev. G. E. Chandler, and others conducted notable revivals during this period.

March 27, 1898, Rev. W.B. Bingham was secured as pastor and served until 1904. Rev. M.S.Smith followed Mr. Bingham and served until 1909. In 1907 the Mississippi Presbytery met at the Hopewell Church for the second time, October 6-10.

In 1910 Rev. A. A. Craig became and served pastor one year, and the following year the church wasx without pa pastor again. Rev. E.P.Craddock was called and served only a short tiem. From 1913 to 1915 the church was without a pastor again Rev. Herbie McDowell accepting the call in 1915 and serving the little congregation until 1918. For the next four years the church had no pastor at all and Rev. W.A.Hall accepted the call and served until 1925, leaving to go to the Power Memorial Church, Jackson. Anither two year period intervened when the church was pastorless, our own Rev. E.L.Story coming to us in 1927.

During these periods when the church was without pastors the membership of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church began de cressing in numbers, many members moving out of the community and others transferring their membership to town churches. As a result of this losing members, the strength of the church has suffered materially.

Three ministers have gone out from Hopewell Presbyterian Church during the past forty years. Dr.A.F.Carr was under the care of the Presbytery from 1890 to 1896. He is now serving a church in Umatilla, Florida. Mr. L.H. McInnis and Mr.J.J. McInnis were both under the care of the Presbytery about 1892 and 1896. Mr. L.H.McInnis is now serving a church in Brandon, Texas, and Mr. J.J. McInnis is minister at Newton, Mississippi.

The following were the officers of this church at the time of this anniversary service:

Pastor E.L.Storey, Elders - A. E. Ramsey, Rufus Magee, Ralph Ramsey, Deacons - Charles Ramsey, W. J. Hubbard, Wiliam Parish.

CENTINNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 16, 1930

At the regular spring meeting of Meridian Presbytery, which met in the MT. Olive Presbyterian Church April 15-16, 1930, by special invitation of the congregation of the Hopewell Church, Presbytery spent the afternoon of Wednesday the 16th. at the Hopewell Church taking part in the celebration of the one hundred-th. anniversary of the organization of the Church.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Topic of Assignment- Education
Names of Canvassers-V. Smith, L. Burkett and R. Stewart
Date of Compilation-June 18, 1936

#11

I. SCHOOLS OF YESTERDAY:

There have not been a great number of schools in Jefferson Davis County that were organized prior to the time that the Public School System of Mississippi came into effect. What few there were played an important part in the education of our ancestors. It was in these rural schools that they secured all the learning they ever had. Even this small amount of knowledge was acquired under hardship and deprivations which came by long walks in the cold and rain oftentimes. The early schools in this county were: Mt. Carmel Academy, Whitesand Academy, Oak Ridge, Pea Ridge, Pine Ridge, Belview, Pleasant Hill and Santee.

"Mt. Carmel Academy was situated at Mt. Carmel in what was then Covington County. It was founded by John Ryan at a date prior to 1830. In 1832 Mr. Ryan died and there was a suspension of several years; but in 1835 it was revived, and three buildings, designed for the male, female and music departments, were erected by subscription. At this time the academy was conducted by Reverend W.H. Taylor, a graduate of Brown University, recommended by Doctor Wayland. On the 13th of May, 1837, it was incorporated, Samuel Hemphill and eleven others being incorporators and trustees. For two years there were seventy to eighty students. After that, a suspension of a few months was caused by lack of suitable teachers. In 1840, Mr. Robert C. Cohean, an able teacher and accomplished scholar was engaged and he conducted several prosperous sessions. About 1842 Reverend Azariah R. Graves, a Presbyterian Minister, took charge. He did not long maintain this school. Having determined that another

locality offered better advantages, about the year 1845 Mounty Carmel was abandoned in favor of Zion Seminary which was located where the town of Seminary in Covington County now stands. The town derived the name Seminary from this institution. At zion, seminary buildings were erected; teachers were brought from the north, who in several instances being ministers, combined the work of an evangelist with that of teacher. Instruction was offered on such easy terms that all who wished could avail themselves of it. The expenses of the institution were provided for by donations solicited by Mr. Graves from benevolent patrons in all parts of the presbytery. This process was kept up for a series of years, and the good effects of it were seen in the elevation of a generation of youth, and in the general diffusion through the community of a conviction of the value of mental and religious culture. Following the war the institution was abandoned. (This is all the information that could be gotten on this institution. Names of pupils who attended and who are now outstanding could not be had despite efforts to get them. Information from Memoirs of Mississippi, Volume II, page 311, Chap. XI, Goodspeed Publishing Company.)

Whitesand Academy was located at the spot where Mrs. Abb Broom's house now stands about one and one half miles north of the town of Prentiss. The school was a long one room building built California Style. Two teachers were employed. One taught in one end of the building and one in the other end. The furniture consisted of some crude benches, two tables and two heaters. The attendance ranged between 80 or 90 pupils and some of these were boarding students. Some attendants were grown settled men with mustaches. This school was

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

founded and organized in 1868 by citizens who realized the dire need of an educational institution in this part of the county. The school was maintained by voluntary contributions on the part of the patrons of the school. The first teacher was a man named Goodwin. Very little is known about him as he came to this county a stranger and left the same way. The next teachers were Archie Fairley and his wife, Mildred Waller Fairley. The type work done consisted of a thorough course of study in the three R's and the Blue Back Speller. In 1877, I. H. Andy came to teach at this school. He taught for several years. At the present time Mr. Andy is a retired Baptist Minister 90 years of age living at Brookhaven, Mississippi. Some of the people who were interested in and attended this school were: Polks, Berrys, Hartzogs, Suttons, Basses, Mikells, Turnages and Tyrones. In 1885 the academy was moved to Blountvi[illegible] and was burned shortly after. (Information from Leon Tyrone, M.C. Tyrone, Prentiss, Mississippi, June 15, 1936)

Oak Ridge School was established in 1856. The persons connected with and interested in founding this school were: Ed Cole, Captain John Cooper, John Burrow, Sr., Jim Buckley, Joseph Bullock, Randolph Parkman, Simon Polk, William Stamps, and Parkman Tyrone. Funds were donated by each of these families to operate a short term of school for two months each summer. Ed Cole and Miss Susie Cooper were the first teachers. Some other teachers were: John Waller, A.W. Stringer, Miss Mollie Cooper, D.M. Lee and R.E. Holloway. The first school building was made of hewed logs and furnished with tables and benches made of logs. It was located in Section 13, township 7, north, range 19, one and one-half miles south of what is now the town of Prentiss. During the Civil War this building was burned but due to the interest of patrons it was quickly replaced by a new and better building.

Captain John Cooper, Wood Magee, former representative and now a lawyer, Dr. J.B. Magee, Jim Buckley, father of Governor A.H. Longino's wife, Leon Tyrone, Banker, John Burrow, Banker, Charlie Tyrone, school teacher, and Richard Campbell were some of the outstanding people who received their first education at Oak Ridge School. This school remained in operation until a few years ago when it was consolidated with Whitesand. The effect of this school on the county and community was visible in a beneficial aspect. Ambitions were awakened in boys and girls, men and women, to acquire knowledge from higher schools of learning and to better equip themselves to cope with the problems of life in later years. (Information from Leon Tyrone, Mart Tyrone, John Burrow, Prentiss, Mississippi, June 15, 1936)

Pea Ridge School was situated on the old Saint Stephen's Road which is about six miles north of what is now the village of Carson. This school was in operation one hundred years ago. It was a small one room log building with crude log benches and tables. So far as can be determined there is only one living person now who attended this school. He is D.W. Fathering, age 80. He is so feeble that very little information could be gotten from him. Among the families that attended this institution were: The Garners, Lum, Jeff, and Mrs. Edd Parkman, Frank and Wash Polk, Albert and Joe McPhail. Only four subjects were taught and they were Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Spelling. This school remained in operation until 12 years ago when it was consolidated with Carson. (Information from D.W. Fathering, Carson, Mississippi, June 16, 1936)

Belview School was organized about 60 years ago. Mr. Isom Barnes, Bill Carraway, Jeff Magee and John Broom were some of the men responsible for the organization and founding of this school. The school was first

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

located near Mr. Jeffie Magee's about three miles south of Bassfield. The building was an old fashioned boxed house 36 X 30 ft. A few home made benches was the only equipment. The scholastic term lasted only four months. Two teachers who taught in this school were: Mrs. John Norris and Miss Cordie Evans. The Blue Back Speller, Davies Arithmetis and a reader were all the textbooks taught and studied. The school was later moved two miles west from where first located due to the fact that at this location the school would be more nearly in the center of the community. But later there was another school organized in the community not so far from Belview and Belview was then moved back to its first location and was there when consolidated with Bassfield. Some outstanding people from this school were Dr. Edd Carraway, Miss Amanda McDonnel, teacher, and Ira Magee, teacher. The effect of this school on the community was noticeable in that the people of that section became highly interested in the school and an education for themselves and their children. Conditions were bettered in many respects after the school was organized. (From Dock Broom and Bob Laird, Bassfield, Mississippi, June 12, 1936)

Santee School was first organized about 90 years ago. The men responsible largely for the founding of this institution were Judge Alex Harper and Sam Hathorn. The first school was taught in old Santee Church which was a hewed log building located about four miles north east of what is now the town of Bassfield. After two years a school house was built two miles from the church. It was also a hewed log building consisting of one long room with one door and one window, a dirt chimney for heat and hewed logs for seats. The first teacher was a Mr. Ray. Reading, writing, arithmetic and Georgraphy were all the subjects taught. The pupils numbered from fifteen to twenty-five each one paying $1.50 per month to attend this school. Some of the pupils who lived too far to walk would ride horse-back. A Mr. Hawkins also taught school here. Some of the most prominent people who attended this school are: Dr. G.C. Terrell, prominent physician, V.L. Terrell, prominent in political circles in this county and also first to graduate from a college, T.W. Carraway, first president of board of Supervisors in this county, A.F. Carraway, prosperous merchant, and Leff and John Carraway, planters of this county. (From Sam Harper, Bassfield, Mississippi, June 18, 1936)

Pine Ridge School was established more than 100 years ago. It was located three and one-half miles south west of what is now the town of Prentiss. The first building was a small log house 12 X 14 ft., with benches and table made of logs. Persons connected with the organization of this school were: H. Hooker, Jimmy Mikell and Jim Roberson. Some of the teachers in this institution were: George Mikell, Sr., Misses Lou Robertson, Mattie Hall, Katie Cavert, Lena Hoskins, Melissa Linton, Susie V. Powell, Dot Adkins, Mrs. Mollie Mikell, Dr. B.S. Waller, Archie Fairley, Frank White, H.C. Yawn, and Dan Lee. Some of these teachers are living today and many of them have become people of importance in business and civic circles. They left an influence behind them that has resulted in much good to the people of this section. Several outstanding and important people attended this school. Among them are: Dr. B.S. Waller, Dr. Tom H. Butler, Rev. G.B. Butler, Tom Brady, brilliant and noted lawyer, Mrs. Lowry Berry, wife of the President of Hillman College, and Fleet Burrow, prominent lawyer. This school was moved to Whitesand Station in 1904 when the first railroad came

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

through the county. (From Mrs. W.M. Waller, Prentiss, Mississippi, June 18, 1936)

Another school of some note in this county was Pleasant Hill. Very little could be found out about this school. It was founded 75 years ago. The persons connected with the organization were: Vance Cannon, John Oatis, Steve Speights, and Jack Burkett. Among the first teachers were; Ex-Governor A.H. Longino, John Waller, and Henry Gibson. This school was located about eight miles south west of what is now the town of Prentiss. The building was a small one room log structure. (From Mrs. W.M. Waller, Prentiss, Mississippi, June 15, 1936)

Ruth C. Sutton

Ruth C. Sutton, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

Assignment # 19

Topic of Assignment- SCHOOLS OF TODAY
Names of Canvassers- Lula Burkett, Ancie Belle Butler
Verda McPhail, and Georgie McGehee
Date of Compilation-December 21, 1936

I. PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

1. Jefferson Davis County was organized in 1906, and Mr. Will Burkett of Bassfield, Miss. was appointed Superintendent of Education on a salary of $1100 peryear. He served two years by appointment, and then was elected by the people, at the regular election in 1908. Mr. Burkett was a good school man and was capable, but was greatly handicapped. The schools were in a deplorable condition at that time. County young, majority of teachers were untrained, terms short, buildings were inadequate, one to three room frame structures scattered all over the County with the exception of about three, Bassfield, Carson, And Prentiss. No libraries or equipment of any kind. The children sat on high benches and home-made desks, a part of the wall was painted for a blackboard. Many shcools used water from a spring, and a common drinking cup, windows were on all sides, and in some of the houses board shutters were used. A movement to place the schools in separate districts was started during his administration. One school, Bassfield, a municipal seperate school district was organized.
Mr. Burkett was succeeded by Mr. Will Lee, another outstanding man in his profession. He served 8 years at a salary of $125 per mo. During his administration not much improvement was made in the

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

schools in the way of buildings, and better equipment, but by their untiring effort the people were brought to see the need of better buildings, better equipment, and better trained teachers. During his term of office 12 schools were placed in seperate districts, two of which were municipal seperated school districts. Under the law these seperate school districts had their own system of financing. They had incoroperated within their boundaries all the most valuable taxable property in the county; timber, railroads, etc. The outside or county schools received no revenue from any property within their districts.

Mr. Will Lee was succeeded by Mr. G.L. Martin. He came into the office of County Superintendent of Education of Jefferson Davis County, Mississippi, on the first Monday in January, 1920, and served continusouly until the first Monday in January of 1932. When he came into office the salary was about $125.00 per month, but this was increased by the legislature of 1920 to $ 2500 a year; later decreased to $2100 a year, and still later put back to the $2500 figure.

Mr. Martin is known locally as the Father of Jefferson Davis County Schools. His long term of office showed confidence the people of Jefferson Davis County had in him.

There were no roads in the county andthe matter of consolidation was a hard task. Besides, under the law, seperate school districts

could not operate as consolidated schools unless they would disband and allow other schools to join with them. They would not do this until had exhausted all their resources. The problem was differcult. The child oitside of these districts was entitled to 8 months and a good school. That was his problem, as he saw it, to get the people together.

And the wayhe solved this problem, the schools of Jefferson Davis County speak for themselves. He organized the forces of education and sold the school idea to the people. He met with acute opposition, but he worked on the idea faithfully until he saw all these little schools consolidated into six large schools, well equipped, most of them brick houses, a standard course of study, libraries, music, science equipment, two vocational schools, teachers' homes, good sanitation, deep well water. Members of the State Department of Education ranked this county in group two of the state as giving the best school systems in the State. Every white child was given access to a four-year, fully affiliated school. No other county in the State had done that at that time, and I do not think any other county has attained that yet. People were no longer confronted with the problem of sending their children away to high school. They were made ready for college at home and had about them all the influences of the home.

Teacher's salaries were raised and promptly paid. All teachers met the requirements of the Mississippi School Law.

Mr. Martin was succeeded by Mr. D.L. Price , our present Superintendent. His administration began in January, 1932 at a salary of

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 19

$2000.00 per year.

During his term of office two new buildings were erected costing approximately $45000.00, one new addition to school costing $4000. One thousand dollars has been expended on library books for libraries, modern encyclopedias placed in each white school, libraries up to date with average of two volumes per student. Commercial departments giving a complete course in book-keeping and accounting, established in three of the largest schools in the County. Equipment cost of the Commercial departments is $2,500.00. Ten months Home Economics program added to one school with half time devoted to community work and evening classes.

All white schools have been sanitated and meet Federal requirements as to health protection. Majority of negro schools have been sanitated. (Information, County Records, G.L. Martin, Prentiss, Miss. D.L. Price Prentiss, Miss. December 4, 1936.)

2. How County Schools Financed.

All the Schools of Jefferson Davis County, both White and Negro, are supported by local taxes, together with poll tax collected in the County, and their Prorata share of per capita tax distribution from state appropriation, also their Pro-rata share in the distribution of equalizing fund appropriated from the State, and their Pro-rata share of interest derived from Sixteenth Section funds in their respective townships. Together with district levy on property in each District, known as District Fund, used for incidentals such as, fuel, lights, insurance, janitor, etc. also supplement for teacher's salary. (Information- G.W. Holloway, December 7, 1936)

3. Types of Schools in The County.

Jefferson Davis County has only two types of schools, rural consolidated and city consolidated. The Negro schools are rural, scattered all over the County. The White schools are consolidated into six large schools.

b. We have no other race, exceptthe Negro and White.

c. Adult Education in our County is functioned by the WPA. We have five teachers, their classes are conducted in different parts of the County.(Information- commonly known facts.)

4. Later Development of County Schools.

Forty new school buses with factory built bodies, transporting sixteen hundred school children daily, constitutes the transportation system of the county.

b. None

c. Ten months Home Economics program added to two schools, Carson and Bassfield, with half time devoted to community work and evening classes. (Information- D.L. Price Supt. Of Education, Prentiss, Mississippi, Dec. 4, 1936)

d. Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute, colored, was organized in 1907. Today it has three large buildings, two dormitories, acdemic building, Vocational Agriculture Building, and a work shop.

It employs 17 teachers and officers, with 417 pupils enrolled. There are 90 boarding students. It operates one bus daily. (Information- J.E.Johnson, Prentiss, Mississippi, December 9, 1936)

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

5. Names and Location of schools in County:

Bassfield School District--Beat 3,Section 7,Township 6, Range 18

Carson School District----Beat 1, Section 27,Township 7, Range 18

Hathorn School District--Beat 2, Section 21, Township 5, Range 19

Whitesand School District-Beat 1, Section4, Township 8, Range 19

Prentiss School District-Beat 1, Section 1, Township 8, Range 19

Hebron School District---Beat 5, Section 30, Township 9, Range 19

Clem School District----Beat 4, Section 26, Township 9, Range 19

Oakvale School District --Line School between Jefferson Davis and Lawrence.

Nt,Zion School District--Line School between Jefferson Davis and Simpson County.

Negro School Districts.

Mt.Carmel School District--Beat 4, Section 20, Township 8, Range 18

Mt.Zion School District----Beat 4, Section 18, Township8, Range 18

Cedar Grove School District-Beat 1, Section33, Township 8, Range18

Mt.Zion Jr. School District-Beat1, Section 35, Township 7, Range 18

Haw Pond School District---Beat1, Section12, Township 8, Range 18

Pine Bluff School District--Beat 5, Section, 1, Township 8, Range 19

Santee School District-----Beat 3, Section31, Township 7, Range 17

Price School District------Beat 3, Section 26, Township 7, Range 17

Harper School District-----Beat 3, Section4, Township 6, Range 17

Ridgeland School District--Beat 3, Section 22, Township 6, Range 17

Bassfield School District--Beat3 Section 18, Township 6, Range 17

Pine Grove School District-Beat 3, Section 35, Township 5, Range 18

Black Jack School District--Beat 2, Section18, Township 6, Range 18

Carson School District--Beat1, Section 27, Township 7, Range 18

Prentiss Industrial Institute --Beat 1, Section 12, Township 7, Range19

Haynes Acadmey School District--Beat 2, Section 5, Township 8, Range 19

New /Zion Sr. School District-Next Line School between Jefferson Davis and Lawrence County.

Belview School District--Beat 2, Section 16, Township 6, Range 19

Progress School District--Beat 1, Section 32, Township 7, Range 19

Union School District--Beat 1, Section 24, Township 7, Range 20

Lucas School District --Beat1, Section 18, Township 7, Range 19

Pine Ridge School District--Beat 1,Section 5, Township 7, Range 19

Holly Grove School District--Beat 1, Section 1, Township 7, Range 20

Galliee School District--Beat 5, Section 6, Township 8, Range 19

Dry Hollow School District--Beat 5, Section 33, Township 9, Range 19

Spring Hill School District--Beat 5, Section 24, Township 8, Range 19

Newsome School District --Beat 5, Section 7, Township 9, Range 19

Sylvarens School District--Beat 5, Section 11, Township 9, Range 19

Oak Grove School District--Beat 5, Section 24, Township 9, Range 19

Point Pleasant School District--Beat 4, Section 22, Township 9, Range 18

Jersalem School District--Beat 4, Section 24, Township 9, Range 18

White House School District---Beat 4, Section 12, Township 8, Range 18

Gray School District--Beat 4, Section 10. Township 8, Range 18

Whitesand School District--Beat 5, Section 26, Township 8, Range 19 w-

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Carson Consolidated School (Smith-Hughes School)

a. Three large brick buildings valued at $60,000.00, the first built in 1924 and the latest in 1936. One composed of study hall and class rooms, another a vocational building, and third a physical education building containing combination gymnasium and auditorium, class rooms, and basement for manual arts workshop.
Agriculture, $200.00; Fine Arts,$400.00; Home Economics, 400.00; ~~Agri~~ Maps and Charts, $90.00; Pictures, $10.00; Science, $150.00; Library $200.00. There are about 475 volumes in the library, besides 4 sets of encyclopedias, 4 dictionaries, and current magazines and newspapers.
Children are transported by six School buses.

b. All the grades are taught from primary through twelfth.

c. Special Courses are given in Household Arts; Domestic Training; Manual Training; Music; Physical Culture; Shorthand;typing; and Book-keeping.

d, Carson School is active in the following Clubs;Hi-Y; Girl-Reserves; F.F.A.;4-H Club; Student Body Organization; Athletic Club. All of these are under the direction of competent leaders.
All minor injuries are given First Aid treatment at School.
(Information- A.A. Walker,Supt. of Carson School, Carson Miss.Dec.9.1936)
Whitesand Consolidated School, Prentiss, Mississippi

a. Whitesand Consolidated School has one modern up-to-date brick building, consisting of six class rooms, kitchen, and auditorium.
It was erected in 1924 at a cost of $11000.00.
Cost of equipment is $600.00 consist of desk, maps, charts, globes, and book cases in each class room.

There is an average of 2 volumes to each pupil. A deep well with drinking founts, and has its own lighting system.
Children are transported by 3 School buses.

b. All grades are taught from primary through twelfth.

c. A music class conducted by WPA.

d. Playground Activities are conducted by the Superintendent of the School. First Aid kit is kept in school for all minor injuries. (Information--J.P. Loflin, Prentiss, Mssissippi December 12, 1936.)

Clem Consolidated School , Prentiss, Mississippi

Clem is a rural consolidated School, Housed by one brick building. Erected at a cost of $15,000.00, the school is well equiped with Science labatory, maps, charts, and pictures, valued at $ 350.00. A library of 300 volumes at a value of $300.00.

Four public buses transports the children to ~~x~~ is school.

b. Primary, Elementary through Senior High are taught.

c.None

d.Hi-Y Girl Reserves, Basket Ball, Volly Ball, Assembly programs, Dramatic Club, all under the supervision of the teachers.
(Information-Mr. Carl Murphree, Supt. of ~~Clem~~ School,Prentiss, Mississippi, December 14, 1936)

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

B assfield Consolidated School, Bassfield, Mississippi

Bassfield School has 2 brick buildings, one built in 1924, the other in 1930. One consist of 10 class rooms, and office, the other 14 class rooms and Home Economics Department.

The value of these buildings is $43000.00.

Bassfield school is modernly equiped with blackboards, maps, charts, globes, pictures, and a library that meets state desands, with books, encyclopedias, dictionaries, magazines, and newspapers.

A U.S.A. Flag waves over this building.

There are 21 teachers and 600 pupils in this school and they are transported by 13 school buses.

b. All grades through twelfth are taught.

c. Special courses are given in Household Arts, Domestic training, Manual training, Physical Culture, Shorthand, Typing, and book-keeping.

d. Bassfield School is active in the following Clubs:
Hi-Y, Girl Reserves, 4-H Club, Athletic Club, Student Body Organizations, First Aid kits are kept in this School.

