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DIRECTOR

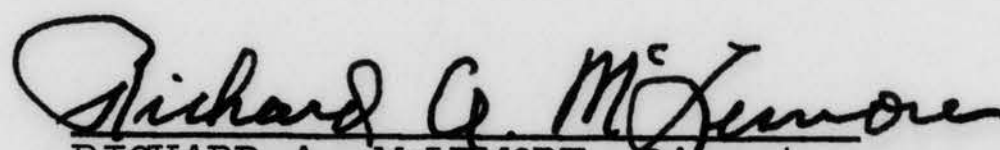
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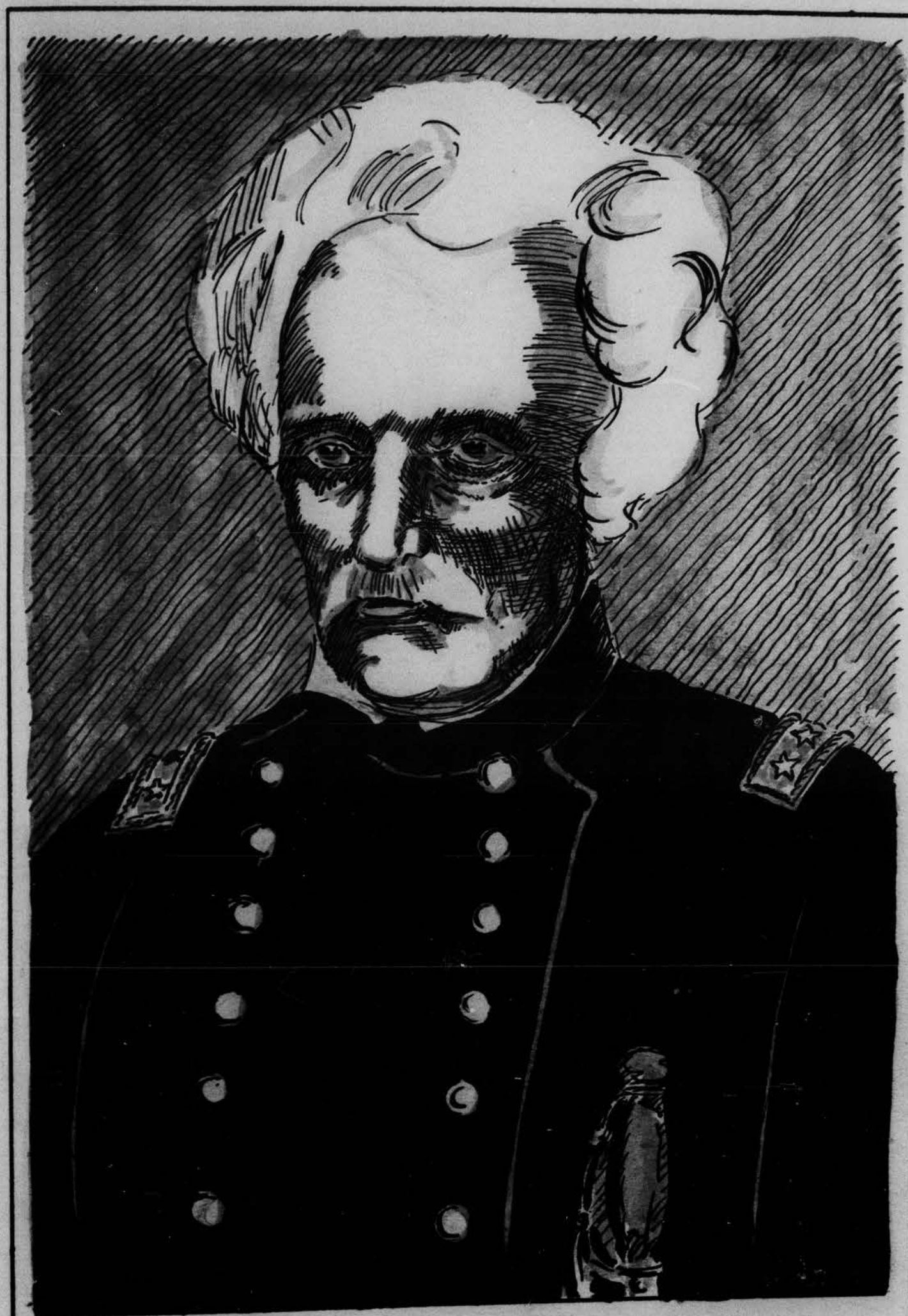
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Because of the diversity of sources and of the fallibility of human memory, it is suggested that documentary material be consulted in verifying data in this volume, as much of the information was obtained through personal interviews.





GOVERNOR JOHN ANTHONY QUITMAN



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
For  
MISSISSIPPI

Source Material  
For  
MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

QUITMAN COUNTY  
Vol. LX

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

Illustrated  
1936-38



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
For  
MISSISSIPPI

Source Material  
For  
MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

CHITMAN COUNTY  
Vol. 12

Compiled by  
STATE-HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT  
State F. Powell, State Supervisor

Illustrated

1936-38

In grateful acknowledgment of his  
Sponsorship of the  
WPA Historical Research Project  
this series of volumes of  
Source Material for County History  
is respectfully dedicated to the  
Memory of

DR. DUNBAR ROWLAND

Founder and Director

of

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History

1902-1937



## FOREWORD

This volume of historical data is one of a series of eighty-two, assembled by the W. P. A. Mississippi Historical Research Project, under the Division of Women's and Professional Projects, Miss Ethel Payne, Director. In 1935, under the New Deal, funds were allocated to the Works Progress Administration for that purpose. The project was set up on a state-wide basis, February 19, 1936, with a unit in each county, and employing about 400 persons of work relief status. The plan was unique in that it provided for the writing of eighty-two county histories instead of one state history. Each volume purports to set forth the background of social, economic, and political history of its respective county.