(Information, Will Burkett, Bassfield, Miss and D.L. Price Prentiss, Mississippi, December 18, 1936)

Prentiss Consolidated School Prentis , Mississippi

Prentiss Consolidated School is housed by 2 brick buildings valued at $ 39000. One is a two-story structure consisting of 10 class rooms, auditorium and basement. This building houses the Junior and Senior High School. The other building , the primary and grammer grades.

This school is third in size. The equipment and library of this school meet the State demands for a A-1 consolidated High School.

The library consist of about 400 volumes, including encyclopedias dictionaries, current magazines, and newspapers.

Five school buses transport children to this school.

b. Primary, Junior and Senior High.

c. Special Courses in Music, Physical Culture, Shorthand, Typing, and book-keeping.

d. The following Clubs play an important part in the school. Debating, Hi-Y, Scouts, Girl Reserves, and Dramatics play an important part in this School.

Footb ll, baseball, and basketball constitute the major activities.

First Aid is rendered to minor wounds and injuries.

(Information- D.L. Price, Prentis ,Miss. Supt of Education Dec 18, 1936)

Hathorn Consolidated School

Hathorn Consolidated High School has one brick building, costing$6000/ This is a small school but well equiped, with library, comfortable desk, Maps, Charts, Globes, and Blackboards. The children within ½ mile of School walk, others are transported by buses.

b. All grades, primary, grammer, Junior and Senior High.

c. None

d. Home Economic Clubs are doing good work in this community. Teaching better homes and gargen, canning, preserving, and raising poultry.

The teachers of the school have charge of the play ground. Boy's and Girl's basket ball are major activities.

(vInformation- D.L. Price Supt of Education, Prentiss, Miss. Dec 18, 1936)

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Oakvale is a line school. The building is a brick structure located in Lawrence County, costing around $37000.
This is a modern building, well equiped with library, and other school equipment.
Transportation is by bus.

b. You may enter this school for six years and prepare yourself for College.

c. Physical Culture, Music, aare given as special courses in this School.

d. The extra Curricular activities consist of boy's and Girl's basketball teams, Scouts, and Girl Reserves. The teachers direct them in these activities.

Minor scuts, brusies and injuries are given first-aid treatment.
(Information- L.L. Price Prentis , Miss. L.McLendon,Prentiss, Miss. December 18, 1936)

Mt.Zion Consolidated School

Mt. Zion is an A-1 Consolidated High School on the line between Simpson and Jefferson Davis County. The building is situated in Simpson County,and will be disuribed from that County.
(Information- V. McPhail Prentiss, Miss. December 21, 1936)

Negro Schools

There are 36 Negro Schools in Jefferson Davis County, their names have already been given.

a. Eight of these schools are Rosenwald. Their buildings were designed by architectual experts. They are modern and up-to-date, costing around $1500 to $3000. They are equiped with desk, maps, charts, globes etc.
The children walk to these schools, or furnish their own private conveyance.

b. Five of theseschools,Bassfield, Carson, MtCarmel, Belview, Mt.Zion Sr. give a course through the tenth grade. Mt.Zion and Progress teach through the primary,grammer grades and Junior High.

c. Mt.Zion and Progress give a course in vocational training.

a. The balance of these Negro schools are from two to four room frame structures, costing around $100 with equipment.

b. Elementary grades are taught.

c. None

d. In most of these Negro schools Home Economic Clubs are held, under the supervision of a Home Demonstration Agent. Their playground activities, basketball, baseball,etc, are directed by the teachers.

6. a. None

b. None

C. Lunch rooms fostered by WPA are in most of these schools.
The Negro Schools are under the supervision of an Jean's Agent who holds a M.A. Gegree from Columbia University.
This Agent is supported by Anna T.Jeans Fund.
(Information D. L. Price Supt.of Education, Prentiss, Miss.Dec,18,1936)

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

6. Related Activities

a. Most Jefferson Davis County schools have a live Parent-Teachers Association. No organization in a school helps more to solve Parents and Teachers problems than a good live Parent-Teachers Association.

b. The teachers and officers of each school meet at stated ent rvals to discuss their problems, and ways to solve them.

c. Under the supervision of WPA workers, all White schools and some of the Negro schools have opened lunch rooms, that a balanced lunch may be served to undernourished children.
(Inform tion- L.McLendon,Prentiss, Miss. Dec 17,1936)

7. Teachers of Today

a. Most Schools have a modern home for teachers on the school campus. Some board in private homes, others own their own cars and go from their respective homes.

The teachers is a part of the community and takes part in all Community Activities.

Most Jefferson Davis County teachers hold Degrees from our State Colleges, and every teacher has college training.
(Information- L.McLendon,Prentiss, Miss.Dec, 17, 1936)

II. Private Schools and Colleges in County

a. Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute

It has three large buildings, 2 domotories, academic building, Vocational Agriculture building, and Work shop. Buildings and equipment valued at $5000 including trucks and cars. There are 17 teachers and officers, with an enrollment of 417 pupils, including 90 boarding students. The school is financed by County Funds and volunteer contributions.

b. None
(Information, J.E. Johnson,Prentiss, Miss. Dec, 10, 1936)

c. Bassfield Catholic School

The Catholic School at Bassfield was built in 1919. Material was bought from Old Camp Shelby, after the World War to build this school. It is a long wood building petitioned off into four rooms, located near the Church
The school is operated by the Catholic people. Each family that has children attending this school, is supposed to pay $5.00 per month. They teach through the twelfth grade, also teach Church History, Bible History and Cathechism.
(Information,Mr. John Adam Faler, October 22, 1936,Bassfield,Miss)

Lucille McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

(1)

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM:

1. Jefferson County was one of seven coun ties in the State to first enjoy the benefits of a Public School System, as provided by an act of the State Legislature approved on March,4th. 1848.

On May 1, the same year the Board of Police of Jefferson County, acting upon the new law, established the office of Superintendent of Education, appointing John. H. Duncan Jr, as Superintendent. On page 56 of the Board of Police Minute Book, B, we find the following entry recording the act:

"...Ordered by the Board that John H. Duncan, Jr., be, and he is hereby appointed Superintendent of Common Schools in and for this County for the ensuing year, according to an act entitled, 'An Act to Provide for and Extablish Common Schools in the Counties of Hinds, Holmes, Tunica, Jefferson, Wilkinson, Lawrence, and Amite, approved March 4th, 1848.

It is further ordered by the Board that said John H. Duncan Jr. Superintendent of Common Schools as aforesaid, be allowed the sum of four hundred dollars, compensation for one year's service.

"....Ordered by the Board that a tax of ten percent on the amount of the State tax be levied and collected for Common School purposes in this County for the ensuing and for many years thereafter.

In October of 1850 George Torrey was appointed by the Board of Police to recieve from the State Treasurer the amount due this County of the two hundred thousand dollars to be distributed among the several Counties of the State in proportion to the number of free white children in each County, over six and under twenty-five years of age, as provided by an act of the Legislature, passed March 9th. 1850, to promote development of common schools.

(2)

In April 1852, William B. Johnson was appointed to receive from the State Treasurer, the State School Fund for Jefferson County, in the amount of $2,705.72.

*1. Minutes Police Board, 1848.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Monday in May. $500.00 was the Superintendent's salary for the year.

In 1893 Teacher's Institutes were held as usual and Superintendent Wade invited State Superintendent J. R. Preston and several Superintendents from adjoining Counties to be present. The institutes were a great help to the teachers, and Mrs Wade whowas

Monday in May. $500.00 was the Superintendent's salary for the year.

In 1893 Teacher's Institutes were held as usual and Superintendent Wade invited State Superintendent J. R. Preston and several Superintendents from adjoining Counties to be present. The institutes were a great help to the teachers, and Mrs Wade whowas

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

1. (Con.)

ran for reelection on the same ticket. Mr. Davenport, in December, gave notice of time and places of County Teacher's Institutes to be held in January. There was one held at Fayette and one at Union Church, for whites and negros.

Mr. J. Rives Wade was elected to succeed Mr. Davenport, and took the oath of office on January 6th, 1890. The salary was set at $500.00 per annum. In an extract from an article which appeared in the Fayette Chronicle, of January 30th, 1891, evident satisfaction in Mr. Wade is voiced by teachers and patrons: "...Mr. Wade is well known as an honorable, tireless painstaking and thoroughly competent official. The affairs of his important office have been conducted to the entire satisfaction of the patrons and teachers of the public schools and so long as this is the case they will uphold him in the discharge of his duties and aid him in his work. The American School Board Journal, published in Chicago, stated; 'J. Rives Wade assisted by Mr. H. M. Quin held the Western District of Jefferson County Teacher's Institute at the Fayette Male School. Metods of instruction; Reading; Spelling; Arithemetic; Georgraphy; Grammar; History and School Discipline were discussed. According to law, all teachers were required to be present.

On September 19th, 1892 another Teacher's Institute was openef for a five day session, for white teachers and one was opened on September 26th for negro teachers. These Institutes were conducted by Professor C. M. Johnson of Clinton, Mississippi.

In 1891 the School Board met in Fayette. At this meeting the schools of the County were graded and the School Board met in conjunction with the Superintendent of Education, fixed the salary of the teachers. The Winter term of schools to open on the 1st.

Mr. William Winters, of Fayette, succeeded Mr. Harper as Superintendent of Education, a position which he still ably fills.

The Superintendent's salary at the present time is $2,000.00 per annum. Mr. Winters is very zealous in all matters pertaining to the schools, particularly sanitation, equipment, and raising the standards of the schools in general.

Since 1932 the salary has remained fixed at $2,000.00 per annum. Mr. Winters stays within his budget and keeps the schools out of debt, but the funds are inadequate for the proper operation of the schools. Teachers are paid however, according to contract and the warrants are not discounted.*1

---

*1. Files of Fayette Chronicle 1903, 1907, 1908, 1909, etc.
Interview with W. H. Winters, Supt. of Education.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 17
Topin of Assignment-Agricultute and Horticulture
Names of Canvassers-Lula Burkett, Ancie Belle Butler, Verda McPhail and Georgia McGehee
Date of Compilation-November 17, 1936

I. IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN COUNTY

a. As means of livelihood

About 100 percent of the livelihood of the county is dependent directly or indirectly on agriculture. Ninety per cent of the people are directly dependent on this industry for a living and the other ten per cent are indirectly dependent on the ninety per cent. When the ninety per cent fail, the ten per cent likewise fail. (From James Berry, Prentiss, Miss. October 22, 1936. Mr. Berry is an employee in the office of the county agent.)

b. As a means of employment

The soil and climate of this section make agriculture the ranking industry in the county. Formerly a great portion of the county was covered with long leaf yellow pine which has since been removed by large lumber companies. The logging and lumber business gave employment to many people of the county but that is a thing of the past and today agriculture is the sole industry of this county. The majority of the farms are small and there is a high per cent of tenant farmers. (From E.A. Loftin, Agriculture teacher in Carson High School, Carson, Mississippi, October 23, 1936)

c. Approximate acreage of county land in farms

There are approximately 72,255 acres of land in cultivation in the county. (From Miss Louise Ramsey, Deputy Chancery Clerk, Jefferson Davis County, Prentiss, Mississippi, October 22, 1936)

d. Means of building soil on farmlands

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 17

The greater portion of the land in this area is hilly to rolling and has to be terraced or leveled. Most farmers have their land terraced and the lowlands ditched. Despite this care, erosion goes on unnoticed on practically every farm. This makes the soil poor and necessitates the use of commercial fertilizer. Cotton usually gets an application of from 200 to 500 pounds per acre, corn from 100 to 200 per acre, while potatoes, sugar cane and vegetables receive more liberal applications. In recent years farmers have begun growing legumes in their corn; such as soy beans, peas, and velvet beans; for winter legumes vetch and Austrian Peas are grown as a cover crop and turned as a green manure in the spring. These methods are growing in prominence and where these practices have been carried on for a considerable time, yields in all crops have been increased. (From E.A. Loftin, Agriculture Teacher in Carson High School, Carson, Mississippi, October 23, 1936)

e. Crops best adapted to your county

The chief cash crop of this county is cotton with potatoes second; truck crops are also grown in small acreages in the southern part of the county. Corn, soy beans, peas, peanuts, sorghum and lespedza are the best adapted feed crops. These are not grown in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the county. The average yield of corn per acre is little more than two hundred bushels are recorded by a 4-H Club member. Possibly the greatest reason for the low yield is a lack of nitrogen in the soil. Sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, peas, beans, sugar cane, and vegetables are the major food crops. Wild hays are especially grown in excess of the family needs, except sugar cane. Almost

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, AGRICULTURE

every farmer grows sugar cane for syrup and has some for market. This is sold on the local market or trucked to the Western States. (From E.A. Loftin, Agriculture Teacher Carson School, Carson, Mississippi, October 24, 1936)

II. EARLY HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE

a. Crops and Methods of Indians

None

b. Crops and Methods of Early Settlers

When the early settlers first came to what is now known as Jefferson Davis County, it was quite difficult for them to farm for they had no tools to work with. But it was not long until they discovered that, they could make the tools they were in need of. Most of their cultivation could be done with a Georgia Shovel Plow pulled by oxen. The chief crops were corn, cotton, potatoes, sugar cane, rice, wheat and tobacco. The rice was cut with a reap hook. The heads of rice were beaten from the straw. A wagon sheet was spread on the ground so that the rice would fall on it. After all the heads were beaten out, the grain was taken to Hammond's Mill to have the husk taken from the grain. This mill was run by water power. The sugar cane was ground in a wooden home made mill which was very crude when compared to modern day mills. The wheat was cut by a cradle. A person could hold in one hand all the grain thatn could be cut at one stroke of the cradle. This was hard work as well as slow. Tobacco leaves were gathered by hand and laid in the sun to dry. When the leaves were dry they were twisted into what was called "hanks". This to-

bacco was grown solely for home use. Cotton was picked by hand as now and was ginned by gins run by water power, and was then carried for sixty or seventy miles to the nearest town to be sold for three to five cents per pound. Very little cotton was grown at that time so one trip to a railroad town each year was all that was ever made. Farms in early days were small beacuse harvesting methods were so slow and then too all that a farmer wanted from his land was a good substantial living at home. (From M.V. Yates, pioneer citizen, Prentiss, Mississippi, October 23, 1936)

III. COTTON

A. When and how introduced

It is thought that the Le-Moynes first brought cotton seed to theearly French Colonists along the Gulf Coast. French writers mention its cultivation in Mississippi Counties many years before it was raised in Georgia in 1854. For many years cotton was not considered important but gradually it gained importance until now it is the chief crop grown in the entire south. (From Mrs. N.D. McLain, School teacher Bassfield Schhol, Bassfield, Mississippi, October 29, 1936)

b. Slave labor

This county was not organized during slavery times; therefore nok slave labor has been used .

c. Due to the fact that the land in Jefferson Davis County is hilly, it is impossible to use the most modern methods of Cultivation. The most popular method of cultivation is the use of the one row planter, cultivator, two row section harrow, Georgia Stock, and the turning plow. (From Shed Weeks, Cotton program ass't, Prentiss, Miss.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, AGRICULTURE

d. Approximate annual yield in county

The annual cotton yield in this county is 15000 bales. The approximate acreage planted is 25181. (From M.E. Smith, County Agent, Jefferson Davis County, Prentiss, Miss.)

e. Harvesting and Marketing

Cotton is picked by hand. Day laborers are employed to assist at harvest time. Many times as many as twenty-five or thirty people will be seen picking cotton in the same field. The cotton is ginned at local gins and sold to local buyers. (From Shed Weeks, Assistant County Agent, Prentiss, Mississippi)

IV. CORN AND FORAGE CROPS

A. Corn is not considered nearly so important as it was in the "live at home" days. Cotton has taken first importance because it is a better cash crop. The soil in this county grows corn well and there is still much corn grown in this section. Corn was once considered the only feed crop for stock. Now however , it has been learned that hays, velvet beans and clovers can be used for the purpose just as well. (From M.E. Smith, County Agent, Jefferson Davis County, Prentiss, Mississippi)

B. Approximate annual yield in county

There is about 31,600 acres of corn planted in this county with an average yield of 12 bushels per acre making the yield approximately 379,200 bushels each year. (From M.E. Smith, County Agent, Jefferson Davis County, Prentiss, Mississippi)

C. Where and how marketed

Corn is marketed locally only but not to any great extent.

The average price per bushel is seventy-five cents. (From M.E. Smith, County Agent, Jefferson Davis County, Prentiss, Mississippi)

V. TRUCK FARMING

a. Variety and approximate amount

Jefferson Davis County is not noted so much for truck farming. A small section near Carson is noted for growing cucumbers. The Widlar Company of Wiggins, Miss. has a vat at Carson and the cucumbers are sold to an agent of this company at Carson and are taken care of locally. The Widlar Company furnishes all the seed and when the products are sold the pay for the seed is taken from the income.

b. Where and how marketed

These cucumbers are marketed by truck to the platform in Carson to be made into pickles and they are then shipped by rail to Wiggins. The company employs a local agent to handle this business for them. (From Georgia McGehee, resident of Carson, Carson, Miss.)

c. Home Garden Products

1. Most important kinds

The most important garden products grown in gardens are pole beans, butter beans, english peas, cabbage, tomatoes, collards, turnips, peppers, radishes, lettuce and some other varietes of less importance.

2. How conserved

These vegetables are conserved by canning in glass jars and in cans. Peas and beans can be dried and kept in a cool, dry place for winter use. (From Eleanor Mincher, Home Agent, Prentiss, Miss.)

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, AGRICULTURE

VI. POULTRY AND LIVE STOCK

A. Poultry

1. For home use

All the poultry raised in this county is raised for home use. There are no poultry farms in the county.

2. For marketing

All poultry are sold locally. Very often chickens are given a store in exchange for some merchandise. There is no commercial market here for poultry.

B. Live stock

1. Cows and dairy products; beef

All families own their own livestock and none are sold to commercial market. Some few are sold locally to meat market operators but different people sell each time. No one person or company has any contract. There are no dairies in this county.

2. Hogs, sheep, goats

Hogs are raised for home use. Some are sold to butchers for meat markets. Very few sheep and goats are found in the county. (Commonly known to residents of the county)

Vii. RURAL HOMES IMPROVEMENTS

The rural home of today is very much different from those of years ago. Today homes are more conveniently and comfortably built. Homes are more sanitary as well as the outbuildings and surroundings. There is more equipment with which to make our homes more comfortable. Another great improvement of modern home life is the communication we have with one another and with other cities

and countries. There is the telephone, telegraph

and countries. There is the telephone, telegraph, and radio. Means of transportaion also enable modern day people to remain in close contact with all that is going on. Newspapers received daily are great helps. Farm produce is easier marketed. Cotton is ginned quicker, better and much easier. Through modern means and methods more produce can be grown and marketed. (From Ancie Belle Butler, Canvasser, Historical Research Project, Mt. Olive, Miss.)

VIII. MODERN AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES

a. County Agricultural Agent b. Home Demonstration Agent

The County agricultural Agent and Home Demonstration agent have a great part in the improvement of farm home life. Through their influence the farm is considered as a unit which ties together the home and farm operated under a systematic plan with the entire family considered. The community organizations serve to bring several people together in a social, recreational and educational life. They can here study and work out solutions of problems related to rural life. The County Agent is often consulted in regard to kinds of crops to plant, kind of fertilizer to use and how much and any problem that might confront the farmer. The county agent is considered a friend at any time to the farmer. The Home Agent is a blessing to the rural housewife. She helps her solve any problem concerning home and garden work. She assists in the canning of beeves or with any garden and vegetable or fruit products. The home Agent introduces the proper, modern method of canning and preserving. (From Eleanor Mancher, Home Agent, Jeff. Davis County, Prentiss, Mississippi)

c. 4-H Clubs

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, AGRICULTURE

4-H Clubs including boys and girls direct activities in improved farm methods, modern improvements in the home, food preservation, garden work and poultry. Many times it is due to a 4-H club member's influence with parents that begins a remodeling and improvement program in the home. Each county has a director to supervise the 4-H club program. It is the efforts and influence of this director that keeps the interest growing and developing this important division of extension work. (From Eleanor Mincher, Home Agent, Jefferson Davis County, Prentiss, Miss.)

e. Fairs

It is not every year that a fair is held in this county. Thism past fall one was held with great success. A committee was in charge of all arrangements. Booths were built for various schools and projects to exhibit objects for display. Prizes were offered for best exhibit and for best of anything that was on display. The fair gave opportunity for citizens to show to the public what they had accomplished. This spurs others to greater effort to bigger and better things. (From Eleanor Mincher, Home Agent, Jeff. Davis County, Prentiss, Miss.)

IX. HORTICULTURE

a. Varieties of cultivated flowers and shrubs

There is nothing but ordinary flowers and shrubs growing in this county. None are of special interest.

b. Extent and importance of nurseries

There is only one nursery in the county. It is newly established and is not operating on any large scale as yet.

However the lady who is owner of this nursery is the kind of person who will make a success of anything she attempts and in a short time she will have a good business. (Commonly known)

d. Agencies Encouraging flower raising

1-Garden Pilgrimages

The county council and Federated Clubs each year sponsor a garden pilgrimage and flower show which is an inspiration to all concerned. It affords an opportunity to let the women see what their neighbors have done in building lawn furniture, pools, rockeries, making flower gardens and the planting of shrubs to hide unsightly places.

2-Flower Shows

Each year as has been said a flower show is held. Blue, and white ribbons are awarded the grower of the best and prettiest flowers. This is an inspiration to others to compete for the prizes. (From Eleanor Mincher, Home Agent, Jeff. Davis County, Prentiss, Mississippi)

3. Beautification Projects

None

Ruth G. Sutton

Ruth G. Sutton, Supervisor

Historical Research Project

Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, AGRICULTURE

Topic of Assignment- Industry
Name of Canvassars- Lula Burkett, Ancie Belle Butler,
Georgie McGehee and Verda McPhail
Date of Compilation- January 22, 1937
Assignment-#20

A. County's most important Industry, or Industries:

The County of Jefferson Davis depends entirely on Agriculture for its wealth. The climate and fertile soil make it one of the richest and most prosperous of the hill counties of Mississippi.

The people are engaged in farming, dairying, raising stock, hogs, poultry, and cattle.

Our County a few years ago was a vast forest of virgin pine timber, owned principally by syndicates. This timber was removed to big sawmills, some of them out of the county and some of them out of the state. The Great Southern Lumber Co. at Bogalusa, La. The J.J. Newman Lumber Co. located at Hattiesburg, Miss. and with a plant at Sumrall, and Denkman Lumber Co. located at Norfield, Miss., with a number of big mills in this county, cut this vast forest of timber and sawed it into lumber.

We quote an Editorial from the local paper, The Prentiss Headlight, June 1, 1933.

Jefferson Davis uses "Waterburys" as old saw mill whistles cease to blow.

Jefferson Davis county, twenty years ago the land of long leaf pines and mill whistles, has gone back to the

provincial Waterbury watches, the old Seth Thomas clock and primitive dining room signals for keeping tab on time. No saw mills here now to toot the time of day. All have gone the way of the fifth wheel and the dodo.

Twenty years ago, Aurora, said to be some goddess who looks after the daylight works, couldn't turn a purple wheel except at the beck of a myraid blast of sawmill whistles in Jefferson Davis County.

At four o'clock in the morning there was a solid scream from a thousand brass-throated tooting outfits all over South Mississippi. It was enough to make Gabriel think he had lost his job. Old Miss Calliope herself seemed to have run amuck with whistling machines " busting" them over stumps and pine logs. There was a solid stanza of titanic tooting for five minutes. This was the signal for South Mississippi to wake up and turn over.

The second chorus of blasting came at four-thirty. This was the command to fall out "Forward March " South Mississippi, love the man who invented sleep, but once awake, she is ready.

Lumber camps, as silent as the tomb at four o'clock were now busy with the new day.

Frying pans hastily blistered fat bacon and bifuracated woolies (that's a split hot dog). Old fashioned coffee mills set up a raucous ranting. Oxen, four to six yokes to a team, were geared to the old eight-wheeled agons. And thus a steady stream of the finest timber in the world floated

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, INDUSTRY

out of South Mississippi. Great forests fell as feverishly under the crude surgery of saw and axe as when the Romans built their pine pole axe navy in 60 days to whip Carthage.

But back to the whistles. The first requirement of a first-class sawmill engineer was knowledge of raising steam and how to toot the whistles, the latter being no secondary matter. There were all grades of tooting; ranging all the way from the ordinary bachelor's degree to the Ph. D. in the finess of tooting.

No first-class sawmill engineer would hire an amateur tooter of whistles. There was reason behind his argument. The whistle inspires confidence, stabilizes morale and lets the folks know that no foolish creditor with an equally funny sheriff has over night clamped an attachment writ on the boiler, and shut off the steam.

And too, no woodman likes to work under the tooting tutelage of an ordinary rooky. He lacks the feel and the tempo of the finished scholar. The whistle was a part of the woodsman's life. When the long, grinding day was done, it was music to his ears and a tonic to his jaded body to hear the old six o'clock siren, in hands of a master, as she blew the long mellowed draught of a day's work done. It meant time for more woolies and brown gravy; probably pay day at the camp and then a " hot time in the old town ".

The old mills are gone Jefferson Davis folks are back to their tin watches and Seth Thomas clocks for time. The old oxen have been stall stuffed, butchered and fed to jaded people

WITH store bought teeth.

B. Private Industries

1. Unfortunately, there is not a factory in Jefferson Davis County, of any kind.

2. We have one saw mill, located near Bassfield, owned and operated by T.V. Lott and C.J. Riley.

This mill manufactures hardwood and short leaf pine lumber. They supply local needs and ship their surplus to other markets.

This mill employes on an average of 40 men. Their payroll amounts to $42000 annually.

This mill gives employment to 40 people, there by reducing the relief rolls and putting into circulation $42000, benefiting to some extent the whole County. (Information T.V. Lott, Bassfield, Miss. January 14, 1937)

Besides this mill there are a number of small tractor sawmills, located in different parts of the county.

They saw into lumber hardwood and short leafpine timber, employing on an average from 5 to 8 men.

They pay out to local men $15.00 to $20.00daily. They run only part time.

Even though these mills are small they are a great help to the community where they are located. They relieve the County of a part of their burden, and give local farmers a chance to work themselves, diring the winter months. These people would either be idle or on relief rolls.

There are gravel pits all over the County used in road

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, INDUSTRY

building. (Information Nat Cole, Prentiss Miss. Owner of ane of these sawmills. January 18, 1937)

There are from one to three cotton gins in every town, and community operating during the ginning season, taking care of the cotton industry, and preparing it for market.

Most of these gins are owned by the Mississippi Cotton Oil Co, and employ 4 to 5 men each, their monthly payroll averages $550,00 per month. (Information Breland Parish Mt. Olive Miss. Gin Operator, January 14, 1937)

There is a pickling plant at Carson owned by the Wildar Pickle Co. of Wiggins. It employs 8 men during the pickling season,and pays out annually to its employees $ 800.00. It furnishes a ready market for their products and gives employment to these men. (Information, Georgie McGehee, Carson Miss. Canvasser, January 18, 1937)

C. Public Industries

1. The Mississippi Power and Light Co's line passes through Jefferson Davis County, and furnish water and lights for this County, except the town of Prentiss, which has its own power plant. They have a number of men keeping up these lines, and getting out poles, They pay their employees $ 75.00 per month, and taxes to the amount $742.83. (Information V.B. Baker, Prentiss, Mississippi January 19, 1937)

2. The Southern Bell Telephone Co has two exchangex offices in this County, Prentiss and Bassfield. Each office has two operators, and a relief operator, also fielf workers that keep

up the lines, and get out the poles. They pay these workers on an average of $50.00 per month. (Information- Mrs. Ada McNease Operator, Prentiss, Mississippi January 19, 1937)

The Western Union Telegraph Co. has anx office at Prentiss and Bassfield with an operator at each office.

The telephone and Telegraph system keep us close in touch with the out side world, and the Western Union pays taxes in this County to the amount of $400.64.

3. Railroads and shops and Bus Lines.

We have two railroads, the Miss. Central and Gulf&Ship Island.

The Miss. Central railroad runs through the central part of the county, from east to west.

The Gulf & Ship Island through the North West corner. Two passenger trains daily, with local and through freights furnish transportation and a market for all products.

The Miss. Central Railroad pays annually into the county Treasure $4443.87 taxes.

The Gulf & Ship Island pays $ 745.87.

We have two bus lines, Tri-State and Varnado. The Tri-State Bus line operate four passenger busses daily, from Natchex to Hattiesburg, and The Varnado Bus line operates two passenger busses daily, from Bogalusa to Jackson. The Varnado line pays #30.41 in taxes.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, INDUSTRY

The United Gas Public Service Companies, pipe lines run through the South Western Corner of this County, and pay $2192.92 taxes.

The Mississippi Utilities Co. pay $ 827.64 taxes to Bassfield School. (Information- L.E. LeMaire Deputy Sheriff, Prentiss, Miss. January 20,1937)

D. City and County Chamber of Commerce.

None

NOTE: We have men and raw material and hope someday to cope with other countiesin Industrial Enterprises.

Lucile McLendon

Lucile McLendon, County Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Jefferson Davis County
Prentiss, Mississippi

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, INDUSTRY

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Topic of Assignment - Transportation
Name of Canvasser-Georgia McGehee
Date of Compilation-April 12, 1937
Assignment # 23

1. When this county was organized in 1906, it's development was greatly hindered for lack of transportation. Up until the year 1912, there was not a road in this county passable during the winter months, if there was very much rain, There was not a road that lead out from Prentiss, the county site, that a car could travel over without having to be pulled out. It was with difficulty that even mule teams could travel over these roads in bad weather. About that time a road building program started in Jefferson Davis County.

At the present time a good road is in reach of most every family in the county. Every child in the county has access to consolidated high school, made possible by good roads. All public roads, state and county are good gravel roads. All ice and grocery trucks travel in safety to every nook and corner of the county. Bus lines run through the entire county. No county in Mississippi can boast of better state and secondary roads than Jefferson Davis at this time 1937. They are all graveled and well kept. Thanks to

our Honorable Board of Supervisors.

Old Roads.

4. Three Chopped Way.

The third road that was opened in Mississippi Territory was known as the "Three Chopped Way," from the method of blazing the trees from Natchez to Georgia.

This road was opened in 1805. It ran from Milledgeville, Georgia by way of St. Stephens, Alabama and Monticello Mississippi in Lawrence County to Natchez, Mississippi. At first it was a mere bridal path, but in 1807 it was widened into a wagon road. It was also known as the "Old St. Stephens Road."

The land office was at St. Stephens Alabama. The immigrants to this part of the territory went bact to St. Stephens to get deeds and land patents to the land bought form the government.

This road was also used for a post road for many years. The mail from old Williamsburg in Covington County to Monticello in Lawrence County passed over this road every day, going one day and returning the next.

During the Civil War a party of soldiers was sent out from Port Gibson by General Grant. They passed over this old St.Stephens road through Lawrence and what is now Jefferson Davis and Covington Counties into Jones County.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, TRANSPORTATION

On Rocky Creek in Jones County a skirmish was fought between the Union Soldiers and a party of Citizens. Three Union Soldiers were killed and Erastus Laird a Confederate Soldier at home on furlough was shot in the leg. The Union Soldiers surrendered and were taken prisioners of was.

Mr. Hamilton has forcibly said that "the daring of hunters and pioneer explorers baptized these ways in blood and enriched them with romance, while the toilsome journeys of our immigrant fathers moving families and belongings to a southern clime, in search of happier homes and fortunes, should make these ways sacred to remotest generations."

Parts of the Old St. Stephens road is stil being used in this county a s country road and parts of it are part of highway number 84, which is a national highway.

11. The present highways of the county.

1. Name members of the State Highway Commission.

Following are the members of the State Highway Commission:

Brown Williams, Chairman, Philadelphia;

Hiram J. Patterson, Monticello;

F. L. Linker, Oxford.

Promptly after qualifying for their three year terms of office, under appointment by Governor White, the State Highway Commissioners Brown Williams, Abe Linker, and Hiram Patterson

unamious re-elected Commissioner Williams, chairman, E.D.Kenna as director, and J. B. Burns Jr., as secretary.

Mr. Williams has served as chairman of the Commission since his first election as Commissioner.

Mr. Linker is the oldest member of the commission, in point of service, having been a member of the commission from the sec - ond Congressional District, under the former eight-member system.

Mr. Patterson was appointed by Governor White in 1936 to succeed J. F. Thames, who was appointed superintendant of the State Penitentiaries.

Mr. Kenna was elected director of the department June 1, 1932, and at the end of his present term of three years will have served in this capacity eight years and six months.

Mr. Burns was elected secretary when the three-member commission was organized January, 1931.

At the meeting of the State Highway Commission on February 16, J. B. Burns Jr., Submitted his resignation as secretary of the commission to be effective on February 20. The Commission unamiously elected E. L. Atkinson of Grenada to succeed Mr. Burns and Mr. Adkinson assumed the duties of the office on February 20. (Information-Mississippi Highways Magazine)

2. Federal appropriations for reads in county.

Federal appropriations are made for roads in the state, and the county only gets the benefit by Federal Highways running through the county.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

3. State Appropriation for roads in county.

State appropriation for roads is made by tax on gasoline, and disbursed to counties according to the number of automobiles in each county.

4. County appropriation for roads in county.

County appropriation for roads in county is raised by taxation on property in county and this varies in each supervisors district in county as the rate in some is higher than in others.

5. Name and describe national highways through county.

The only National Highway in Jefferson Davis county is U.S. number 84, running east and west through the county a little north of central part. This highway runs through Prentiss, county site of Jefferson Davis County. The State Highway Commission is requesting bids on this highway between Covington and Jefferson Davis counties. Contracts let for 19.8 miles of grading and drainage on March 30, 1937.

6. Name and describe state highways in county.

State Highway number 13 runs through Jefferson Davis County north and south. It also runs through Prentiss, county site, and connects Columbia on the south, county site of Marion county, and Mendenhall on the north, county site of Simpson county.

State highway number 42 runs from Prentiss through Carson, Bassfield, and Sumrall into Hattiesburg, county site of Forrest

County. These highways are maintained by the State Highway Department.

7. Give condition of secondary roads.

Our secondary roads are usually in better condition than are the main highways. Practically all are gravelled and are used for mail routes and school routes. Practically every farmer has a good road to market his farm products.

8. Name and describe bus lines.

We have two bus lines through our county. One bus line operates from Bogalusa Louisiana to Jackson Mississippi. It is known as the Varnado Bus Line.

Another bus line runs form Brookhaven to Hattiesburg. The Tri-State Bus Line. Both of these bus lines run through Prentiss County Site of Jefferson Davis County.

These bus lines furnish wasy and quick transportation, stopping at all places for passengers, making it easy and convenient for rural people. They make connection eith trains and other busses. They are filled with passengers each day, and sometimes there is not standing room. Not only do they afford convenient travel, but the county derives revenue from taxation, and gas consumed. Also, they give employment to men and boys as drivers.

lll. Railroad Pioneering in County.

1. Early attempts at railroad building (name of railroad)

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

There were no railroads in Jefferson Davis county until 1904. The first railroad running though the county was a branch of the Gulf and Ship Island which touched the county in the north west corner and the south west corner, running from Mendenhall to Columbia. In the earlier days there were no attempts at railroad building.

2. Effects of 1837 panic on railroad construction in county.

As early as 1837 no efforts were made in this county for railroad building.

3. Name first incorporated roads operating in county.

The first incorporated roads operating in the county were the Gulf and Ship Island and the Mississippi Central.

4. Development of early railroad system operating in county.

The first seven miles of the Mississippi Central Railroad were built from Hattiesburg to Breland during the years 1896-98. The line was extended from Breland to Silver Creek in 1904; from Silver Creek to Brookhaven in 1905-1906; and from Brockhaven to Natchez in 1906-1908.

The first fifteen miles of the Mississippi Central Railroad was known as the Pearl and Leaf River Railroad. It commenced operations under its present name in 1905.

The road was extended from time to time, primarily for the purpose of transporting the lumber cut from timber adjacent to

the railroad. Now that the timber has been practically exhausted, and the railroad has completed the service for which it was originally constructed, its future depends upon the ability of its employees and its patrons to develop new tonnage to take the place of the products of the forest. To the present date sufficient tonnage to take the place of the products of the forest has not been developed. However the fine spirit shown by the employees and friends of the Mississippi Central should make it possible to prevent the abandonment of its operation if the return of normal business conditions throughout the country is not too far ahead in the future.

There was a time when Prentiss was the terminus of the Mississippi Central Railroad, and Mr. S. J. Harper, who is one of the conductors on the railroad today, was the conductor on the passenger train operating between Hattiesburg and Prentiss. Mr. Harper's father "Uncle Sam Harper" who is a Civil War Veteran living in Jefferson Davis County, celebrated his ninety ninth birthday, March 23, 1937.
(Information-Mr. L. E. Faulkner)

lV. Mississippi River Travel

It was Mississippi's good water ways that gave her an exceptional Indian civilization. It was her ocean coast line of magnificient harbor advantages that gave her her first settlement; her river coast line on the longest waterway of the globe,

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

reaching for four thousand miles from the delta to the mountains that gave her an early and wealthy metropolis long before many of the Trans-Mississippi commonwealths were deemed a possibility.

Mississippi coast line aggregates five hundred and twenty miles. The Mississippi River allows the travel of large steamers for over two thousand miles, while small boats ply up and down her branches, the Yazoo, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, and Issaquena for many miles.

It is needless to repeat here how these waterways determined the settlements in Mississippi before the railway age.

It was on foot that Desoto's caravan entered the territory of Mississippi in 1540, and over a hundred years later (1690), that horses were first known to the Chickasaw Indians.

In 1736 bateaux or barges ascended the Mississippi River. Besides these barges or bateaux there were flat boats, keel boats and sail boats.

Before the invention of the steamboat, flatboats, barges, and keel boats were used for carrying produce to market. They were built for down stream voyage, the cost of construction being about twenty dollars. At the end of the voyage they were sold for lumber. Large oars were used to direct their course while they floated with the current. They were used also to

transport families who settled along the river.

The barges were somewhat like keel boats, made of logs joined closely together, and propelled with poles against the bank of the river.

The keel boat was a long, slender boat of small draught. It was propelled by oars, setting poles, and saild.

These boats were the only means of transportation not only during the days before 1798, when Mississippi was made a territory of the United States; but all the rest of that period and for ten years into the present century to 1811 no steam craft of any kind had ever floated on the waters between Natchez and Vicksburg.

The year 1811 marked a new era in the history of transportation in Mississippi. It was in the latter part of this year that the New Orleans descended the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. It was greeted at Natchez by hundreds of spectators, and took on passengers and freight. It ran regularly between Natchez and New Orleans, making the trip down stream in three days and returning in four. It cleared $20.00 for it's owners the first year, and cost $38.000. This steamboat was sunk in 1814 while carrying supplies to General Jackson's army at New Orleans. By this time there were several other steamboats on the Mississippi.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

Jefferson Davis county is inland, but the waterways of Mississippi has had a marked effect on it's settlement.

The Indians, the first inhabitants followed the waterways coming the Mississippi and Pearl Rivers.

The early white settlers, many of them coming from Georgia, Carolinas, and Pennsylvania used old road and Indian trails.

Before coming of the railroad to this section, the people drove ox teams to Pass Christian, taking two weeks to make the trip. They carried their products to market and brought back supplies.

After the invention of steam, boats came up Pearl River as far as Monticello, Lawrence County. Merchants and farmers would meet these for fertilizer and supplies. They came only in the spring of the year when the water was high from spring floods. (Information-Riley's Mississippi History-Memoirs-Interviews).

The crowning achievement of modern business is swift aircraft, made to serve the needs of commerce.

There are no airports in Jefferson Davis County, but airplanes pass over the county quite often.

Lucile McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Prentiss, Mississippi
Jefferson Davis County

Jefferson Davis County, Transportation
2

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 16
Topic of Assignment- Fine Arts
Names of Canvassers- Verda McPhail, Ancie Belle Butler
Date of Compilation- October 22, 1936

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature

1. Novelists

None

2. Historians

None

3. Poets

None

4. Drama

None

5. Miscellaneous

None

B. Music

1. List outstanding Musicians

None

a. Piano

None

b. Violin

None

c. Organ

None

d. Other Instruments

None

e. Voice

None

f. Composers; character of work

None

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
Assignment # 16

g. Indian Music

None

h. Negro folk songs and spirituals

None

2. Bands, orchestras, other musical organizations, as choirs, etc.

The Prentiss High School has the only organized band in the county. It has been organized only two years and has not had time to progress very far along musical lines. The band does not have a director at present. The former director has recently resigned to accept a better position. (From Marion Rood Walden, Member of Band, Prentiss, Mississippi, October 19, 1936)

3. Public School Music

a. Band orchestras

None

b. Schools where music is taught

Only one school in the county employs a music teacher. That school is Prentiss and the teacher is Miss Carolyn Tyrone. She is a graduate of Mississippi Woman's College and is a very competent teacher. She has eighteen piano pupils. At Carson Schhol the students may take piano from a teacher who teaches privately. (From Supt. of Education, D.H. Price, Prentiss, Mississippi, October 20, 1936)

C. Paintings

1. List Artists

a. Give character of work; short biographical sketch

None

2. Old portraits and rare paintings

None in homes or public buildings

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FINE ARTS

D. Sculpture

1. Outstanding Sculptures

None

Give character of work; short sketch

None

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

A. Handicraft

1. Wood carving

Very little is done along this line in the county. The WPA Recreation Project has made some pregress along this line. Under the leadership of Mrs. Harry Williams, County Recreation Director, the women of the rural districts have been organized into clubs and have been taught the art of making things at home. Very pretty buttons have been made from wood. Tables, stools, whatnots and various articles have been made by this recreation group. None have been made for commercial purposes. (From Mrs. Harry Williams, County Recreation Director, Prentiss, Mississippi, October 22, 1936)

2. Handicrafts in Schools

None

3. Basketry

a. Made by whites

None

b. Made by Indians

None

c. Made by Negroes

None

4. Weaving

a. Done by whites

None

b. Done by Indians

None

c. Done by Negroes

None

5. Miscellaneous

None

B. Architecture

1. Ornamental Buildings

a. Public Buildings

None

b. Churches

None

c. Homes

None

2. Outstanding Architects

None

C. Landscaping

1 Parks

None

2.Grounds of Public buildings

a. Schools

The Carson School Campus has been well cared for and is a scene of beauty. Shrubbery was put around the building a number of years ago but a few months ago $100 or more was spent for shrubbery through a beautification project sponsored by the WPA. This shrubbery was planted around the Teachers' Home and on the campus. The plants

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FINE ARTS

consist of arbor vitae, crepe myrtle, bridal wreath, oaks, nandina palms and many others. D.A. McGee was superintendent of the school at this time and suggested the placement of the shrubs. (From Noel Berry, Carson, Mississippi, October 16, 1936)

The Clem School Campus is about an acre square. It is fenced in and has a cement walk leading from the fromtthe gate. A collection of shrubbery surrounds the building. A.E. Miller landscaped the campus in December 1928 just after the completion of the building. There are three pear trees on the grounds, some spireas, and some snow on the mountain, several arbor vitae,nandinas, obelias, legustrums and seven oaks. (From Mrs. D.M. Calhoun, Mt. Olive, Miss. October 19, 1936)

Other schools in the county have a very similar campus to the ones mentioned above. None are outstandingly landscaped.

b. Colleges

None

c. Courthouse

Several pecan trees have been planted on the courthouse square. Numerous legustrums are planted all around the building and that is all the shrubbery on the lawn.

3. Home Gardening

a. Mention owners

None

b. Arrangement of gardens

None

Nothing in this county is worthy of mention along the subject of Fine Arts. This important side of living has been somewhat neglected.

Of Course there are cultured refined people in the county and also many talented ones but none of them have won fame or recognition along any of the fine art lines.

Ruth C. Sutton

Ruth C. Sutton, Supervisor
Historical Research Project

JeffersonDavis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY FINE ARTS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

Topic of Assignment-Arts & Crafts

Name of Canvasser-Georgia McGehee

Date of Compilation-May20, 1937

Assignment # 16

1. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature

1. Novelist

There are no novelist in Jeffe rson Davis County.

2. Historians

F. L. Riley, Jr., son of F. L. Riley, Sr., was born in Simpson and reared in Lawrence county, which is now Jefferson Davis. After receiving a preparatory education in the common schools, he entered Mississippi College in 1884, where he redeived the degree of A.B. in June 1889, taking first honors in a class of nine. He received the degree of A.M. in June,1891. While in college he was editor-in-chief of the Mississippi College Magazine, and first lieutenant of the Mississippi College Invincibles. During the four and one-half years of his college life he never received a demerit or a reproof from any member of the faculty of that institution. Immediately after graduation he was employed as principal of Hebron high school, and since

that timehas successfully conducted the affiars of that institution. he was married to Miss Fannie Leigh in July, 1891. Mr. Riley is a democat, and once was a member of the executive committee.

In the year of 1900 Mr. Riley was Professor of History in the University of Mississippi, and secretary of the Mississippi Historical Society. It was in this same year that he wrote a School History of Mississippi .

3. Poets.

We do not have any poets in this county.

4. Drama

No drama in the county.

5. Miscellaneous

One of the best miscellaneous in this county is G. L.Martin, lawyer and educator. From 1920 to 1932 Mr. Martin was Superintendant of Education of Jefferson Davis County. His literary work consists of newspaper and magazine writings. He writes for the Daily Clarion Ledger, Jackson Daily News, also the local county paper.Mr. Martin writes news items, history of Jeff.Davis county and its people. He is the best educated and infromed man in the county.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS

B. Music

1. List outstanding Musicians; give brief Biographical sketch

Jeff Davis County does not have what you would term outstanding musicians, but we have many talented in music and that play beautifully, among them we might mention the following--Allene Schehan Bozeman-Piano and Violin. Willie Jones Harper-Piano. Willie Magee-Piano. Margret Duckworth Griffith-Piano and voice. Kathern Giles Puckett-Piano. Jessie Rue Clark Buckley-Piano. Mrs. Harlos Everette-Piano. Edwin Luper-playes all instruments.

a. piano

The best in the County in piano and violin is Allene Schehan Bozeman,

She was born September 22, 1907 at Prentiss. Attended High School at Prentiss until the senior year and graduated from Hattiesburg High School in 1925.

Attended State Teachers College one year to finish music course. Graduated in piano at S. T. C. in 1926. Studied music from Katherine Donald Bates for two years. She studied piano at State Teachers College for four and one-half years and violin eighat years. After graduation at State Teachers College she taught piano and violin at Prentiss, one year in high School. Taught seven years private classes in both.

b. violin

Allene Skehan Bozeman has already been mentioned as the outstanding of the county in violin. Doris Mae Walden Alley also plays well.

c. organ

Jack Griffith is the outstanding Pipe-organ player in the county. He is the son of Mr. And Mrs Walter Griffith of Silver Creek. For many years he played in the Theater in Hattiesburg, he also broadcast from Hattiesburg. He has played in many of the large cities in the United States.

d. other instruments

Edwin E. Luper, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Luper of Prentiss, Mississippi, was born in the year 1921, five miles south of Prentiss. The family moved to Prentiss when Ecwin was three years of age, to the place where they now reside.

At the tender age of two and one half years, Edwin sang in the church choir "Jesus Love Me". At the age of five years he appeard on the Prentiss stage, face blacked and sung "Bye Bye Blackbird".

Edwin began piano when seven years of age under Miss Lois McCormick. At the present time can play sixth grade music well. He began violin at the age of ten years with Dorris Mae Walden and Allene Skehen as instructors.

The Snare drum was the first instrument played when he joined the band, at eleven years of age. At the age of twelve he played the Saxaphone, and is now playing trumpet in the Prentiss High School band. Edwin also plays accordin.

e. voice

Margaret Burrow Duckworth, born January 21, 1904. Graduated from Prentiss High School May 1919. She received her education at Whitworth College, graduating May 1923. The session of

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ARTS AND CRAFTS

1923 and 1924, she taught in the High School department at Whitworth College, studing piano and voice during this time. While at Whitworth she was a pupil of Miss Elizabeth McVoy , one of Mississippi's outstanding piano teachers. She also studied with Mr. and Mrs. Roeder of Mississippi Womans College of Hattiesburg. After finishing school she taught piano and voice for ten years in Jeff Davis county. She has sung for 104 furnerls and had charge of music for number of others. She was choir director at Baptist Church, Prentiss, for a number of years. She married Baron C. Griffith, June 27, 1926.

f. composers; character of work

Jeff Davis County has no music composere.

g. Indian music

We do not have any Indian music.

h. Negro folk songs and spirituals

The Prentiss Colored Institute has a choral club made of twenty-four voices, directed by a well trained teacher from Tugaloo College. They furnish music for commencement exercises and other public entertainment. These singers specalize in negro folk songs and spirituals.

The Institute has two male quartets, one female quartet and a quintet made of mixed voices. These have entertained Civic clubs, and given programs in the White consolidated schools and colleges throughout the state.

During vacation season they have traveled and entertained in practically every section of the country, raising funds for the institution. They have visited, St. Louis, Chicago, Cincinnatti, Cleveland, Louisville, Indianapolis, Des Moins, Lincoln and practically all the smaller towns and cities in the west including California. Have done a good bit of broadcasting, four times over W.J.D.X. Jackson, Mississippi this session. This singing aggregation is in charge of teachers of the institution, and they travel over the country in a house car.

a. piano, negro

Prentiss Institute has turned out many pupils accomplished in music, among the noteworthy, Rosetta Holloway West, and Eva Johnson Dawson.

Rosetta Holloway West was born on a farm near Prentiss, in 1905. She attended the Prentiss Institute, finishing in 1920. She was the first music pupil to attend the Institute, and had never seen a piano until Professor Johnson came here in 1907. After finishing here she majored in music at Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. After finishing in Fisk University she taught in the Prentiss Institute for four years. Married Rev. J. C. West in 1927. She is now teaching music music at Raymond, Mississippi and is organist of the Baptist Church in Jackson.

Eva Johnson Dawson, daughter of principal Johnson of the Prentiss Institute, born 1911 on the campus. She began taking music when only three years of age. Graduated from Prentiss Institute in 1927. Took music along with college course and

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS

graduated from Fisk University in 1931. Studied on masters degree majoring in music for one year at the University of Iowa City. Directed music for Prentiss Institute four years, and is now teaching her first year in the city school of Houston, Texas where her husband is employed teaching Math.

2. Bands, orchestras, other musical organizations, as choirs,etc.

The Prentiss High School is the only organized band in the county, with Mr. Woods as director. This band is not very active except suring school months at which time they have band concerts and often play for other programs for schools over the county. They often parade on the streets of Prentiss, where every one crowd the streets in order to review them and listen to the music that they play. These players look very nice in their uniforms of red and white.

The Prentiss High School Band participated in the contest held at Jackson, Mississippi this spring where they were classed as average.

The only orchestra that we have in the county is one that is composed of some members of the high school band. This orchestra plays for public entertainment, also, furnish music at the Prentiss Baptist Church.

THE LEE STRING ORCHESTRA is composed of members of one family. The father is Violinist and is between sixty five and seventy years old. Two sons play Mandolin and Guitar. These people have played for Square Dance at State Bar Association at Natchez, Mississippi,

also for two ERA Conferences held at Belhaven College at Jackson, Mississippi. They played also for Square Dance at Vicksburg, Mississippi last year. They played for the Annual W.P.A. Recreation Conference held in Jackson. They are regular orchestra for Jefferson Davis County Recreational Square Dances. Mrs. Harry Williams accompanies them at piano.

Once each month community singing is held in the different communities of the county. Special song sheets prepared by the Recreation Department are used at these sings. Large crowds attend and special singing games are enjoyed. Occassionally special numbers such as piano and instrumental music ate enjoyed.

Once at the Whitesand community an Impromptu Amateur hour was sponsored. Much enjoyment was serived from this type of program.

The Prentiss Baptist Church has an organized junior choir, with Mrs. B.G.Walden as leader. This choir practices every Sunday afternoon and furnish the music for the church each Sunday night.

The Carson Methodist church also has a junior choir and furnish music for the church at times on special programs. All the other churches have good choirs, to hear these choirs is to appreciate them.

3. Public school music.

Public school music is taught in a majority of the schools in the county. It is taught by the regular music teacher in some, and in others by a W.P.A.worker. We are indeed fortunate to have a worker in this county, Mrs. Irene Holloway who is very

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS

capable and has the interest of all the pupils and the cooperation of the public. Unfortunately many are turned away from taking music because she has more than she has time to teach.

b.
Prentiss, Carson, Bassfield, Whitesand, and Clem, all have public school music.

a. Band orchestras, chorus

There are no band orchestras in the schools of the county.

Most of the schools have chorus classes, one for the older children and one for the younger children. Usually these chorus classes are taught by the school music teacher. Much interest is manifested for most childred like to sing and it helps them to begin while young. Much talent is brought out in this way. These children help out with the school programs.

b. Schools where music is taught.

Music is taught at Prentiss, Bassfield, Carson, Whitesand and Clem schools.

C. Paintings

1.List artists

Among the best artist of the county are, Mrs. Rose Tyrone, Mrs. Bervgie Johnson, Buford Corley, and Borthwick Ballard, Mrs. Paul Dale.

a. Give character of work; short biographical sketch.

Mrs. Rose Bauer Tyrone was born at Natchez, Mississippi in 1888. She attended private school, Stanton College, where she began the study of art. Class lessons and the lower grades too art, and she had private lessons the last two years there, In 1904 she attended I.I.&C, which is now M.S.C.W. All the time she was at this col

this college she took fine arts under Miss Mamie Pennell. Had one year of applied arts there. She finished in art and took post graduate course in it at M.S.C.W. She attended summer school at Knoxville, Tennessee for two summers. After finishing college taught art for three years at Woodville, Mississippi.

Most painting done by Mrs. Tyrone is landscaping, oil and water color and pastel paintings. She also has done some china painting. Among her latest paintings is the Swimming Pool on Whitesand Creek, a Country Road, and Cherokee Roses. She has painted five pictures of the old Brady home and two of the W.J.Hubbard home.

Miss Rose was married to Leland Tyrone in 1919. They with their two children reside at Prentiss, Mississippi. Mrs. Tyrone has done quite a bit of scenic painting in the county.

The biography and character of work of Mrs. Bessie Dale will be sent in later.

a. Although quite a youngster and not having any special training, Borthwick Ballard is quite an artist. He is only fifteen years of age and can take a funny paper and sketch the characters almost identical. He alos sketches peoples faces to look almost like them. He began trying to draw pictures before he learned to read and write.

Borthwick Ballard was born at Carson, Mississippi in the year 1922. Since a very small child he has lived with his grandmother, Mrs. G. G. Holloway at Carson. He attends school at Carson and makes the highest grades in his class. During his spare time in the afternoons he sells magazines.

2. Old protraits and rare paintings

In most every home you will find old portraits but have found

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS

no rare paintings.

D. Sculpture

1.Outstanding Sculptures

Have not located in Sculptures in the county.

11. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

a. Handicraft

Under the direction of the WPA Recreation Project much headway has been made in handicraft. Mrs. Harry Williams with her workers have organized handicraft clubs in most every community in the county. The people of the communities are very much interested in this line of work and there is a large attendance at the meetingx.

Development of Handicraft in W.P.A. Recreation.

Prior to the Works Progress Administration program a recreational crafts program had been started in Jefferson Davis County in January 1934 under the C.W.A.

The first articles of cfafts were very simple to make. They were made from materials that would have otherwise been thrown away, for instance, very attractive flower arrangements were made from tin cans by cutting it into strips and attaching shaped flowers of crepe paper. These made very attractive decorations when ferns are added to them. Mats were made of corn shuck. The long line of shucks were dampened and braided. Then they were tacked together in circular,oval and rectangular shapes . Even very large laundry baskets have been made by twisting corn shucks around wire frames. A chair that had been bottomed with rolled corn shucks won a prize for the best home made article in a recent fair exhibit. Chairs have been made form

barrells covered with creton.

In wood craft many hundreds of what-nots have been made from apple crates and seconds of three-ply wood. There have been end tables, combination book racks and magazine stands. These have in many cases been stained with home made walnut stains, and clear walnut used for finishing.

From the wood work group a unique craft evolved, that of walnut and hickory nut buttons. This was done by placing the nut in a vice and sawing cross-wise the nut. The natural holes are in just the right place for sewing them on to the dress. These cross sections of nuts are sand-papered and shellaced. They have been sold for as much as one dollar a dozen when they have been made by an individual working out side W.P.A. groups.

Paper tapestry has been occupying first place for several weeks. Designes are drawn on card board. The outlined flower for instance is moistened with paste and strips of crape paper in color desired is crushed into these lines with a chrochet hook or nail file. When it it is dry it is mounted on a wood board about one inch larger than the plaque. It is then shellaced. From a distance it looks like a piece of tapestry.

Tin craft has been sponsored. Tin cans have been cut open and attractive designs transferred on to them with a hammer and a nail. The goldlined cans make the more attractive plaques. These are mounted on wood boards and shellaced. Blotter holders, book ends, calendar holders have been made in these classes.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS

Some have been made for libraries in thisCounty.

Emamel silhouette pictures have been made also. Leather craft has just recently been started in only simple coin cases have been made, however initials have been tooled on them by the individual. Single lacing is the only type used so far.

In the near future copper etchings will be started.

In connection with dramatics rag doll Marionettes and fist puppets have been made.

1. Wood carving

Pete Smith is a genius at wood carving. He has never made a real study of this art, but can take a pocket knife and a piece of wood and carve most anything imaginable. He has carved miniature slippers, bugs, wagons and many other things to numerous to mention. All he needs is to be educated along this line.

James Willoughby with plenty of three ply wood and a circular saw is very gifted in the art of wood carving. Although only fifteen years of age he makes such articles as magazine racks, book cases, cabinets, what nots, and end tables. He is kept very busy as the housewives are ever wanting him to make some of these things for them.

We have many ax handle makers in the county, among them are Oscar Garner, Monroe Heggins. They make them of hickory for their own use and also sell them.

Jessie Sutton obtained a patent for the Sutton Harrow, which he later sold to W. O. Jones. The wooden part of these harrows is manufactured at Prentiss by two negroes. The harrows when completed are sold by Mrs. Jones since the death of her husband.

Mrs. Bergie Speights Johnson is the most apt in wood cafving in the county. She is a real artist and genius. She has been called on of the wonders of the world. She built and made all the furniture for her house. The logs were cut, hauled, hewn and the house built by her own hands.

The bed steads, tables, stools bath tub, lavatory, water tank and candle sticks were carved from wood from her own plantation. She cultivates twenty acres of land and does her wood carving during rainy days and spare time. She also does water color painting.

2. Handicrafts in schools

Last year handicraft was taught in several schools of the county by W.P.A. Recreation project. Later it was thought that it would be wide to discontinue work of this kind in our schools. There was a possibility that teachers for crafts might be employed by schools. However, school children received this training in groups outside of school.

3. Basketry

a. Made by Whites

There are quite a number of basket makers scattered over the county. Most of these baskets are made from white oak and are used for cotton and feed baskets.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS

b. Made by Indians

When the Indians were Inhabitants of this county their living was made by basket making. Today we do not have any xxy Indians but their baskets are kept as souvenirs.

c. Made by negroes

Negroes also make basket of white oak as the white people do. They too make baskets of pine needles.

Alice Jones of Bassfield, makes lovely baskets from corn shucks. She also makes laundry baskets, lunch baskets, and sewing baskets.

The Industrial and Home Economics Departments of the Prentiss Institute do quite a bit of handicraft. They make baskets from pine needles and make rafia baskets.

4. Weaving

There has not been much done in the weaving line in this county;

5. Miscellaneous

Architecture

1. Ornamental Buildings

a.Public Buildings

The public buildings of the county are not of much ornamental beauty. The school buildings were sent in on assignment of schools. and the churches in assignment on churches.

c. Homes

We have many beautiful homes in the county that would do credit to most any city.

2. Outstanding Architects

Mr. W. D. McDaniel designs plans, and builds most of the homes in Jefferson Davis County.

C. Landscaping.

1. Parks

We do not have any parks in the county.

2. Grounds of public buildings

All the grounds of public buildings are landscaped and are beautified.

a.Schools

The art committee of the Prentiss Womans Club has been very active in its duties.

A very fine assortment of shrubbery has been purchased and planted on the school campus which adds beauty and charm to the grounds and buildings. A florist landscaped the grounds and planted the trees. Other worthy projects are now being formulated by the committee who are very diligent in their work of beautifying the public property of the town also assisting in plans for the beautification of private gounds.

Under the supervision of Mollie Barnes (negro) who was on the Beautification Project, the grounds of the Progress school is a scene of beauty. a rustic fence has been built around the school, and native shrubbery such as youpon, cedar, huckleberry,cowcumber, redbud and dogwood have been planted.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS

The landscaping of the other schools were sent in on the first assignment of arts and crafts.

b. Colleges

There has not been much landscaping on the campus of the Prentiss Institute but they are planning to landscape and plant shrubbery when they can secure enough money.

c. Courthouse

The courthouse grounds including jail and community hut, have been landscaped and artistically arranged with native shrubbery and nursery shrubbery. We have such trees as willow, pecan, oak, china, plum on the lawn. The lawn is beautiful and well kept.

3. Home Gardening.

a. Mention owners

Mrs. B. C. Griffith, Mrs. Clyde Luper, Mrs. S.C.Hamilton and many others have beautiful gardens.

b. Arrangement

We have not had an opportunity to study the arrangement of these gardens yet. Will do so later.

Lucile McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Historian
Historic Research Project
Jefferson Davis County
Prentiss, Mississippi

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS

Topic of Assignment- The Local Press
Name of Canvassers- Lula Burkett, Ancie Belle Butler, Georgie Mc Gehee and Verda McPhail
Date of Compilation- Bebruary 2, 1937

I. COUNTIES FIRST PAPER

The Weekly or " country newspaper play a large part in the history of the community it serves. It protrays, in serial form, the community's progress or retrogres ion, telling week by week, day by day, the story of the town and community, and unlike the large dailies whose pages are besmirched with blood and scandal, it strives to sift out the sordid, ugly things of life, holding as its sacred obligations the reflection of that which molds character and the furthering of the cultural, educational , civic and spiritual life of the community it serves. Whatever its merits or demerits, it is the expression of the community it speaks the olcal language. If it is worthy of its mission, it strives to be the true voice of the community, picking up the threads of the ~~xxx~~ local happenings, and weaving them into a whole, engendering a feeling of neighborliness among its reader fostered by no other instiurion, and ultimately taking its place as a potent, uplifting factor in both the ~~d~~ocal and national existence, giving of its best to the people and community it serves, and deserving of the whole-hearted cooperation and undivided support of all the people.

a. By whom edited and published.

Immediately after the organization of the county of Jefferson Davis , Mr. H. A. Geiger opened up a printing

office, and on June 21, 1906 edited and published the " Prentiss Headlight", a four page sheet, two pages of ready print,and two by local editor.

b. Extent of files kept: giving dates.

According to law a copy of each issue was to be preserved in the Chancery Clerks Office, and kept as a County Record. They were to be bound at the end of each year.

From June 1906 to 1928 a copy of each issue was stacked in the office of the C hancery Clerk. Many of these copies were lost, others are torn and rotten. From 1929 to 1936, each copy has been preserved and neatly bound in book form.

c. Local condition was very poor, office space small. The first printing out-fit was an old George Washington Press.

This press was hand power, the type was set, and all other work was dine by hand.

Later, a Diamond press was installed, this press used hand power also.

In 1930, a Cranston's Printing Press was installed. It is linotype Press automatically fed. It has enlarged its quarters to two rooms.

d. Policy of Editors, Politics, History etc.

Mr. Geiger and the editors following him have taken an open stand in all public affairs pertaining to the welfare fo the County. The County press plays an important part in National

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

State and local politic, with fairness to all and special privileges to none. It is the policy of the Editor to give all interesting County wide news, political, educational, and religously.

In many homes it is the only paper read.

e. Successors of the original publication.

There have been many attempts to change the name of the local paper but without success. It h s changed editors and publishers many times. But the paper from the first issue until the present time has been published weekly as the " Prentiss Headlight" .

f. Name editors and publishers in order.

The following are the editors of the local paper. H.A. Geiger, Oscar Grace, J.C. Carlton, J.E. Parker, C.E. Dumas C. E. Thompson, C.C. Bryant, and F. A. Parker.

II.Name paper and magazines down to date.

Only one, Prentiss Headlight.

All papers and magazines are laid aside when the County paper arrives. It is a weekly welcome visitor.

a. Local, Civil, and Political attitude.

Locally the paper has striven to aid in all worth-while movement for the uplift and enlightment of the people and for the upbuilding of the town, and county by encouraging industry, and improved agricultural methods, and co-operating with the public in all projects calcualted for the betterment of the people in general.

The paper too, has striven to be exemplary in civil matters, ready to cooperate with those in authority for the civil improvement and uplift of the people, and for the enforcement of the laws of the town, County, State and Nation.

The paper has been Democratic in attitude both locally and nationally, but has not taken antagonistick action against any party or parties.

The County press in a most remarkable manner, has kept in advance of the actual wants and necessities of the people, and the enterprise, progress, and stability of the county. The publishers and editors have been men of very high order, men of remarkable partiotism, and courage. Men who contributed wonderfully through press to the onward march of the County.

b. Quotations from files of papers.

Jones Polk wins first place in Boys Corn Club in Miss. and second place in the Nation. December 18,1913.

Jones Polk sixteen year old son of Mr. Louis Polk who resides one mile from Prentiss, and who is in Washington D.C. this week on his free trip given by the department of Agriculture of the National Government to prize winners of the boys corn club, won first place from Mississippi and the second place in United States. This report is according to a telegram sent State Superintendent of Education, J.N. Powers by Miss Susie V. Powell, who is in Washington in interest of the boys corn coub and the girls Tomato Club.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

Jones raised two hundred fourteen and seven-tenths bushels of corn on one acre this year. This was beaten last year by Willis Benson of Lawrence County who raised two hundred twenty seven bushels and won first place in the nation. A Lincoln County girl won first place in the state and second place in the nation in the girls tomato Club. This section is breaking all records of the State and right in the lead of the Nation in the corn and Tomato Clubs.

The Hasting Seed Co, gave Jones Polk their offered prize of fifty dollars cash for the highest yield in Mississippi on one acre in corn. Jones left for Washington last Sunday one week ago, and is expected back in the course of a day or two.

January 9,1913

J.N. Powers and Miss. Susie V. Powell spoke Saturday.

The public speaking at the courthouse last Saturday was carried out according to previous annoucements. State superintendent of Education N.J. Powers and Miss.Susie V. Powell make interesting talks to an appreciative audience. In foremoon Mr. Powers dwelt at length on " Rural School Consolidation" and the " County Agricultural High School" and it is to be regreted that more of the rural citizens were not in attendance. The purpose of such public speakings is to educate the masses to the needs of better educational and agricultural conditions, but nothing will ever be accomplished so long as the

people stay away. How can they educate unless they hear and how can they hear unless they come.

While those who got Mr. Powers to come are sorry that more of the rural citizens did not attend this meeting, much interest was manifested by those present; and at the close of Mr. Powers speech the audience voted its approval of everything that he said on these timely subjects. He seems to have struck the key note for an interesting and effective talk in choosing these things that have been said of his speech, it appears that he has set the match to the straw. The teachers and all other lovers of a better and more pratcial educ tion openly declared that they would use every effort to put into effect this speaker's recommendations, and we mau expect his speech to be as " The seed sown on Good Ground".

In the afternoon Miss. Powell made aninteresting talk on " Girls Club Work, and organized the te chers. Thrity-eight dollars were pledged by the teachers., to be used for this kind of work, and committees were appointed to see after the raising of more. About fifty girls fo this county have joined the club, and many teachers have heartily indorsed the work and pledged their support. Consequently the outlook for club work in this county this year is more promising than ever before. It is likely that the County Fair Association will offer some attractive prizes to encourage the boys and girls, and get them started with a greater determination to accomplish some thing.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

Considering everything, the day was a good one for those who were here, and as so many were stirred with a greater determination to do more, the ~~m~~ superintendent and others hope to have Mr. Powers and Miss. Powell to address the people of this county again as soon as possible.

Mr. Lee, the C ounty superintendent, is sparing no efforts in arousing the spirit for a higher education in this county and through his earnest efforts the people are beginning to see good results.

To Jefferson Davis County

Tis the land of the popular and the pine,
The magnolia and the rose:
The land of the corn and the cotton,
Where sweetest zephyr blows.
Jefferson Davis! Jefferson Davis!

A land where Aurora purples the rosy dawn,
With a sheen of new-born light;
Where silver moonbeams filter down.
And stars pin their curtains at night.
Jefferson Davis ! Jefferson Davis!

A land of limpid streams and woodland lays,
Where forest giants swagger against the sky,
A land of legend and stored past,

Where heroes' memories never die.
Jefferson Davis! Jefferson Davis !

From Beuna Vista to Appomattox,
From Richmond to the sea,
Our hero is enshrined in the hearts of Southerms,
Guarded with ineffable memory.
Jefferson Davis ! Jefferson Davis !

III. Outstanding editorials

Country Editors Power August 16, 1907

The power of the weekly press is not to be under estimated. The Country editor is close to the people. He knows what every man in his community is talking about and thinking about, knows where he stands. He can reach him directly and almost as personally as though a personal conversation. As a molder of the opinion of the public which is reached the newspaper has few equals. The Country editor can get his finger on the pulse of his community.

The independent editor of a weekly paper is not usually rich in money or in this world's goods. If he were he would not be a country editor. But his rich in something else if he is truly untrameled, and that something else is character.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

The Little Country Paper. January 31 ,1909

It is no sixteen page edition that express big men's views and it's not filled up with pictures nor with telegraphic news. It isn't printed daily with an extra every nour and the editor's not bragging of his influence and power. It may have its faults and errors, but all these I'll forgive, for its printed in the country way back where I used to live. It is only issued weekly, and it's not made up for style, but when its comes I gladly put the daily by awhile: I didn't read in its pages what the wise and great ones say, but I see that Silas Jigger brought some wood to town today, and that Grandma Packs is better or that old Bill Jones is dead and it tells just what the parson in his Sunday sermon said, I can see again the faces of the friends I used to know in the dim and distant fancies of the happy long ago; and that Uncle Nathan Smith predicts an early fall of snow. Or that our eating club will give a sociable next week, at which our fellow townsman, Abner Bothersome will speak.

There are now no new learned essays on the question of the day, but it says that folks are looking for another rise in hay. I can see no glaring headlines of the last election fight, but it says that Tom Shaw marries Ella Edgerton tonight. And my thoughts some how grow fonder when the old folks names I see, telling that Rev. Thompkins was invited there to tea. It may be crude and homely, that same little country sheet, and the make-up of the pages may rather be obsolete.

It is damp when I unfold it and the print is sometimes blurred, yet tis always more than welcome and I read every word, and no reading to a city man greater joy can give, than the little country weekly printed where he used to live.

The lawyer and Legal Ethics. July 6, 1908

Ever and anon we hear scathing ednunciations of lawyers, pronounced by the laymen. In truth these denunciations of late years, have been so frequent that one is pressed to the conclusion that there is but one opinion in the popular mind in reference to lawyers, and that is they are all rascals. We dare assert that the majority of the people really and earnestly believe that rascality and all kinds of croodedness are essential elements in the make-up of a successful lawyer. This is indeed sad; that to think such ideas have found judgement in the universal mind, is extremely deplorable, but what is sadder still and more deplorable is the fact that the lawyer, by his low and damnable conduct, creates and disseminates this belief in and to the minds of the people.

This indictment is not drawn against all lawyers. No,No, we render thanks to God that there are a goodly number wearing the robe, who know right from wrong, who still reverence the Code of Legal Ethics, handed down by the fathers; who believe that theirs is the noblest profession practised by men, and who would not lower that profession nor themselves for gold; who have been taught by the giants of old, that " Law is the

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

golden chain that binds the Earth to Heaven ", which teaching is emulated in their daily lives.

The greatest sin against legal ethics, which the lawyer is guilty of, is comitted when the lawyer undertakes to " get business" as he terms himself or by some one for him. This is shysteism, pure and simple, and the lawyer who does this or permits it to be done for him, is a shyster and isn't entitled to the respect of a yellow dog, and it is getting about time that some one inform the people the lawyer who persues this course in order to get clients will rob these same clients after he gets him; for if he is mean enough to lower himself and the whole profession along with him, he would hesitate to illegally deprive his clients of their cash when the same gets in reach of his ravenous hand.

We repeat, that the people should be along this line; for this is the only hope fo driving the educated lawyer out of the profession. Let the people know and understand, now and for all times, that the lawyer who drums for business or even volunteers a hit along that line, is unworthy of the name is demoralizing the profession, is beneath the notice of the real lawyer and should be beneath the notiwe of all mankind.

a. Unusual news Items.

About the yeat 1865 there was enacted a law in the State of Mississippi, making it an offense punishable by a fine of $ 100.00 to throw cotton seed in any running stream

in the state. Cotton seed wasn't considered of much value in those days.

The cotton seed produced in all the Southern States this year will probably sell for ritht around $ 250,000,000,00. Quite a difference between this year and the year 1865, This tremendous increase in the revennuextto the Southern farmer, is the result of the discovery of the food value of cotton seed products.

Ex- Governor Longino and wife of Jackson, were visitors Sunday in the home of their niece, Mrs. Leon Tyrone.

July 19, 1907

Vardaman is running some, He has made us a good Governor, and we will make him a good Senator.

b. Unuaual Social Items.

xMr.xLeonxTyronexxpentxthexdayxinxMendenhallxl,xthe

Mr. Leon Tyrone,efficient cashier of the Bank of Blountville,accompained by Mrs. Tyrone spent the day in Mendenhall, the guest of Mrs Tyrone sister, Mrs. W. D. Hilton.

c. Odd Advertisements.

Bilbo Advertisers.

Prasticing the preaching he has done to Mississippians on advertising their state, Governor Bilbo will, during early summer, address the U.S. from a C hicago broadcasting station on resources and opportunities in Magnolia Land.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

The J.J. Newman Lumber Co. was visited by a disasterous fire here early Sunday morning, and completely destroyed the No. 3 sawmill proper. The loss was estimated at $ 100,000

January 11, 1934

Three School Children on their way to Monday Morning School.

Grim tragedy stalking with reckless bandon stode through the little town of Bassfield early Monday morning, January,11, 1934. Three children killed, several others seriously injured an d many receiving minor hurts are the terrible toll paid, when the No.I passenger train of the Mississippi Central ploughed into a Ford bus loaded with 32 children, xxxxx as it attempted to make the crossing on the depot ground.

May 29, 1924

South Mississippi visited by several Storms.

17 persons were killed outright, more than a score injured and thousands of dollars worth of property destroyed by the tornado which struck South Miss. about 11:30 O'clock Monday night.

Several communities and towns were in the storms path, and practically all of the southern part of the state was visited by heavy rains and winds.

At Carson, this county, the wind struck with terrific force and did considerable damage. The store of A.E. Nelson, and the office building of Dr. V. N. Nicholas were both blown down and destroyed by fire, also the store of H.A. Carter

was blown over, and considerable damage done to the Masonic Hall, garage, grocery store, and blacksmith shop. The Baptist church was blown off its fou dation, and wrecked beyond repairs. The Methodist Church was slightly damaged as was a number of residences . No one was injured.

March 28, 1935

Two bandits quietly slipped into Prentiss last Thursday morning, nonchalantly entered the Bank of Blountville from the door on the south side, and with drawn pistols commanded the cashier, R.C. Williams, Assistant-cashier, John W. Burrow, the bookkeeper, Miss Lona Winborn, with two customers, making deposits, Fred Dale and Mrs. Alma Rogers, to enter the vault while they ransacked the cash drawers and counters for all available cash, about $ 1100, of which about $600 was in silver. They left emmediately for a waiting car, still under the motor, and driven by a woman companion, going down the Hattiesburg road.

The imprisoned employees and customers quickly released them-selves by a mechanism on the inside of the vault. The time lock was on the bulk of the money and the money stolen is fully protected by insurance. Mr. Dale, when the gun was pressed toward his side, asked the bandits not to take his money; that there was no insurance on it; but the robber told him, he was sorry, but they was disappointed in the amount and would have to have it to fill up in what they anticipated. Mrs Rogers had not quite placed her money within view and so her deposit was saved. John Burrow said he saw the fellow walk in and went

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

to the window to wait for him, when the next thing he saw was a big blue-looking outfit pushed through the little cage window, and that he might be mistaken about the matter, but it ~~xxx~~ looked smokey and ominous; that he was not particularly frightened; saw what was and was in no shape for " argument".

Following the hold-up, Sheriff W. H. Mathison and Marshal John Sanford hastily organized a hunt, getting in touch with all sheriffs of adjouning counties. Sheriff W.J. Bourne, Lawrence count; Sheriff Duckworth, Simpson count; Sheriff Ennis Crawford, Covington county, came to Prentiss and all other officers and citizens who could get a gun and desired a chase joined in. There was much excitement and guns and pistols were numerous as though an army were encamped.

The bandit car went down the Hattiesburg, road to the Atwood mill old place at George Berry's then took a cross-country road, known as " Lovers Lane" where they got in touch with two ~~xxx~~ other women accomplices and two other men, but the story of the other two men could never be verified. Only two men were in the general chase, Raymond Hamilton and his pal, Ralph " Somebody". Hamilton is the confederate and pal of the Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, the boon companions in both robberies and death.

Shifting cars on " Lovers'Lane" the two men came into the Prentiss and Columbia highway and went south; then doubled

back into the community south of Whitesand school; doubling again at the Waller old place and headed back for some reason. Later they abandoned their car and went into the woods where it is said they hid the silver and their guns and some ammunition. They had machine guns and a sack of cartridges. After wandering about the barn-lot of Tal Polk, farmerssouth of Prentiss. Spotting the Polk car, they went into the house and with drawn guns demanded the deys. Tal Polk told them very firmly that he could not spare his car and then an argument followed which wound up in a shooting scrape; Polk turning loose a couple of shots, wounding one of the bandits, but not sufficient to stop him. Mrs. Rodney Polk,daughter-in-law, received a wound in the arm from pistol fire from the bandits. Polk's gun became "jammed" or it is said he would have brought the bunch to town, as he had clear shooting space and no companions or officers to be used as shields by the bandits.

At this juncture a traveling man came by and the bandits seized his car at the point of the gun an headed toward Columbia, and running upon a posse about a mile down the road turned their car around before they reached the posse and headed back for Prentiss. Later they abandoned this car and commandeered J.M. Hand's car, a highway employee. With Hand driving, the bandits are said to have driven up main street in Prentiss. Hand says Hamilton sat on the seat next to him and kept his foot over Hand's foot on the accelerator.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

He was waving freiendly greetings to folks as they passed. Changing cars and colors with such rapidity kept the officers officers somewhat off trail, but later finding that the bandits had headed north, there was hastily organized officers' and citizens posse in hot pursuit. The bandits left the Hand car, after a break down of the car, and took to the fields in search of information as to an automobile. They again seized another car, owned by a colored man, forcing him to drive, with the bandits hidden behind the seat.

Meanwhile citizens and officers had blocked the country road on the east and west with the bandits cooped up on a road about 12 miles north of Prentiss. When the car drove out, these possemen demanded a halt and the bandits came from behind cover shooting. The posse was overpowered and disarmed. Then choosing the new Ford Coupe of Mr. M.E. Smith, they told Mr. Smith to drive and placed Ralph Baylis and Hon. E. L. Dent in the turtle shell, with Senator Tarver McIntosh, Sheriff Ennis Crawford and others on the running boards as shields. Within a few minutes they encountered another posse of citizens, but they could do nothing for the bandits were wedged down in the car and citizens on each as shields. To have shot into the car would have meant death for innocent citizens.

Working on in this fashion and with a precision that

was marvelous, they made their escape, carrying Mr. Smith and Baylis with them on a wild ride from north Jefferson Davis County to Memphis.

John Sanford and C.E. Luper routed the women companions outh of Prentiss as they fled through a field, arresting them and bringing them to jail. These were later identified as two women from Texas and Mrs. Bergie Johnson, of Carson. Mrs Johnson states that she had nothing to do with the robbery and was only a guest in the automobile, thinking they were on a trip to Jackson. The bandits and their lady companions, it is stated, spent the night before at Mrs. Johnson's farm home near Carson.

The women were carried to unnamed jails Thursday night, but they were all assembled Friday at Monticello by Sheriff Mathison and Sheriff Bourne with government and department officers for a general investigation. Later the women were carried to Jackson jail where they are now confined, two of them having been arraigned on federal charge with bail allowed if they can make it.

With Mr. Smith driving and the two bandits with guns in their hands and Ralph Baylis in the turtle shell there was a ride that would put old John Gilpin to shame. They went through New Hebron, Rockport, Hazlehurst, Crystal Springs, Jackson and on to Memphis. Mr. Smith says the bandits were almost deferential in their courtesy; that they told them no harm would come to them if they simply obeyed orders, all the while keeping their fingers on the triggers of their guns.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

Near Terry, Hinds county, they dropped out into the country and the bandits divided the loot, replenished the car with gas at a country store and headed for Jackson. At the latterplace they struck highway 51. As they passed through Jackson the newsboys were yelling their papers with all about the robbery and Hamilton wanted to get a copy, but he deferred to Mr. Smith who told him he could read the paper later.

They took turns in driving from Grenada to Memphis. Near Memphis the bandits forced both Smith and Baylis into the rumble seat, and did much driving about the surburbs,parking the car later near the Chisca hotel and locked both their captives in the rumble, stating they would return shortly and liberate them. Mr. Smith said the turtle shell became stuffy, and they decided to break the lock and escape.

As for the bandits they were lost in Memphis , headed for the west.

It was a hectic two days experience and when men get old and bearded, they will still be talking about the Prentiss bank robbery and the wild enforced ride by these two gentlemen.

November 1919

The greatest flood in years visits this county, Whitesand creek overflows, and washes away part of the railroad bridge spanning the creek.

Early in the morning an on-coming freight train plunges down the embankment into the creek.

Will Trigg, the engineer, was seriously hurt and the fireman drowned. There was much excitement. People left their homes and business and rushed to the scene.

After two days and nights, the body was fished from the creek. Highways bridges and culverts were washed out and roads make impassable. Much damage was done, trees and fences destroyed, and many acres of low land under water, and hill sides washed bare.

IV. Where newspaper have commercial job shop? Mention some?

This paper prints letter heads, stationary, and does other commercial job work.

NOTE: All information on this manuscript was secured from local editors, C.E. Dumas, C.C. Bryant, and F.A. Parker and newspaper files.

Lucile McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Prentiss, Mississippi
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY PRESS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

Topic of Assignment - Bar

Name of Canvasser-Georgia McGehee

Date of Compilation-June 15, 1937

Assignment # 27

1. Give information and data on the lawyers of your county with special attention to outstanding lawyers of the past Mention brilliant or unusual incidents in professional life or practice.

Honorable W. H. Livingston is the oldest lawyer of the Bar in Jefferson Davis County. He was present when the first Board of Supervisors met, and helped the Board organize for business. He has the distinction of being the only attorney who ever represented the Bear of Supervisors as Advisory Council since the organization of the county thirty one years ago. In addition he has had general practise in the county and in the courts of surrounding counties.

Mr. Livingston served as Acting Judge of the Circuit Court of the fifteenth Judicial District, after the death of Judge J. Q. Langston in 1932, until a judge could be elected. He was not a candidate for Judge in the election. He also, served as Prosecuting Attorney from 1910 until 1914, when the office was abolished by election.

C. E. Thompson come next oldest, having come to the county in 1908. He has been a general and successful practicioneer in this and surrounding counties

O. C. Luper became a member of the Prentiss Bar in 1910 and has been a successful practicioneer generally since he became a member of the bar. He has been representative of the county twie and senator once.

W. J. Lee became a member of the Prentiss Bar in 1932, and has since been actively engaged in the general practice of law in this and surrounding counties, having come to Prentiss Bar from the Monticello Bar.

G. L. Martin became a member of the Prentiss Bar in 1932, having formally represented the county as Superintendant of Education for twelve years. Since his retirement from this office he has been engaged in the general practice of law in this and surrounding counties.

G. M. Malloy was admitted to the Prentiss Bar in 1908. His outstanding reputation is , as being well versed in all land matters, and in addition thereto has had general practice in this and surrounding counties as has Hon. W. H. Livingston.

R. G. Livingston, son of W. H. Livingston became a member of the Prentiss Bar in August 1936. He has been doing a general practice in said county since becoming a member of the Prentiss Bar.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, BAR

We were instructed by Mrs. Prestridge to send in all that we have on manuscripts . We are sending in all that we have secured to date on the Bar.

Lucile McLendon Historian
Historic Research Project
Prentiss, Mississippi
Jefferson Davis County.

The following are the lawyers who have practied in the county.: Joe Cowart, who was the first representative of the county, W. L. Scott practice in 1908,Robert MCLendon practiced in 1907-1908. Judge Oaks, J. EdgarPparker now of Lauderdale county, J. T. Mounger now of Columbia, Mr. Welch, and J. C. Carlton.

Jefferson Davis County being a young county, has no lawyers of the past that were very outstanding in their profession, however, Tom Brady ~~ff~~ of Brookhaven, G. Wood Magee of Monticello, Fleet Hathorn of Hattiesburg, Claud Hathorn of Columbia, are native ~~xxx~~ of this county. They do not live in the county now but they practice in the courts of this county. These lawyers are all successful and are considered outstanding in their profession.

2. Note lawyers who have become famous judges, period of servic and designation of court.

We have no lawyers who have become famous judges.

3. Political positions held by lawyers, past and present,Names of present day lawyers of your bar.

G. L. Martin served as Superintendant of Education for a period of twelve years.

O. C. Luper served as representatinve, also was senator from 1924-28.

Present Day Lawyers are, W. H. Livingston, G. M. Malloy, C. E. Thompson, O. C. Luper, W. J. Lee, R. G. Livingston, G. L. Martin.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, BAR

Jefferson Davis County
Topic of Assignment-Health
Name of Canvasser-Georgia McGehee
Date of Compilation-March 29, 1937
Assignment # 24

1. 1. Mississippi's First Board of Health (1877)

Over a hundred years ago the boys and girls of Mississippi and Mississippi territory had no protection against disease, except small pox; they could be vaccinated against this disease. Many fathers and mothers would carry their children away in great haste when an epedemic like Yellow Fever would appear in a community.

A black cloth was hung over the door to show that a dreadful disease was on the inside.

Thousands upon thousands of people died in Mississippi of diseases which today the doctors do not fear because they know how to combat them. Diseases did not scatter nearly so fast as they do today. People were sparsly settled, roads were few and bad and fast travel was unknown.

When Mississippi was admitted into the union as a state in 1817, there were only about fifty thousand people. Today there are over two million therefore, diseases spread more quickly than one hundred years ago.

Although, 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, except small pox, yet a few good

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

health laws were passed which was a great protection against yellow fever, small pox, and other contagious diseases.

The forst health law for Mississippi was passed in 1799, about one hundred thirty five years ago.

The first health department in Mississippi was established in the city of Natchez in 1818. It was organized to provide against infectious diseases.

A law was passed in 1823 that required a fine for selling impure food.

In 1848 small pox vaccine was provided by law for public distribution for all that needed it.

In 1876 a law was passed allowing three coast counties to have a board of health of their own.

The Mississippi State Board of Health was opened in 1877. This board consisted of fifteen members and a secretary.

The following are the members of the first Board of Health: Dr. P. J. McCormick, Yazoo City; Dr. A. G. Smythe, Baldwin; Dr. A. G. Cage, Canton; Dr. J. M. Taylor, Corinth; Dr. Robert Kells, President, Jackson; Dr. T. D. Isom, Oxford; Dr. C. A. Rice, Brandon; Dr. F. W. Dancy, Holly Springs;.Dr. W. M. Compton, Jackson; Dr.Wirt Johnson, secretary, Jackson; Dr. D. L. Phares, Woodville; Dr. E. W. Hughes, Grenada; Dr. P. F. Whitehead, Vicksburg; Dr. John Wright, Sardis, Dr. S. V. D. Hill, Macon; Dr.R. G. Wharton,Port Gibson;

These men were great doctors and good health workers in their day, but no one knew at that time how to prevent any disease except small pox. A ten year old school boy now knows more about preventing typhoid fever, malaria, yellow fever diphtheria, and other diseases than all these fifteen good doctors knew when they were appointed members of the first Board of Health nearly sixty years ago.

a. None of these men were from Jefferson Davis County.

2. Secretaries of the State Board of Health since the year 1877.

1. Dr. Wirt Johnston--------Apr. 7, 1877-----Mar.24, 1896
2. Dr. J. F. Hunter---------Mar. 24, 1896----Feb. 12, 1908
3. Dr. S. H. McLain---------Feb. 12, 1908------Feb. 2, 1912
4. Dr. W. W. Smithson-------Feb, 2, 1912-----Jan. 14, 1913
5. Dr. E. H. Galloway-------Jan. 14, 1913----Jan. 26, 1916
6. Dr. J. D. Gilleylen------Jan. 26, 1916----Dec. 28, 1916
7. Dr. W. S. Leathers-------Jan. 2, 1917-----July 1, 1924
8. Dr. Felix J. Underwood---July 1, 1924--(to present time)

a. None of these men were from Jefferson Davis County.

3. Present State Board of Health.

The following men are members of the present State Board of Health:

J. W. Lipscomb, President, Columbus; L. B. Austin, Rosedale; W. H. Frizell, Brookhaven; B. J. Shaw, Slate Spring; John Darrington, Yazoo City; W. H. Banks, Philadelphia; S. E. Eason, New Albany;

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

W. A. Dearman, Gulfport; W. R. Wright, Jackson; Felix J. Underwood, Executive Officer.

a. Felix J. Underwood is secretary of the present State Board of Health.

Jefferson Davis county does not have a member on this board. (Information-Health Syllabus, State of Mississippi.)

11.

1. Three epedemics of Disease have visited Mississippi:

A. Yellow Fever, 1878

In 1878 Mississippi was visited by a very disastrous epedemic. It first appeared in the state at Grenada. Before the people had even suspected that this terrible disease was in their town the infection had spread almost over the entire town. From this town the malady spread throughout the state. Thousands of people died from this scourge, and many more would have died had not strict regulations been adopted, and many escaped by going into districts that had not become infected.

As far as can be learned there were no cases of yellow fever in this county. There was quite a scare, however. People were afraid to handle newspapers or even money for fear it had been handled by yellow fever patients.

b. Small Pox, 1900-1901.

Small pox ravaged the state in the winter of 1900-1901. In five months six hundred deaths were reported.

able disease, yet people have died from it because of failure to use the simple and safe remedy to prevent it.

Mississippi had an epedemic as late as 1900, six hundred deaths were reported within five months. In 1933, thirty nine deaths were reported in the United States, but no deaths were reported in Mississippi during the year.

Much has been done toward preventing and relieving such dreaded diseases as small pox, yellow fever, and tuberculosis.

Every community should have a department of health or health officer to have charge of preventing disease and checking its spread. Quarantine regulations are one of the safeguards of health. When a physician finds a contagious disease he reports it to the Board of Health, which quarantines the person and those who were in contact with him.

Most people spend more time at home than any other place, therefore good living conditions are the first essentials of good health.Keep clean and houses free from flies, rats, and crawling things which are important things in the spread of disease.

The attitude of people toward disease has much to do with its control and prevention. Parents often allow their children to go to school, knowing that they are sick and expose other pupils to danger.

Death records show that the highest average of deaths is found where education has made the least headway.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

W. A. Dearman, Gulfport; W. R. Wright, Jackson; Felix J. Underwood, Executive Officer.

a. Felix J. Underwood is secretary of the present State Board of Health.

Jefferson Davis county does not have a member on this board. (Information-Health Syllabus, State of Mississippi.)

11.

1. Three epedemics of Disease have visited Mississippi:

A. Yellow Fever, 1878

In 1878 Mississippi was visited by a very disastrous epedemic. It first appeared in the state at Grenada. Before the people had even suspected that this terrible disease was in their town the infection had spread almost over the entire town. From this town the malady spread throughout the state. Thousands of people died from this scourge, and many more would have died had not strict regulations been adopted, and many escaped by going into districts that had not become infected.

As far as can be learned there were no cases of yellow fever in this county. There was quite a scare, however. People were afraid to handle newspapers or even money for fear it had been handled by yellow fever patients.

b. Small Pox, 1900-1901.

Small pox ravaged the state in the winter of 1900-1901. In five months six hundred deaths were reported.

c. Influenza, 1918-1919.

This disease spread like wild fire among the citizens of the state and thousands died from its ravages.

2. Elimination of Yellow Fever Mosquito (Stegomyia)

The bacillus causing yellow fever is carried by a species of mosquito called the Stegomyia, which transmits the disease through its bite. This mosquito lives in hot moist regions and disappear in cold weather. The fever has been practically exterminated Ships from yellow fever ports are carefully disinfected and searched for the deadly disease carrier and this the spread of the disease is prevented.

3. Give all the information you can find on elimination of Small pox.

There are tow diseases which we could wipe out entirely by means of immunization, small pox and diphtheria. If every child was properly vaccinated against small pox the disease would disappear. Children should be vaccinated before they go to school and again in from seven to ten years. Small pox was once the most widespread, and dreaded disease in the world. Before the days of vaccination scarcely five persons out of every hundred escaped the disease, and about one fourth who took it died. Many that got well were badly scarred. A man by the name of Jenner discovered vaccination. He made this discovery in England in 1796. Small pox vaccine was the only vaccination known for nearly one hundred years. Small pox is a prevent-

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, HEALTH

able disease, yet people have died from it because of failure to use the simple and safe remedy to prevent it.

Mississippi had an epedemic as late as 1900, six hundred deaths were reported within five months. In 1933, thirty nine deaths were reported in the United States, but no deaths were reported in Mississippi during the year.

Much has been done toward preventing and relieving such dreaded diseases as small pox, yellow fever, and tuberculosis.

Every community should have a department of health or health officer to have charge of preventing disease and checking its spread. Quarantine regulations are one of the safeguards of health. When a physician finds a contagious disease he reports it to the Board of Health, which quarantines the person and those who were in contact with him.

Most people spend more time at home than any other place, therefore good living conditions are the first essentials of good health.Keep clean and houses free from flies, rats, and crawling things which are important things in the spread of disease.

The attitude of people toward disease has much to do with its control and prevention. Parents often allow their children to go to school, knowing that they are sick and expose other pupils to danger.

Death records show that the highest average of deaths is found where education has made the least headway.

There has not been a case of small pox in this county since the year of 1909.

4. Give definite information in regard to the Influenza epedemic of 1918 in your county.

In the fall of 1918 a great epedemic visited the county. Not much was known of the disease as it was new. The doctors did all they could to prevent the spread of the disease, but it was general over the county. In some instances almost entire families died. The people that did not have it were afraid to go about those that did. They would carry food and wood but would not enter the house for fear of catching influenza. The schools were forced to close their doors unil the epedemic was over. There was great danger of complications. Many died of pneumonia following "flu". They were in such a weakened condition they could not stand it. D. V. N. Nichols, who served in the Medical Corps of the army, returned in time to render great service, and do a great deal of good. He knew how they treated the soldiers and practiced what he had learned in the army.

This disease was said to have been brought over by the soldier boys from Europe.

From 1918 until the present time we have had many cases of influenza. It reached epedemic stages in the winter of 1936-1937. Every year since 1918, deaths have been reported by the doctors of the county as a result of "flu".

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

lll. How does your county cooperate with the Mississippi State Board of Health in Malaria control and other diseases.

Malaria is not always easily diagnosed. A case of sickness may have all the signs and symptoms of malaria, and yet be another disease. A microscopic examination of a drop or two of blood is necessary in testing for malaria. This should be done routinely regardless of clinical symptoms so there will be no doubt or guessing. The Malaria parasites are found in the blood by examination of the specimen with the highest lens of the microscope.

It is well known to physicians that quinine alone is not effective in all forms of malaria, although it is regarded as one standard treatment. Malaria should always be treated by a competent physician, not by a druggist or the patient himself.

The medical profession is continually striving to find a drug superior to quinine in the treatment of malaria, or at least one that will greatly aid quinine in conquering the disease. Much progress has been made in this field in the discoveries of plasmochin and atabrine. But these drugs should never be taken in combination with quinine or alone except by direction of a physician, and it is necessary for him to know the type of malaria as shown by blood examination in order that he may intelligently and successfully direct the treatment.

The female anopheles mosquito being solely responsible for the spread of malaria, the leading efforts are being directed

toward the protection against and elimination of mosquitoes.

Screening and mosquito-proofing of homes offer the best protection against these disease-carrying insects, and effective drainage of all ground utensil waters offers the surest method of destroying their breeding places.

The year 1910 marked the beginning of modern health work in this county employed under he direction of Dr. W. S.Leathers who delivered lectures on malaria and other diseases. Every school in the county was visited. These lectures were aided by pictures on screens.

The health officer urges the screening of all dwelling houses, drainage of standing water, puncturing of all food cans when thrown out. Water barrells that are often used in rural districts for water supply, to be oiled or screened. The health doctors visit all community centers and lecture on prevention of communicable diseases.

The Home Aid Project in this county is rendering valuable service in rural communities teaching sanitation, care of food and the preparation of balanced meals, care of he sick and many other things pertaining ot the care and welfare of children.

The county cooperates with the Board of Health in malaria control by trying to eleminate the mosquito, since they transmit malaria. We have been taught that mosquitoes breed in water. In the campaign against the mosquito their breeding places are de-

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

stroyed, crude oil or kerosene is poured on the surface of pools, so the larvae and pupae are unable to stick breathing tubes through oil and die for the want of air. Every one sees that rain barrells and old cans do not provide breeding places.

A. Full time health departments or part time-give personnel.

There are only twenty five counties in the state that have full time health departments. It is a matter of regret that Jeff. Davis has only part time health service.

Dr. G. C. Terrell is our county health officer appointed by the Board of Supervisors at a salary of fifty dollars per month. He is assisted by county nurse Miss Della Parker, who is also appointed by the Board of Supervisors at a salary of fifty dollars per month. She also gets fifty from the state.

IV. Sanitation:

1. Narrative one each.

a. Food control

Dairies - 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 very 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.

Jeff Davis has one small dairy owned and operated by Mrs. J. C. Sanford.

Controlling the milk supply begins at the dairy. It is seen that the cows are free from tuberculosis. A test is given the cows once each year to find out whether they have the disease.

There are definite sanitary regulations which govern the dairy. The barns are well constructed and have smooth concrete floors. It is kept clean and free from dust and odors. The barn has plenty of sunshine and fresh air. It is well drained. Manure is disposed of every day to prevent breeding of flies.

There is a clean room for taking care of the milk. There is hot water for cleaning utensils and sterilizing them. The milker has good health, free from any disease which might infect the milk, wears clean clothes and washes his hands good before milking. Cows are kept clean and their udders washed before milking. Regular inspection is made of the dairy. Milk is delivered clean and safe in bottles.

Rural people all over the county sell milk and butter to the public. As yet the county authorities have taken no steps to see that this milk is pure and fit for public use. The lunch rooms of the county under the direction of the WPA, force each one that sells milk to have their cows inspected.

This county has no bakeries, candy factories, nor storage plants.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

We have one open fruit stand in the county which the county authorities forced to have screened.

There are other foods beside milk, which need sanitary control. Shellfish are sometimes eaten without being cooked, and therein lies a danger. If they are taken from water into which sewage flows, they may pick up the germs of typhoid fever from the polluted water and so transmit the disease.Some vegetables are eaten raw; even though they are thoroughly washed in the home it is important to be sure that they were not grown on land which was polluted with human body waste, and that they were kept clean in the market.

Food poisining comes from failure to keep food scientifically clean. For the individual of the community, food is one of the first health considerations. Every person who wants to safeguard his health must exercise care over the kind, quantity, and cleanliness of the food which he eats.

All food shops, grocery stores, and meat market products are handled by people who do not have communicable diseases. The health authorities see to it that all places which handle food are well screened and are kept free from flies. Refrigeration is used to keep all perishable products cool and fresh. All food should be government inspected, but the health dept. of this county allow all kinds of meat to be bought from local people. So much of this meat is not fit for human use. The cattle that is slaughtered is not inspected and too poor to be consumed by human beings.

Much has been done in the last few years by the National, State, and County Health Departments to better conditions.

Jeff. Davis County has one hotel (The Southern) No one with a communicable disease is permitted to live in this hotel. There was one person living in this hotel who had tuberculosis. The health officer forced them to move out.

We have a number of boarding houses in this county, that does not come under health inspection.

We have cafes and eating places all over the county. They are unddr no health regulations. The places are all screened and the owners keep them in a sanitary condition.

We have no slaughter houses in this county. The cattle is butchered and sold to local markets.

There is a soda fountain in every drug store in this county that mix and sell cold drinks to the public. The health officer inspedts the sanitary condition of the building and other equipment, the products that are bought locally are not inspected.

b. Water Supply.

Water is a necessity for health. Indeed, nothing can live without it. The body itself is about two-thirds water; the soft part of the body, like muscle and brain, are three-fourths water. Every living thing contains a high percentage of water.

Since water plays such an important place in life, the purity of the many public and private water supplies throughout the state is an important factor in he control of water-borne

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, HEALTH

diseases such as typhoid fever, dysentery, and hookworm. It is the duty of the helath department to inspect public water supplies and lend assistance to individuals in the improvement of private supplies.

The towns in this county use dug wells and the water is analyzed to see if it is pure. The rural communities use dug wells and use a windlass with large bucket and draw the water by hand. The wells are properly built so that it is protected from all kinds of surface drainage. There are some families in this county that still use springs for water supply. These springs are not protected from surface drainage. There are others that use windmills. These windmills are fine for country use and afford great protection to the water supply.

When a contagious disease breaks out in a community the county health officers analyze the water and milk supply to find the source of infection.

c. Excreta Disposals.

One of the most important phases of sanitary work is the proper disposal of human waste materials. Human excreta is responsible for the spread of hookworm disease, typhoid fever dysentery, and other similar bowel troubles. The contamination of improperly protected water supplies and the contamination of food by flies constitute the greatest dangers from human excreta. Safe disposal of human waste material is accomplished in towns and

by the use of properly constructed sewerage systems, and in rural districts by the use of septic tanks and pit toilets.

The towns of Bassfield and Prentiss have sewer systems. The sewage of the town of Prentiss is discharged into Whitesand creek. Some of the families in these towns are not connected with the sewerage disposal, but use dug pits.

The rural communities, or most of them have open toilets, and some unsanitary. Under the direction of the WPA, many sanitary toilets are being constructed in different parts of the county.

There are a few families in this county that have septic tanks.

d. General Sanitation.

Who does not like to swim? The thrill of the plunge into the clear cool water and the joy of vigorous swimming furnish real sport. Few activities provide better exercise for all parts of the body or greater enjoyment. We have no private or public swimming pools in thes couty. Men, women and children all go to the creeks for this healthful sport.

We have no tourist camps and only one scout camp. The camp is located a few miles from Prentiss, it is a little log building. The scouts of this county meet here for their annual outing. The boys leave the camp site clean and sanitary in every respect. They burn all paper and pasteboard also, food scraps which are

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

left. No rubbish is left about.

In country homes, all rubbish such as tin cans, broken pottery and other things that cannot be burned are carried off and dumped into some ditch or some other place away from the house. Scraps from the kitchen waste are fed to chickens, pigs, cats, and dogs. All rubbish that will burn is piled and burned. Wood ashes from cook stoves and fire places are used in making soft soap and fertilizing gardens.

Unnumbered thousands have fallen victims to disease and death carried on the feet of the common house fly. The house fly lays its eggs upon animal manure, in garbage, or on some other decaying substance. Within a few hours the eggs hatch into larvae which are called maggots.The maggots eat almost continuously and grow rapidly. After four days they turn into pupae. The pupae is a resting stage, during which the animal does not feed but undergoes a marked change in body structure. At the end of about four days more the fly breaks the shell of the pupa case and comes out. Under favorable growth, there is a new generation of flies every ten or fifteen days. Therefore, we must see that stables are properly kept. Either the manure is removed every day or something is thrown upon it to prevent the breeding of flies. The use of automobiles and trucks has helped to reduce the number of flies. There are many things that people can do in their homes to help reduce the number of flies. For example a "Swat the Fly" campaign helps to make not only one's own home cleaner and more

comfortable, but the whole community more neater and more healthful. As we have laws to protect the health of the community it is the duty of every citizen also to help. If every one would keep himself and his little corner in good working order, it would be the quickest way to make the whole community the most healthful place possible.

Traps are used by many families to catch the flies that get into the homes. Fly poison and tangle foot a re also used. The death of one female fly means the distruction of millions during one season. Colored people are helping in the fight against flies, they are being taught general sanitation and better homes.

The schools have done a great deal in teaching the children sanitation. All health officers, county physicians, social, and home aid workers urge the use of screens, and the destruction of flies.

Mosquitoes are enemies of both comfort and health. Most varities of mosquitoes produce merely discomfort from the sting and the itching which follow it. But the Anopheles mosquito transmits malaria and the AEdes mosquito transmits yellow fever. This fact makes mosquito control one of the suties of every citizen. Yellow fever is not known in this county but malaria is common. In this section it is particularly important to prevent the development of mosquitoes. Much is being done to get rid of them. Ponds

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, HEALTH

and pools and lagoons are either oiled or drained. People are urged to screen water barrells and puncture tin cans as they are throwmaway. The houses are screened to keep out the mosquitoes that are allowed to breed. The adult mosquitoes have some natural enemies, such as bats and dragon flies. If a few mosquitoes get into the house they may be killed in the dark corners where they stay during the day. Good screening will do much to keep them out of the house.

The public service places of this county such as schools and churches are unscreened but they are not bothered with flies and mosquitoes to any great extent.

(Information-Library, Health Syllabus, Local Health Officers.)
March 20, 1937.

V. Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing:

Health is a condition of the mind and body, whereas hygiene is the science of gaining and preserving health.

Hygiene tends to make growth more perfect, decline less rapid, death more distant, and life stronger and happier.

a. Maternal hygiene.

Maternal hygiene refers to all activities for safeguarding the welfare of the mother before and after the birth of her child. Since there are nearly four hundred births in the county every year, it can be readily seen how large is the task of bringing these mothers safely through this trying ordeal. Unfortunately,

only a small percentage of all these 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 financially able, are not convinced of the need of special care during this period.

The Board of Health, through this division of its work endeavors to teach all expectant mothers important information in connection with this condition; the necessity for repeated examinations, especially of heart, blood pressure, and kidneys, and the importance of securing whatever treatment may be necessary.

This education is carried out mor or less along the following lines: Printed literature for distribution to expectant mothers and to new mothers, visits by public health nurses, visits of expectant mothers to the health department, instruction of midwives by health officers and nurses.

During the last ten years efforts put forth by the public health department of Mississippi have been rewarded by a forty five percent reduction in deaths during the maternal period. The death rate in this county has been reduced accordingly.

Midwives are especially trained in the art of cleanliness and taught to recognize difficult situations and to call im a

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

physician when necessary. The death rate among negro mothers has been greatly reduced, which speaks highly for the midwives.

2. Infant and child hygiene.

The time for building a house securely and beautifully is during the building time, not after the house is completed. The time for building a strong and beautiful body is during the time of development.

Every child has a right ot be well born; and in order to prevent development of physical or mental defedts, provision should be made for medical supervision of the child beginning in infancy and extending through adolescence. Plans should include periodic health examinations, hygienic surroundings, personal hygiene, training in physical, mental and emotional habits, pure food, water, and milk supply, health education of parents and children, protection against communicable diseases and other health hazards, vaccination against small pox by one year, inoculation against diphtheria by six months, and typhoid fefer by five years.

a. Infant mortality.

In Jeff. Davis county there were in 1936,fourteen infants that died during the first year of life, one immature, eleven lived one day and less, one three and one half months, and one two years two months and three days.

b. Physical defects (what is being done to improve conditions for a child to be well born?)

In order for a child to be well born the mother must be kept in a healthful condition during the prenatal state. Mothers in this county, according to statements made by local doctors are availing themselves of the opportunities to have well born babies. They are examined by their physician, and have access to good literature, of which they are availing themselves. They are taught what to eat, and the kind of exercise to take to keep strong and well. The health nurse visits and instructs expectant mothers.

If physical defects exist there should be adequate facilities for correction. Health education should be an important phase of home life and the school curriculum.

The health nurse occupies an important position in the public health program. She assists the health officer in vaccination against small pox, typhoid fever, and diphtheria. Conducts classes in hygiene in the public schools, whereby the boys and girls are taught the elements of hygiene, sanitation, and care of the sick. Teaches midwives the rules of cleanliness, and toherwise instructs them in their duties. Helps to hold prenatal conferences for instruction of expectant mothers. Makes home visits to new mothers and gives information on the care of the child. Assists the health officer in making examinations of preschool and school children. Follows up the examination work to

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

get physical defects corrected.

The county health nurse is planning a preschool clinic in the county at this time. She is visiting community centers and lecturing to the people, showing them the necessity of such a project.

3. Mouth Hygiene.

The aim of mouth hygiene is clean, healthy mouths for all. The essentials of mouth hygiene is to eat tooth building foods, milk, green leafy and other vegetables, fresh fruits, butter and eggs. Visits to the Dentist every six months.Brush the teeth before breakfast and before bedtime.

a. What is being done along this line in your county.

Each year the county health officer visits the schoolsfor medical inspection. The teeth and tonsils are examined and the children given slips as to the defects each have. These slips are taken to the parents and it is their duty to have these defects corrected.

Teachers encourage the brushing of teeth, and instruct the children to eat tooth building foods, and make regular visits to the dentist.

(Information-Health Syllabus, local dentist, teachers of the schools of the county).

Vl. Tuberculosis Control:

Once people who had tuberculosis were treated the same as others. Lived in the same houses and used the same dishes and towels. Instead of being kept in air as much as possible they stayed in close, stuffy rooms. As a result, the disease became worse, patients died, and others caught th infection from them. Now tuberculosis sufferers are kept apart from normal people to some extent, and from other sick. They are not allowed to use the same dishes or clothing. There are special hospitals, where they are practically in open air. If treated early enough they can be cured. This isolation protects well people from catching this dangerous disease.

On March 25, 1916, a law was approved providing for the erection of a sanatorium, near Magee, Mississippi, for the control of tuberculosis and treatment of curable cases of the disease. Dr. W. H. Rowan was selected as the first superintendant, but owing to ill health he was not able to serve many months in this capacity. Dr. Rowan was succeded in 1917, by Dr. Henry Boswell who has held this position ever since. Dr. Boswell has gained national reputation for his work in this institution. The Mississippi State Tuberculosis Sanatorium is rated as one of the best in the United States.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

The Sanatorium was not established with a view to curing or caring for all cases of tuberculosis, but rather to treat as many curable cases as possible with the funds available and to send these back to their homes to be teachers to others in the prevention and care of this disease. One of the principal duties of the Sanatorium is to do educational work on tuberculosis, not only with the patients on hand, but with the people generally throughout the state.

Early diagnosis is necessary if a cure is to be expected. If the disease is allowed to run its course a stage will soon be reached where it will become incurable.

Rest, fresh air, sunshine, and proper diet, all under intelligent medical supervision, constitute the foundation in the treatment of tuberculosis. Likewise, fresh air, sunshine, and proper diet in addition to avoiding exposure to active cases will go a long way toward preventing the disease.

a. Number sent to Sanatorium.

Twenty tubercular patients of this county have been treated inthe Sanatorium since it was opened march 25, 1916. Others in this county have been given the rest cure. Nourishing food, sunshine and pure air has restored many tubercular patients to health who were unable financially to enter the Sanatorium.

VII. Industrial Hygiene and Factory Inspection.

a. We do not have any factories in this county.

VIII. All communicable diseases - control.

Communicable diseases are caused by living parasites which get into the body. Diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, typhoid fever, small pox, yellow fever, whooping caugh, influenza are termed communicable diseases.

Diphtheria is a dangerous infectious disease caused by a bacterium.

Patients suffering from diphtheria should be isolated and all articles which enter the sick room should be disinfected before being used elsewhere. In 1894, an antitoxin was discovered which upon being injected hypodermically was able to counteract the disease and destroy the bacterium which produced it. It will render a person immune if taken during the epedemic. Diphtheria is particularly to be combated sinse it is apt to bring in its train paralysis, spinal meningitis, Bright's disease, nervous troubles and loss of sight or hearing.

It is important that children be immunized against diphtheria. Each year the County Health Officer conducts a campaign against this disease. He spends at least one day in every community, where the parents bring their children for vaccination.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, HEALTH

Vaccination is given children between the ages of six months and six years.

Scarlet fever is a disease which we have control methods similar to those used for diphtheria. State and local health departments provide vaccines and immunizing substances for physicians and help physicians by making laboratory tests.

Measles is an eruptive and contagious disease. It usually occurs but once in the life of an individual, and usually in childhood. The malady is of shor duration, unless complications arise. During the period of convalescence care should be taken to keep the patient from taking cold, as serious trouble is often brought on by neglect at this time.

Measles is controlled by isolation. Health departments protect people by quarantine and isolation.

Small pox was a devastating disease in former times and about fifty percent of the cases were fatal. At the present time epedemics of the disease are rare, owing to improvements in sanitation, and preventive measures as vaccination. Small pox is controlled by vaccination. No cases in this county since 1909.

Typhoid fever is a communicable disease more to be dreaded than small pox, because at present in countries which practice vaccination small pox is a disease which occurs only occasionally and is soon stamped out, whereas typhoid fever prevails widely in all civilized countries, attacking by preference the young and middle aged, and causes not only many deaths every year, but great economic losses. The disease is usually contracted by drinking infected water, but may also be acquired through infected milk, salads, or other uncooked foods. Many wells, springs, and small streams are infected for longer or shorter periods, especially during the autumn and early winter. It is not safe to drink at such places with out certain knowledge of the conditions.

It is believed the common house fly frequently carries on its body from filthy places the germs of typhoid fever and deposits them on food in kitchens and on dining tables.

When one is compelled to live in a house or in a neighborhood where typhoid fever prevails he should make it a rule to eat and drink only such foods as have been recently heated to above scalding temperature. Salads should be avoided, and water and milk should always be scalded before use. Fruits should be pared. The typhoid fever organism is very susceptible to heat, and slight boiling or even scalding is sufficient to destroy it. So far as possible the house fly should be screened out of the house, while any that gain access should be destroyed.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

The best methods of avoiding typhoid fever are,personal hygiene and preventive inoculation.

The number of typhoid patients in this county has been greatly reduced by the cooperation of parents and school teachers in seeing that all school children are inoculated against the disease every two years and sometimes oftener. Many old people also have been immunized against the disease. When a case does occur in a family, the health officer vaccinatesthe whole family. Typhoid could be completely stamped out if every one would cooperate with the health department.

Yellow fever is controlled by the destruction of the yellow fever mosquito and the quarantine of those that have it.

Whooping cough is a disease that young children, adults, and old people have. Every year this disease reaches epedemic stages in this county. Mothers try to keep their children away from it, but with little success. Children are allowed to go to all public places with the disease. It is all over the county almost before is known. The symptoms at the beginning are so much like common colds and coughs, an entire school will have been exposed before you know it is in the county.

Influenza is a dreaded disease in this county. We have had an epidemic this year (winter of 1936-1937). A number of

deaths have resulted from complications caused by flu. The only way we find it is controlled, or trying to be controlled is to keep away from those that have it, and avoid exposure, and keep your system in order. It is far from being controlled in this county.

IX. Accident and Accidental Deaths.

About 1,200 people are killed accidentally every year in Mississippi, from 300 to 400 in automobile accidents, and the others in all other forms of accidents.

It has been truthfully said that accidents are not accidental, that they are caused by carelessness, recklessness, or lack of foresight in providing for safety.

Home accidents and automobile accidents account for two-thirds of the accidental deaths. More people are killed and injured in the United states by automobiles every eighteen months than were killed and wounded among our soldiers during the eighteen months they were in the World War.

a. Give number and causes - Alcoholism, etc.

There was only four accidental deaths recorded in Jeff. Davis county in 1936. One was killed by lightning, one by truck, one by diving, and one by car.

We have been able to list fourteen accidental deaths, and

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

three suicides in Jeff Davis County since its organization.

Four school bus accident.
Five by automobile
One by truck
One by lightning
One by fire
One diving
One by truck

Belonging to a family of poisons, alcohol has caused the death of tens of thousands, but no one has ever died for lack of it.

Alcohol is no food and not the stimulant it has been claimed to be; but it is a poison to the nervous system. Its viciousness is due to the fact that it paralyzes reason, numbs the conscience, and destroys the judgment; thereby leaving the animal part of man in the lead, to which have been credited all the crimes and miseries which have been charged against it.

There is no doubt but that half the automobile accidents are the direct results of alcohol. Also alcohol is concerned in a heavy percentage of all the killings that take place in the state. Alcohol stands alone in three pa rticulars which makes it the greatest enemy of the human race; It is easy to make; it is easy to take; and it deceives the drinker in its effects upon himself. Experience, and experiments which have been made with alcohol show that while some people seem to be able to drink it with no apparant harm, thousands of people have been mined by it in mind,

body, and soul, and no drinker is found more skillful, or does more or better work after taking it.

We have no way of estimating poverty, hunger, sorrow, destruction, and death caused by alcohol in this county. To our regret it flows freely.

X. Give number of:

a. Doctors in county, and the names of each.

There are seven Medical Doctors in Jefferson Davis County:

Dr. G. C. Terrell, Prentiss; Dr. W. S. Berry, Prentiss, Dr. H. G. Williams, Prentiss, Dr. Nelson Tyrone, Prentiss; Dr. V. N. Nichols, Carson; Dr. E. N. Blount, Bassfield, Dr. W. W. Applewhite, Bassfield.

b. Number of Nurses and names of each.

Following is the number of nurses in this county: Eight in all.

Miss Della Parker, County Health Nurse; Miss Lucile Garner; Mrs. Myrtle Magee; Mrs. Milton Polk; Mrs. W. S. Berry; Miss Christene Magee; Miss Etta Ree Bullock; Miss Boyanton.

c. Number of Hospitals, Infirmaries and Sanatariums, and status of equipment.

Unfortunately we do not have any hospitals, infirmaries, or sanatariums.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

XI. Narrative on human interest biographies of old family physicians and nurses.

We have beem able to list the following old pill-pocket doctors who practiced during the Civil War and after:

Dr. H. H. Parker, Dr. Vernon Terrell, Dr. Bob Hall, Dr. Bob Magee, Dr. Scott Berry, Dr. Jim Berry, Dr. Gregory, Dr. Brill, Dr. J. E. Banks. Also one dentist Dr. Lenora.

Dr. H. H. Parker was born January 21, 1846, in Brandon Mississippi. He was the son of Houston Huling Parker, who was also a doctor. When quite a child, his parents moved to Holly Springs where he spent his young boyhood days. At the age of thirteen he decided to go to college. Without purse of script he got on a flat boat bound for New Orleans, where he entered Tulane Medical College. By perseverance, determination, and hard work, at the age of nineteen years, he was handed a script of paper (diploma) which meant that he had in that institution finished dentistry, surgery, and medicine. All these accomplishments he practiced during the Civil War with his father. He and his father had a hospital in the war. There are lots of letters agailable to show their work. After the war he came back and pracitced his profession in his home town.

Between the years of 1870 and 1872, he went to Silado

Texas, and there practiced medicine, surgery, and dentestry. After about ten years he returned to Mississippi, and again took up his profession.

In 1882 Doctor Parker was married to Eliza Hartzog. To them were born four children, three sons and one daughter. They lived together twenty years when he wife and mother died.

In 1908 he left Mississippi and went to San Luis, Mexico. He bought property in Mexico and lived there until the Mexican Rebellion of 1914, he closed the doors to his home and walked out.

Returning to Prentiss, Mississippi, he resumed his practice in this town until his death in 1923.

The first operation performed by doctor Parker was at the age of nineteen, when he amputated a mans arm by dim candle light, and using a mud hole for necessary water.

Dr. Parker practiced in this county for years, curing the sick, halt and lame, extracting and making teeth. Traveling on horseback for miles, carrying his implements and medicine. He performed surgical operations unsurpassed by the modern surgeons of today.

We have been unable to secure biographies of other doct ors so far.

(Information-Mrs,Lester Parker March 23, 1937.)

Lucile McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Prentiss, Mississippi
Jefferson Davis County

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH

The Following have served as Worthy Matron and worthy Patron of Carson Chapter # 220:

Mary Nichols, Georgia McGehee, Mary Izard, Beulah Nelson, Eva Garner, Dorothy Parkman, Dovie Laird. C.G.Laird, G.W.Holloway, V.N. Nichols, H.A.Carter.

G. W. Holloway Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, was initiated into theis chapter July 20, 1923. He delivered a very interesting address after the initiation..

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

Topic of Assignment - Re: Organizations and Agencies

Name of Canvasser-Georgia McGehee

Date of Compilation-Aug. 13, 1937

Assignment # 29

1. ORGANIZATIONS:

There are three Masonic Lodges and three Eastern Star Chapters in Jefferson Davis County, located at Bassfield, Carson, and Prentiss.

The first Lodge was organized at Mt. Carmel in 1849, under the name of Union Lodge number 106. This Lodge surrendered it's charter in 1883, and was revived in 1901, under the name of Mt. Carmel Lodge number 453, and was moved from Mt. Carmel to Carson in 1906.

Many of our pioneer citizens were members of Union Lodge Number 106, and became members of Mt.Carmel Lodge Number 453 when it was organized in 1901. Among that number was Brother Isaac Williams, grandfather of Dr. H. G. Williams,now prominent physician of Prentiss, Mississippi, and a member of Blountville Lodge number 448,who received his degrees in Mt. Carmel Lodge number 453.

Dr. E. N. Blount of Bassfield, now a member of Bassfield Lodge number 575, received his degrees in Mt.Carmel Lodge Number 453.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

Dr. G. C. Terrell of Prentiss, now member of Blountville Lodge number 448 received his degrees in Mt.Carmel Lodge number 453.

Dr. C. G. Terrell, prominent physician now connected with the government, and located at Virginia is a member of Mt. Carmel Lodge number 453.

Dr. V. N. Nichols, County Health Officer of Jefferson Davis County, is a member of Mt. Carmel Lodge number 453.

In December 1901, G. W. Holloway was elected Master of Mt. Carmel Lodge and served in that capacity continually, with one exception until 1914. In 1906 he was appointed District Deputy Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi and has served in that capacity since. In 1932 he served as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. In 1934 he was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge. In 1935 was eleced Senior Grand Warden, and in 1936 was elected Grand Master and presided over Grand Lodge at it's 1937 Annual Communication. He is the present Secretary of Mt. Carmel Lodge number 453, and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

The first Officers of Union Lodge No. 106, chartered in 1849, were: A. S. Kottwitz, Master; William Harrison, Senor Warden; A. Hartzog, Junior Warden; S. H. Walker, Treasurer; James M. White, Secretary; M. A. Robertson, Senior Deacon; John Newsom, Junior Deacon; Samuel Walden, Steward and Tyler; Charles Brinson, R A. Lott, Members.

The Charter Members of Mt. Carmel Lodge No. 453,April 30, 1901, were as follows;

Hiram Griffith, Isaac Williams, J. H. Williams, D.C.McRaney, Neil Mathison, L. W. Gray, Wm. Rutledge, Thos.Pope, Isaac Newton, S. B. Foles.

The officers of Mt.Carmel No. 453 for the year 1937 are; H. A. Carter, Master; L. S. Dyess, Senior Warden; J. G.Boleware, Junior Warden; H. A. Laird, Treasurer; G. W. Holloway,Secretary; C. G. Laird, Senior Deacon; B. W. King, Junior Deacon; W. R. Holloway, Tyler; Stated communications held on the second Saturday in each month.

Blountville Lodge number 448, Prentiss, Mississippi was chartered February, 22, 1900, and N. S. Buckley of sacred memory was it's first Master. Mr. Buckley was a member of the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson Davis County when the county was organized, and afterwards elected President of the Board, and died while serving as president.

Charter Members of this Lodge were: N. S. Buckley, Master; Wade Polk, Senior Warden; J. M. Polk, Junior Warden; R. L. Berry, L. L. Polk. J. E. Banks, A. S. Loftin, A. H. Hemby, W. C. Atwood, J. L. Berry, P. W. Berry, S. L. Berry, Chas.R. Burrow, J.M.Branton, A. M. Griffith, C. D. McNease.

The officers of this Lodge for 1937 are, J. C. Sanford,Master; G. O. Berry, Senior Warden; Knox Terrell, Junior Warden; J. B.Waltman, Treasurer; F.E. Farrar, Secretary;H. C. McCollum,Senior Deacon; G. B. Shivers, Junior Deacon; B. R. Futch, Tyler.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

Bassfield Lodge number 575 was chartered February 24, 1922 at Bassfield. The following were charter members of this lodge: Erastus R. Speights, Master; Jessie Whitehead, Senior Warden, H.J. Lott, Junior Warden; L. L. Courtney; E. N. Blount; C. H. Joseph, N. D. McLain; R. C. Puckett; Sam Cranford; A. M. Broome; Guy Laird; B. N. Martin.

Bassfield Lodge constituted March 24, 1922, held its first meeting upstairs in the O. T. Hathorn store, the store burned and the meetings were held in the school building until a Lodge was built in 1923.

Mr. Johnnie Evans was the first member to be raised in this Lodge.

Following are the officers for 1937:
C. O. Beasley, Master; H. J. Lott, Senior Warden; D. W. Dorris, Junior Warden; J. A. Wright, Treasurer; John M. Evans, Secretary; Reuben H. Broom, Senior Deacon; Joseph E. Evans, Junior Deacon; Richmond Ratcliff, Tyler.

EASTERN STAR

Bassfield Chapter was Instituted July 12th. 1921 by Mrs. Nellie McGowan, District Deputy Grand Matron. Sister Myra C. Eaton and Brother William A. Fergerson assisted her. The following officers/and members were charter members;

Bessie Puckett, W. M.; Joseph P Dear, W.P; Pearl Wright, A.M.; Pearl Carraway, Treas.; Mary A.Hathorn, Sec. Emma Lou Puckett,Cond.; Lula Applewhite, A. Cond.; Rinnie Dear, Ada; Emily Carraway, Ruth; Leola Blount, Esther; Lola Broom, Martha; Eliza Smith, Electa; Mabel Applewhite, Organist; Alice Bass, Chaplain;Mae Bell, Warder; A. M. Broom, Sent.

R. C. Puckett, A. F. Carraway, E. R. Speights, C. W. Applewhite, E. N. Blount, and N. D. McLain were alos charter members.

At Grand Chapter on May 9, 1922 at McComb, Mississippi a Charter was granted and Bassfield Chapter No. 184 was constituted on June 1, 1922, by Sister Nellie McGowan, District Deputy Grand Matron, Sister Brown of Myra Chapter acting as Grand Marshal and Brother N. D. McLain acting as Grand Secretary. The officers mentioned above were installed at this meetihg. The Chapter decided to meet on the first and third Tuesday nights in each month.

During these fifteen years the Chapter has thrived, always having peace and harmony within its Chapter room. Fifty members have been initiated, making a total membership of seventy five who have been made Eastern Stars within the walls of Bassfield Chapter no. 184.

Sisters Ora Lee Speights, Lula Applewhite and Lizzie Courtney, and Brother E. R. Speights have passed to the Grand Chapter on High.

The following have served the chapter as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron:

1922-23	Bessie Puckett W. M.	J. P. Dear, W. P.
1923-24	Pearl Wright	J. P. Dear
1924-25	Emma Lou Puckett	R. C. Puckett
1925-26	Pearl Carraway	A. F. Carraway
1926-27	Willie B.Puckett	J. P. Dear
1927-28	Elizabeth Clark	E. R. Speights
1928-29	Lizzie Courtney	E. N. Blount
1929-30	Lura Armstrong	J. P. Dear
1930-31	Bertha Thompson	E. N. Blount
1931-32	Mollie Armstrong	R. C. Puckett
1932-33	Maggie Thurman	J. P. Dear

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

1933-34	Dale Johnson W.M.	D. L. Johnson W.P.
1934-35	Pearl Wright	D. L. Johnson
1935-36	Bessie Puckett	D. L. Johnson
1936-37	Leola Blount	J. M. Evans

At Grand Chapter in 1923,Mrs. Bessie Puckett of Bassfield Chapter number 184, was appointed District Deputy Grand Matron of District 15, which position she has served very efficiently to the present time.

Carson Chapter was instituted February 27, 1923. The following being charter members.: Mary Nichols, W.M.; C. G. Laird, W.P.; Georgia McGehee, A.M.; H.A.Carter, Treas.; Velma Nichols, Sec.; Mary Izard, Cond.; Edith Dunham, A. Cond.; Beulah Hatten,Marshal; Cora Baker, Ada; Rosa McGehee, Ruth; Beulah Nelson, Esther; Maude Laird, Martha; Florence Laird, Electa; Donie Stringer, Organist; Mary Holloway, Chaplain; W. R. Hatten, Warder; V. N. Nichols, Sentinel.

At Grand Chapter May 9, 1923 a charter was granted by Lillie McCullough, Grand Matron, W. A. Ferguerson, Grand Patron and Myra C. Eaton, Grand Secretary. Carson Chapter number 220 was constituted June 7, 1923 by Mrs. Bruce Welch District Deputy Grand Matron assisted by Mrs. Jones Grand Marshal, and Mrs. Sibley Act. Grand Secretary. The above officers were installed at this meeting. The chapter decided to meet the second Friday evening of each month, the time of meeting being changed to the sedond Tuesday evening of each month January 11, 1928.

Carson Chapter is regarded as one of the best in the fifteenth district.

Prentiss Chapter number 196 was chartered May 10, 1924 with the following charter members:

Annie Rose Smith, Nona Berry Dale, Melyssa Griffith, Mae Rouse, Irene Williams, Clara Luper Gray, Annie Williams, Annie Louise Williams, Ada Mae Dale, Irene Berry, Margie Terrell, Etta Polk, alline W. Lee, Clara Baker, Sarintha Berry, Tamasia McKee, Maude Magee, Grover C. Terrell, Rev Hugh Robert McKee, Samuel T. Mathison, George W. Berry, Robert F. Dale, Louis Williams, Clyde Smith, J. Jones Polk. The first officers were; Annie Rose Smith, Worthy Matron, Grover C. Terrel, Worthy Patron, Nona Berry Dale, Associate Matron.

On July 24, 1936 the Prentiss Chapter entertained the School of Instruction of twelve chapters of the fifteenth district. Interesting and instructive addresses were made by the Worthy Grand Matron, Rachel B. Simmons, and Worthy Grand Patron, W. A. Bell.

Mrs. Marjorie Terrell and Mrs. Etta Waller served as Pages at the Grand Chapter held at Jackson, Mississippi, 1936.

Robert Morris completed the first Eastern Star Ceremony and initiated the first members of the order at Jackson, Mississippi in 1851. The first Ritual was called the "Mosaic Book" In 1859 a new Ritual was prepared by Morris, which was not so complicated, and it was styled "Families of the Eastern Star. In 1861 he published the first Book of Instructions and from this and a complete history of the Eastern Star, we learn the methods in use.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

2. Social, Cultural, etc.:

RED CROSS

The Jefferson Davis County Chapter of the Red Cross is the most important organization that we have. It is the only National organization that is ready to function at a minutes notice. A disaster may happen in any part of our country, in a few hours the Red Cross is on the job. We point to Jeff. Davis Chapter with pride. Jeff Davis county chapter has contributed liberally in all disasters of Mississippi, and country at large. It sent $200.00 to the storm sufferers at Tupelo in 1936, $400.00 to the flood sufferers, besides many dollars worth of clothing made by the WPA workers.

The present officers are, John Laird, Chairman; Brooks Polk, Secretary and Treasurer; Joe McDonald, Sam Lee, O.S.Rouse, Dr. Everett, Business Managers.

SALVATION ARMY

We have no regular organization of the Salvation Army in this county but a troupe comes here at stated intervals, give a sacred program and take contributions for the organization.

GIRL RESERVES

During school term each school in this county has a Girl Reserve Club. This organization was mentioned in Assignment Number nineteen, "Schools of Today".

AURORA CLUB

The Aurora Club of Prentiss, Mississippi was organized in 1933 by Mrs. D. H. Price, Chairman of Club extension of the Prentiss Womans Federated Club, with sixteen charter members.

It was a rule of this club that only unmarried ladies were to be members of this club.

The club motto, "We study for light that we may give light" and club flower, "chrysanthenum" Colors; White and Yellow".

The first officer of the club were:
President, Elizabeth McDonald; Vice President, Mary Lena Williams, Recording Secretary, Helen Flynt; Corresponding Secretary, Doris Mai Walden; Treasurer, Jihnnie Lipsey; Historian, Lillah Sutton, Parliamentarian, Beryl Barnes; Reporter, Ruth Sutton, Librarian, Mildred Lee.

Charter Members; Beryl Barnes, Willie Mae Barnes, Manse Boyanton, Idelle Clement, Alberta Dale, Helen Flynt, Mildred Lee, Wyvette Griffith, Johnnie Lipsey, Ruth McDaniel, Elizabeth McDonald, Hazel Rush, Lillah Sutton, Ruth Sutton, Doris Mai Walden, Mary Lena Williams.

4 -H Club

The Boys and Girls Club work of this county had its beginning in 1913.

Miss Susie V. Powell made a very interesting speech in behalf of boys and girls club work. She also went to Washington, D.C. in the interest of club work in Mississippi.

The first organization was known as the Boys Corn Club and the Girls Tomato Club.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

Jones Polk won first place in the Boys Corn Club and a trip to Chigago.

This county broke all records in the state and right in the lead of the nation in the Corn and Tomato Clubs. The Boys and Girls Club work of today is due to the untiring efforts of Miss Susie V. Powell. T

The 4-H club work began to function in ~~this~~ x this county in 1929 under the leadership of Mrs. Prescott, Home Demonstration agent for 1929-30.

The major project for 1929 was poultry and food preservation. The year round garden was the major aim.

During 1932 Miss Frances Flowers was Home Demonstration Agent. The major project for that year was food preservation. The farm folk were taught the best way to can, dry and preserve the surplus fruits and vegetables on the farm.

In 1933 with Miss Idelle Clement, Home Agent, food preservation was continued through the year.

In 1934 with Miss Virginia Craig as Agent, nutrition was studied, preparation and balancing of meals, preparing school lunches was an important part of the program.

In 1935-36 with Miss Eleanor Mincher Agent, home management and food preservation were the major subjects studied.

In 1937 with Miss Jeanette Hunter Agent, clothing is being studied.

HISTORY OF PRENTISS
WOMANS FEDERATED CLUB

On the 7th. day of February, 1929 at 3 O'clock in the afternoon in the Directors room, Bank of Blountville a group of about twenty women met for the purpose of organizing a Womans Federated Club in Prentiss.

Representatives of the Pine Burr Federated Club of Hattiesburg, Mississippi were present to assist in the organization, by so doing their club received credit for extension. The organization was completed with thirty four charter members and the following Officers; President, Mrs. L. H. Tyrone; Vice Pres. Mrs. W. W. Gray; Secfetary, Mrs. J. N. Mathison;. A Constitution and by-laws were drafted and adopted. Club Motto selected, "To look up and not down, to look forward and not backward, to look out and not in, and to lend a hand". Flower selected, the Rose, Club Colors, Pink and Green. Time for meeting three o'clock P.M. third Thursday of each month, roll limit forty members, dues two dollars to be paid by October meeting of each year. Club was admitted to the Mississippi Federation February 14, 1929.

The executive committee planned the new work for the balance of club year, and the first year book was made in form of manuscript tied with ping and green ribbons. The book contained programs through September 1929, also, the constitution and by-laws. The programs were planned around Home and Culture.

The pioneer work during the first club year was very carefully planned and a sound and solid foundation was laid much credit is placed to the first President and her executive committee for the high, clean and cultural plane on which the club was f ounded and has down the years been maintained by Past Presidents and workers.

Civic activities and interest were fostered during the year, plans made which developed afterwards. A health program in the school being an outstanding objective.

In March a business meeting was held and new officers elected. The June meeting of this year holds a place in the memory of the members . The program study was Art in pictures, Many standard pictures were on exhibit and a study made of each. This meeting was held in the lovely home of Mrs. J. N. Mathison. She with her co-hostesses honored the club with a four course mid-da y luncheon, serving sixty ladies, members and guests.

September 1929 marked the beginning of the second club year when the following new officers were formally presented and installed; President, Mrs. C. E. Thompson; Vice Pres. Mrs. W. W. Gray; Secretary, Mrs. G. C. Terrell; Parlimentarian, Mrs. R. E. Dale; Treasurer, Mrs. E. B. Mathison; Press and Publicity, Mrs. E. L. Gullege, Historian, Mrs. W. H. Livingston; Following committees; Courtesy, Ways and Means, Public Health, Dramatic, Music and Art, with wide awake, active members serving on each committee.

The second club year was begun with interest at high point.

forty enthuastic members being enrolled with a waiting list. The President and her co-workers with the hearty cooperation from all members launched and carried through an excellent program, several permanent projects in the town and county which are to day reminders of the work of the Womans Federated Club. Through the Art committee, with Mrs. P. A. Dale as chairman the school campus was landscaped and graded and set with good shrub, the committee iffluenced the Board of Supervisors of the county to co-operate witht he club in beautifying the curt house lawn and plans were laid which later matured for the work. The club in 1929-30 through the music Committee with Mrs. B. G. Walden chairman had the privilege of sponsoring the boys band of the town, the first organized band the town had. Contributions were made to the payment of some instruments and interest maintained by inviting the band to furnish music on special occassions. Public singing was fostered and encouraged. The Health Program, planned and begun the previous year, was continued with Mrs. W. L. Berry chairman of Public Health Committee.By the close of school year all children had had examination of eyes, teeth and throat and many follow up corrections were accomplished. Ways and Means Committee, with Mrs. O. S. Rouse chairman reported two hundred dollars having been received during the year.
The club was honored in the appointment, by District President,of a member, Mrs. E. B. Mathison as District Chairman of Junior Clubs. By way of club extension, representatives were selected and authorized to meet with the county sewing club and bear messages of encouragement. An outstanding feature of the year was the January

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

meeting held in the spacious parlors of the home of President Mrs. C. E. Thompson, when Mayor S. F. Tatum and Mrs. Tatum of Hattiesburg, were honor guest. Mayor Tatum addressed the club his subject being "Womans Part in Civic Activities". He complimented the Prentiss Club for progress made along civi c lines.

The theme for study for the year was Literature and Art.

Club year 1930-31 presented the following officers; President, Mrs. W. W. Gray; Vice Pres. Mrs. J. N. Mathison; Secretary, Mrs. W. L. Berry; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. O. S. Rouse; Treasurer, Mrs. R. E. Tyrone; Historian, Mrs. P. A. Dale; Parlimentarian, Mrs. B. C. Griffith; Press and Publicity, Mrs. H. H. Williams.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Gray the clubs interest and activities continued and some objectives accomplished which gave credit to the club.

Club extension was observed by co-operating with the County Home Demonstration Agent and her clubs in the County Fair, a flower show being an outstanding feature of the fair in which five prizes were won by members of Womans Club.

In response to a request from the District Chairman, a donation of $2.50 was made bo be used fort he erection of a Memorial on the old Camp Shelby Rmx grounds, however this donation was later returned when the idea was abandoned.

The Art committee with Mrs. L. H. Tyrone as chairman, in co-opeeration with the town authorities conducted a clean up campaign and a beautification program for town streets and highways leading into Prentiss. The boys grand stand was also painted and shrubbery set around the stand and jail building.

Public welfare committee, with Mrs. G. C. Terrell as chairman sponsored sale of towels for t he blind commission, the towels having been made by inmates of the blind institution. The needs of the poor of the town were considered, and $5.00 donated on the Community Chest. A beautiful Christmas program was observed.

The boys band was given $10.00 as payment on instruments, $15.00 donated tot he Science Department of the high school, a large flag and pole for the school, costing $10.00 a gift of the club.

What might be noted as a high point of years program was the beginning of the circulating library in January of 1931. After discussion and agreement to create the library the question of a place was considered, Mrs. L. H. Tyrone very graciously offered her living room for the place which the club highly appreciated.

At the February meeting a book shower was given, each member brought a book, a splendid collection of standard and reference books was in the hands of Mrs. Tyrone who served as custodian of library.

Club guests at the February meeting were mrs. Kimmons and Mrs. L. H. Thompson of Pine Burr Club of Hattiesburg, who organized the Prentiss club, these ladies were favorably impressed with the type of work the club was doing.

Dramatic committee, with Mrs. B. H. Polk as chairman sponsored and conducted several programs during the year, one of the most interesting being a play acted by the high school faculty.

Mrs. H. H. Williams, Press and Publicity chairman was voted thanks for the arrangement of an attractive as well as instructive Scrap Book, which won second place in the First District.

September 1931 marked the beginning of the 4th. club year with Mrs. E. B. Mathison, President; Mrs. W. O. Jones Vice Pres; Mrs.D. W.Dale,

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

Recording Secretary; Mrs. O. C. Luper, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. R. E. Wilson, Treasurer; Mrs. E. B. Barlow, Historian; Mrs. E. L. Gullege, Parliamentarian; Mrs. F. A. Parker, Press and Publicity; Mrs. L. H. Tyrone, Librarian; A miscellaneous study was planned as programs for the year. Programs on Home, Literature, Child welfare and Music, with some special program observances were enjoyed and great benefit derived from each. An outstanding feature and one which gave credit tot he club was the donation of .25 per member to the Old Ladies Home and this was 100%. It was during this administration that the club withdrew from the Federation, but only for a short time, the question was opened at a later meeting and after due consideration and discussion and upon a statement made by the president that ten members paying Federated dues would place the club on Federated list, by motion carried this was done and the club has ever been known as a Federated club. Endorsement was voted of Mrs. O. B. Taylor of Jackson for President of State Federation.

Dramatic committee with Mrs. J. S. Williams as chairman and Music with Mrs. B. C. Griffith chairman and Finance with Mrs. W. F. Byrne chairman, sponsored several high class programs and entertainments from colleges during the year. Public Welfare committee with Mrs. W. S. Berry chairman rendered valuable aid in co-operating with health officer in examination of school children and immunizatios.

Year 1932-33 with the following officers; President, Mrs.F. A. Parker

At the suggestion of Mrs. Parker a reception and entertainment for the faculty of Prentiss High School was planned and this was done in a beautiful manner in the home of Mrs. Parker on the night of September 23, 1932. The club pledging hearty co-operation to teachers during the year.

Programs for the year were built around the study of Mississippi and her gifts, resources, etc.

Delegates were chosen as representatives to State Fed.Convention,Mrs. G. C. Terrall and Mrs. J. N. Mathison being the appointed delegates with instructions to support Mrs. B. L. Coulter of Columbia for Vice President of State Federation.

Some substantial charity work in way of clothing donated and families cared for was sponsored by the club.

This year the club had the honor of supplying a member of the executive board of State Federation, in the appointment of Mrs. G. C.Terrell as State Charman of County Co-operation work, which honor was highly appreciated by Prentiss Club. Mrs. Terrell brought messages from time to time of state work.

Another outstanding credit to the club this year was the appointment of another local club member, Mrs. B. C. Griffith as chairman of Music in district one.

It was this year that a junior club was organized by the chairman of club extension, mrs. D. H. Price, this club chose the name Aurora Club" with fifteen charter members and it has been a credit to the Senior Club since its organization.

The Music Committee with Mrs. C. E. Thompson chairman was instrumental in bringing to Prentiss several high type musical programs, one worthy of mention being a sacred concert presented by the Choral Club

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

of Columbia, Miss.

The Government program, known than as the relief program furnished labor for upkeep and beautification of public grounds, cemetery and court lawn, and church grounds under the auspices of the Art Com. with Mrs. H. H. Williams as chairmanx.

Funds were donated by club for helping bear expense of planting pecan trees on the court house lawn.

Distrince dues of 15¢ per member were allowed and paid to District on time. Under committee of Public Welfare the school children under the sixth grade were examined and the undernourshed furnished a pint of milk and an apple each day.

Delegates were appointed and sent to State Convention, Mrs.Parker bringing an interesting report of the convention.

The annual Husband night was celebrated in July with a chicken fry,

-34

Club year 1933 officers as follows;

President, Mrs. D. H. Price; Vice Pres, Mrs.Merdie Mae Tyrone;Recording secretary? Mrs. Rebecca Quinn; Corresponding Sec.Mrs.Fl ora Williams,; Treasurer, Mrs. Hattie Thompson; Historian, Mrs. Edna Mathison; Reporter, Mrs. Ruth Parker; Parliamentarian, Mrs.Clara Gray; Librarian, Mrs. Rose Tyrone.

A county wide meeting was sponsored by the club through the department of County Cooperation with Mrs. G. C. Terrell State Chairman serving as leader. Every club in the county was invited as guest of the Prentiss club. Public welfare committee kept the interest of the Old Ladies Home before the club and donations were made from time to time.

Some equipment was furnished the school for the lunch room project. Donation made toward the construction of the Community Hut oen the Court House Square.

Library grew under the leadership of Mrs. R^se Tyorne as librarian, by the sale of membership cards many books were added to the library. Later in the year the library program was extedad and enlarged and a county library which had been created during this administration and housed in the new community hut was sponsored by the club and thirty new books. A visit and address from a member of the State Library Commission of Jackson was outstanding feature of the March meeting.

The club by cooperating with local welfare office, sponsored several worthy projects, Town Cemetery graded, Driveways made, Shrubbery set out and other improvements made, Club donating $50.00. The Art Committee with Mrs. O. S. Rouse chairman rendered splendid service in this work.

A county wide flower and quilt show was sponsored. county wide program of birth registration and rehabilitation survey. The Federated magazine was paid for by the club.

The financial committee with Mrs. W. L. Berry as chairman, reported $ 235.66 collected during the year.

Annual guest night was celebrated woth a chicken fry on May 31st. at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Jones Polk.

The seventh club year, 1934-35 under the administration of Mrs. H. K. Waller, President; Mrs. C. R. Quinn, vice Pres; Mrs. L. H. Tyrone, Secretafy; Mrs. W. S. Berry, Treasurer; Mrs. P. C. Westfall, Cor.Sec. Mrs. W. L. Caughman, Parliamentarian; Mrs. C. E. Thompson, Historian; Mrs. E. B. Mathison, Librarian; Mrs. W. O. Jones, Press and Publicity;

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

The high point of credit to the club this year and perhaps the most worth-while program ever sponsored by the club was the work done in cooperation with the ERA department and the department of County Cooperation with Mrs. G. C. Terrell, chairman under the leadership of the Pres. Mrs. H. K. Waller, namely, the County Diagnostic Clynic held in the communtiy hut. Committees from the Womans Club and from the Aurora Club had laid careful and complete plans for the arrangement and care of the meeting. Services and materials donated amounted to $200.00. There were onehundred and fifty seven handicapped persons examined. Some of the work is mentioned as follows; Total number of patients treated and helped 39, 10 major operations; 13 minor operations; 1 club foot operation; 12 pr glasses given; 1 wheel chair given; braces furnished children and many minor corrections followed up. All in all the work was quite outstanding from a humarian standpoint and the club received special mention and publicity from the press.

At the request from the state wide school curriculum revision, mrs. D. H. Price was appointed as representative to the study course from the club and was made leader of the study course, which continued through the year. In response to a call from the Blind Comission a sale of towels was spinsored. A donation fo 10¢ per member was made for the cure and control of cancer, a project sponsored by the General Federation, the Prentiss club responded 100% to this cause.

The club had the credit and honor of the reappointment of Mrs. G. C. Terrell as member of State Executive Board of State Federation.

Another honor was the fact the the library won third place in the District, and a better homes week was observed with a flower show and garden pilgrimage of the gardens of the town sponsored by club, when it was announced the club had won second place in District in the better garden contest.

A christmas tree program observed and sponsored with the annual exchange of gifts. Other special observances on Arbor Day, Conservation week, Mothers Day with fitting programs.

Eighth club year with the following officers;

President, Mrs. Harry Williams; Vice Pres. Mrs. W. L. Berry; Secretary, Mrs. Vance Harvey; Cor.Sec. Mrs. Slade McKee; Treas. Mrs. M. M. Davis; Historian, Mrs. O. S. Rouse; Parlimentarian, Mrs. J. S. Williams; Librarian, Mrs. E. B. Mathison; Press and Publicity, Mrs. D. H. Price.

On October 5, the Prentiss Womans Club assisted the County Federation of clubs in conducting a fair, by working with miss Mancher, Home Demonstration agent and chairman of county co-operation, the spirit manifested among the clubs at this time was very satisfactory.

The Music Committee with Mrs. F. A. Parker chairman kept the interest of the band before the club and $5.00 was donated to apply on payment of band uniforms.

Finance committee with Mrs. G. E. Laper chairman reported $32.00 proceeds from a beauty contest sponsored by the club.

The club voted to make donation to the Hebron scholarship fund.

$5.00 was donated toward the purchasing of lights for the Xmas street decorations of the town, by art committee with Mrs. L. H. Tyrone chairman. $2.50 was donated to the Miss. Society for crippled children. A beautiful Christmas program was enjoyed in the home of Mrs. W. O. Jones with the tree and exchange of gifts.

During the January meeting the Art committee presented and interest-

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

ing and attractive group of pictures from Belhaven College.
Sale of Christmas seals sponsored by the club and $5.18 was received.
It was this year that a new club was organi zed under the auspices of the Art Committee with Mrs. L. H. Tyrone as leader, known as the Home and Garden club of Prentiss.
Shrubbery was replaced in the cimetery by Mrs. Walden through the art committee. In March a shower was given for the old ladies home in Jackson.
A donation of $50.00 was voted and pledged to the new Federated headquarters building in Jackson.
Another honor point for club was the appointment of Mrs. H. K. Waller as First Vice President of the sixth District.
An appeal was made to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the town of of Prentiss to have the school grounds cleaned for the summer.
The year 1936-37 opened withthe following officers;
President, Mrs. G. C. Terrell; Vice Pres.Mrs. W. S. Perry; Rec.Sec. Mrs. R. I. Lemair; Cor.Sec. Mrs. Clyde Smith; Treas. Mrs. J. N. Mathison; Hisborian, Mrs. R. E. Dale; Parl. Mrs. R. H. Turnage; Librarian, Mrs. Geo. Berry; Press and publicity, Mrs. Leon Brister.
The first meeting of the year was beautifully observed in the home of Mrs. Odette Dale with the executive Committee as hostess, when a 12 o'clock luncheon was served. At this time the president laid herplans for the year before the club and urged that the members cooperate in the undertaking.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

HISTORY

Carson Demonstration Club

In August of 1931, a group of women in Carson, who had ex hong felt the need of an organization of its women for social and civic purposes, met at the home of Mrs. W. W. Gray, and under the supervision of Miss Ada Duckworth, tri-county agent, perfected an organization which was named the Carson Home and Garden Club.

At this initial meeting, Miss Duckworth put on a demonstration of making American Cheese. Officers were elected, and plans made for carrying on the work. Mrs. A. E. Nelson was elected as President and guided the destines of the club for two years, Mrs. L. U. Burkes was chosen as secretary.

In the summer of 1932, Miss Idelle Clement came into the county as Demonstration agent. Since the Carson club had taken such an active part in securing the services of an agent for the county, Miss Clement took a great interest in the activities of the club, and steered our course away from the self-made plans and programs which had been formed without much unity of purpose, to the idea of a demonstration club federated with both the county Council and the state Council.

Since its organization the club has had four different presidents, Mrs. A. E. Nelson, Miss Eva Garner, Mrs. Lela Mae Mcnease, and Mrs. C. G. Laird, the latter being our president for the current year 1937. Four different Secretaries have held office during this time, Mrs. L. U. Burkes, Miss Eva Garner, Miss Georgia

McGehee, and Mrs. Rex Holloway, our present secretary.

The membership has grown from small group of twenty enrolled in 1931 to thirty six our present enrollment. All the members are active and interested in the prosperity of the club.

During the period six years of existence, the club has sponsored many worthwhile projects, such as a White Elephant party for the Girl Reserves; a faculty burlesque at another time to obtain funds for the Girl Reserves to pay their membership quota; showers for club members who had lost their homes by fire; gifts to the poor and needy, and last but not least a clean-up campaign which greatly improved the appearance of the town.

The club has at all times stood for the civic welfare of the community, and has worked for the general good of the entire section.

3. CIVIC

Rotary Club

The Prentiss Rotary Club had its first meeting at the Southern Hotel in February 1937. The speaker of the hour was Mr. Ward Flanders of Columbia, Mississippi. About twenty business men were present. The organization was not completed at this meeting.

Later in February Mr. Al Bush, Past District Governor met the business men at the luncheon hour and completed the organization, known as the Rotary Club of Prentiss, Mississippi. The charter was presented on Ladies night by Ty Cobb, District Governor of Monroe Louisiana.

The following officers were elected:

Leon Tyrone, President; N. S. Hand, Vice president; R. G. Livingston, Secretary and Treasurer; Kirby Thompson, Sargeant at Arms; Dr. G. C. Terrell, D. D. Kennedy, Be C. Griffith, D. H. Price, Directors.

Charter members:

H. H. Bounds, C. C. Bryant, I. F. Dale, Robert Dale, J. L. Davis, M. M. Davis, Dr. J. E. Everett, Shell Fortenberry, I. L.Foster V. B. Garraway, L. E. Green, W. W. Gray,B. C. Griffith,Gray Griffith, N. S. Hand, W. J. Hubbard, D. D. Kennedy, W. T. Lipsey,F. A. Parker, R. G. Livingston, L. G. Parker, D. H. Price, D.C. Terrell, Kirby Thompson, Leon Tyrone, C. E. Thompson, B. G. Walden, S. H. Weeks, H. R. Williams, P. C. Westfall, W. W. Young, J. C. Sanford, R. E. Tyrone.

Among the speakers of this club to date were Governor, Hugh L. White, Lee D. Hall, J. E. Holcomb.

The club meets at the luncheon hour each Monday. A prominent speaker is usually present at these meetings.

This club brings the business men in a closer and friendlier relationship. It stands for progress along all lines, upbuilding of the town and community at large, better schools, churches, etc.

Board of Trade

When this county was young, the business men of the town of Prentiss organized a Board of Trade with B. G. Ealden as President. This organization did not accomplish very much and soo died out.

Lucile McLendon

Mrs. Lucile McLendon, Historian
Historic Research Project
Jefferson Davis County.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY

Notes on Assignment # 28----Nomenclature

1. a. Political Divisions and natural objects.

1. Of County, Towns and Cities

Jefferson Davis County was named for the President of the Confederate States of America, and the greatest Mississipian, Jefferson Davis.

The town of Prentiss was named for the greatest orator Mississippi has ever produced, Sargeant S. Prentiss. It was also named in honor of Prentiss W. Berry, the man who owned the land on which Prentiss is built.

The town of Carson was named by Jesse Robertson, Post Master at Williamsburg at that time, for his brother Carson Robertson.

Bassfield was named for the old family of Basses, pioneer settlers of that community.

The Flag station of Lucas named for a family of colored people.

2. Rivers, Lakes and bayous

Bouie River and creek is the only Indian name we have been able to find.

Silver Creek, Whitesand and Black creeks were named by the Indians. Silver Creek was so called for its clear water, Whitesand for the white sand on its banks, Black Creek for its dark water.

Russell Lake is the largest natural lake in the county covering little more than one acre of ground. It is called Russell Lake for the family of Russell's on whose land the lake is located.

There is another lake on Virgil Berrys place near New Hebron known as the Virgil Berry Lake. It is larger than the Russell Lake

Lake, but it is artificial. The Government has stocked this lake with fish.

IV. Family Names

a.Unusual family names

O'Connell, Fagan are Irish names and not common in this county.

b.Old family names prominent in early history ofthe county.

Bass, Polk, Pope, Cole, Tyrone, Laird, Hathorn,Carraway Holloway.

c. Cities and towns named for prominent citizens.

Prentiss, Bassfield, Carson,

V. Miscellaneous

a. National highway # 84, Mississippi highway # 13, 22,42.22.

St. Stephens or Three Chopped Way. Jackson xx road.

b. Parks, schools, churches.

Phalti, meaning delivered, Bethany church bible name meaning house of dates, Mt.Zion bible name meaning Holy city, Ebenezer Stone of help.

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, NOMENCLATURE

1
2nd copy

NOMENCLATURE CHART
JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
JANUARY, 6, 1939

Carolyn Tyrone,
Historian

COUNTY

Name of place	For whom or what named	Meaning or significance of name	Approximate date acquired
Jefferson Davis County	Jefferson Davis	President of Confederacy	1906

TOWNS

Prentiss	Prentiss Webb Berry	First resident of town	1903
Bassfield	Bass Family	Bass Family, the first settlers	1904
Carson			
Whitesand	Whitesand Creek	Creek runs near town	1815
Mount Carmel	Mount Carmel, a series of connected hills near Palestine	Carmel means country of vineyards and gardens	1815
Lucas	Warren Lucas	Owned land which is now Lucas	1814
Old Hebron	Hebron, an ancient city of Canaan	Was called the city of refuge-located 27 miles south of Jerusalem	1820
Clem			
Melba			1902
Gwinville	Gwin Family	The ville was added when a postoffice was put there	1900
Hathorn	Hathorn Family	Owned land where Hathorn is	1905
Cantwell	Cantwell Family	Owned a mill there	1903

NOMENCLATURE CHART
JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
JANUARY6, 1939

Carolyn Tyrone,
Historian

CHURCHES

Name of place	For whom or what named	Meaning or significance of name	Approximate date acquired
Antioch	Antioch of Syria, a powerful city of the East	A station from where missionaries were sent out	1885
Bethany	Bethany, a village about two miles east of Jerusalem	Where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived	1816
Double Churches	Two Churches	One Baptist and one Methodist	1900
Ebenezer	A witness stone erected by Samuel, of divine assistance obtained	Means "stone of help"	1820
Old Hebron	A settlement named Hebron	An ancient city of Canaan, called city of refuge	1820
Hepzibah			1821
Phalti			1900
Society Hill			1830
Santee			
Dublin	Originally named Myra's Chapel in honor of wife if Rev. J.B. Quin	Reverend Quin organized church there-later changed name because of school there	1910
Mt. Zion	Mt. Zion or Sion, on which the city of Jerusalem was built	Called the city of David Frequently called "the holy hill"	1855
Oak Grove	Anegro church	An oak grove surrounds the church	1910
Pleasant Hill	A negro church	Built on a hill, amidst a grove of trees	1870

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY NOMENCLATURE

NOMENCLATURE CHART
JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
JANUARY 6,1939

Carolyn Tyrone,
Historian

CHURCHES

Name of place	For whom or what named	Meaning or significance of name	Approximate date acquired
Jerusalem	City of Jerusalem	Named for Jebus, king of Salem-Salem means peace	1900
Sweetwater			1870
Hopewell			
Spring Hill	Negro Church	Built on a hill, with a spring nearby	1890
Green Grove	Negro Church	Built in a grove of pine trees	1910

SCHOOLS

Bassfield School	Town of Bassfield	School is located in the town	1905
Carson School	Town of Carson	School is located in the town	1905
Clem SChool	Clem Community	School was organized for that settlement	1905
Hathorn Grammar School	Hathorn Community	School was organized for that settlement	1907
Old Hebron	Old Hebron Community	School is located in that community	1885

NOMENCLATURE CHART
JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
JANUARY, 6, 1939

Carolyn Tyrone,
Historian

SCHOOLS

Name of place	For whom or what named	Meaning or significance of name	Approximate date acquired
Oakvale Line School	Oakvale community	School is on line of two counties	1907
Prentiss School	Town of Prentiss	School is located in Prentiss	1902
Whitesand School	Whitesand Community	School is in Whitesand	1920
Ridgeland School	Negro School		1910
Santee			1880
Spring Hill	Spring Hill Church	There is a negro school in the church	1890
Sylvarona	Negro School		
Solomon			
Tyrone	Tyrone Family	School is on Tyrone land Negro grammar school	1930
Whitesand	Whitesand Community	A negro school near Whitesand	1906
Lucas	Lucas Community	Negro school in Lucas	1906
Prentiss Normal	Town of Prentiss	Negro training school	1905

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY NOMENCLATURE

NOMENCLATURE CHART
JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
JANUARY 6, 1939

Carolyn Tyrone,
Historian

SCHOOLS

Belview			
Black Jack	Black Jack tree	Surrounded by trees called black jack oaks	1840
Carson, Colored	Town of Carson	Negro school near Carson	1906
Cedar Grove			1906
Oakley			1906
Galilee	Biblical name	One of the most extensive provinces of Holy Land	1890
Gray	Harry Gray	Owned land where school is	1910
Harper			1910
Haynes Academy			
Mikell	Mikell Family	Owned land where school is built	1880
Jerusalem	Jerusalem Church	School and church in same building	1900
Mount Carmel	Mount Carmel Community	School for that community Means country of gardens	1904
Mt. Zion	Mt. Zion Church	School and church in same building	1885
Haw Pond	Negro school	Built near a pond with mayhaw trees around it	1870

NOMENCLATURE CHART
JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
JANUARY 6,1939

Carolyn Tyrone,
Historian

SCHOOLS

Name of place	For whom or what named	Meaning or significance of name	Approximate date acquired
Newsome	Dan Newsome	Owned land where school stands	1885
Oak Grove	Oak Grove Church	School and church in same building	1887
Pine Ridge		Built on a hill and surrounded by pine trees	1885
Point Pleasant			1906
Price School	Price Family	Owned land where school stands	1906
Pine Grove		Built in a pine grove	1904

MILLS

Dyess Mill	Owned by a man named Dyess	Cotton gin and grist mill-run by water	1880
Bullock Mill	Owned by Bullock Family	Cotton gin and grist mill	1830
Newton Mill	Owned by Newtons	Cotton gin and grist mill	1820
Roger Mill	Owned by Rogers	Cotton gin and grist mill	1820
Cantwell Mill	Owned by Cantwells	Cotton gin and grist mill	1903

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY NOMENCLATURE

NOMENCLATURE CHART
JEFFERSON DAVIS COMPANY
JANUARY 6,1939

Carolyn Tyrone,
Historian

Waterways

Name of place	For whom or what named	Meaning or significance of name	Approximate date acquired
Whitesand, Little		Named because of the white sand	1870
Silver Creek		Water was so clear	1800
Greens Creek		Water is very green	1820
Holiday's Creek	People named Holiday	Settled land around creek	1820
Dry Creek		Ran dry in summer	1800
Buoy			
Negro Creek			
Gum Swamp		gum tree was hollowed out for spring	1700
Black Creek		Water was not clear -was always muddy	1800
Hooker Hollow Creek	Hooker Family	Settled land around creek	1804
Big Whitesand		Land richer than around Little Whitesand	1700
Santee Branch			1820

NOMENCLATURE CHART
JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
JANUARY 6, 1939

Carolyn Tyrone,
Historian

Roads

Name of place	For whom or what named	Meaning or significance of name	Approximate date acquired
St. Stevens Road		From Alabama to Natchez	1818
Mount Carmel, Williamsburg, and Monticello	Named for those towns	Went from Williamsburg through Mount Carmel to Monticello	1840
Westville and Columbia	Named for those towns	Went from Westville, which is now Pinola, to Columbia	1886

HILLS

Cannon Hill	Frank Cannon	Owned land on which it stood	1840
Gregory Hill	Gregory Family	Owned land on which it stood	1830
Rocky Hill		Very high, rocky hill	1840

LAKES

TuttleLake	Owned by one of first SETTlers named Tuttle		1818

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY NOMENCLATURE

NOMENCLATURE CHART
JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY
JANUARY 6,1939

Carolyn Tyrone,
Historian

Schools which are not used at present

606

Son's Academy			1898
Cross Roads School	Built where two roads crossed		1900
Greens Creek School	Greens Creek	Used by settlement of people around creek	1890
Progress School		Negro School	1902
Dublin School			1882
Aremstrong School	Armstrong Family	Owned land where it was it was built	1840
Pea Ridge School			1878
Red House School		Building was in a little red house	1870
Whiting			1883

FAMILY NAMES

Magee, Polk, Berry, Mikell, Buckley, Parkman, Williams, Stamps, Hooker, Newton, Parker, Hartzog, Brinson, Griffith, Bass, Miller, Hathorn, Speights, Burrow, Brady, Tuttle, Bullock, Blackwell, Nelson, Blount, Tyrone

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY NOMENCLATURE