The original Project Proposal, which has been closely followed, succinctly states the objectives and character of the work:

"Historical research and compilation of historic data: Work to consist of (1) searching city, county, and official records, (2) interviewing old inhabitants, (3) collecting data, (4) compiling data pertaining to historic, civic, and cultural development of locality. Index and condense into handy volumes for educational and reference purposes.

"This compiled data will be made a permanent record. One volume of the historical data will be given to the State Department of Archives and History, one volume to the county library, and other volumes to other designated public institutions. Particular consideration will be given to the making of photographs and sketches of public institutions, municipal halls, schools, churches, and all historic sites and places of interest as well as photographs of old portraits of pioneer citizens and famous men and women who have been instrumental in building and developing Mississippi. Copies of rare documents of historic and educational value, and pictures of fine old furniture and other valuable antiques will be made in connection with the historical research.



"The Project will promote county museums to collect and preserve records of historical interest, both private and public and of educational value, relics, antiques, documents; and encourage placing of such articles of greater value in the State Department of Archives and History to stop the present flow of these out of the state and preserve them for the enrichment of Mississippi history."

The content of these volumes is source material for history, rather than history itself. It is a simple presentation of facts and alleged facts, with no attempt at interpretation. The aim is to preserve the intimate, factual history of the citizens of the county for posterity. No attempt has been made to write eighty-two finished histories. Time would not permit, and this was not the purpose of the Project. It is hoped that this source material will prove valuable for reference, and as a basis for further and more intensive research.

The photographs are used to illustrate the volumes, and for educational exhibits. They are also assembled into portfolios of pictorial history of the state.

The collection of such a vast amount of data was made possible by the co-operation and sponsorship of the following organizations and agencies:

State Sponsor: Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Co-Sponsors: Mississippi Forestry Commission, Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Spanish American War Veterans and Auxiliary, American Legion, and the Adjutant General of the National Guard  
County Sponsors: Boards of Supervisors, County Officers, Departments of Education, and Municipal Boards  
Local Units of the organizations named above, churches, societies, and individual citizens

The State Press was generous with its space in interesting and informing the public, and eliciting information. Workers were given free access to newspaper files.

Credit is due the county supervisors of the Project and their assistants who made up for lack of training in research methods by tireless zeal and intelligent interpretation of the plans. Their tact and their devotion won the interest and co-operation of the public, without which the data would not have been available.

The state staff of clerical workers, authors, and editors also worked whole-heartedly to assemble the colossal mass of material into logical, readable form.

*Susie V. Powell*  
Susie V. Powell, State Supervisor  
Historical Research Project



## INTRODUCTION

by

Katy Simpson Brouger

Though fully conscious that the introduction to any volume is rarely read as an integral part of the material in the pages which follow, I enthuse over the opportunity to try to weave into these pages allotted me some of the tremendously interesting things, events, and people connected with the formation of Quitman County and its subsequent development.

It is a long retrospect, this looking over the sixty years of the county's life, yet, as I see her now even in "swaddling clothes," it seems but Yesterday. Vividly do I recall hearing my father, Captain D. H. Simpson, and my mother lamenting the tragic death of Colonel Mellard, maternal grandfather of Dr. Alfred and Mellard Jamison, present day citizens. Colonel Mellard was a land-holder in the part of Panola territory from which the new county was formed and at that time had to go to Batesville to pay taxes. So it was, that, with a negro to paddle the canoe the necessary long, hard journey was made, but on the return trip the little craft was caught by a swift current in the stream and was capsized, throwing them into the cold, muddy water. They were able to catch limbs and pull up into a tree, but Colonel Mellard succumbed to the cold, getting so numb he could no longer hold on. The negro, (younger than Colonel Mellard) almost frozen, fought valiantly to rescue his white friend but was unable to do so - only his pipe was saved and this was brought back to poor Mrs. Mellard.

This sad story illustrates the hardships and difficulties of travel in the early days. The old Jamison Ferry, located at a point across Coldwater River near the Jamison Homestead (where Dr. Alfred Jamison and family still reside), was a landmark; it for years and years being the gate-way to the trail which led to Porter's Ferry, thence to Batesville.

Think of having to make long business trips in a dug-out in treacherous waters, surrounded by deep forests and water-bogged cane-brakes.

There were no dirt roads to speak of in this water-bogged cane-brake of sloughs, lakes, bayous, and rivers, but the rich fertile soil bewitched a substantial, hard-working



and far-seeing populace who followed the trail to the seeming "End of the Rainbow." To these brave pioneers Quitman County wafts a message of allegiance, and carries on toward the mark of their ambition.

Particular evidences of this are shown in transportation methods and that of health. "Here once these trails, above referred to, could only be traversed on horse-back or in wagons drawn by oxen, now extend straight, wide concrete roads, making all points in the county easily accessible. Where there was once no thought of sanitary methods and self-care, except as was inspired by the dear old "Doctor of Saddle-Bag Days," there are now the advantage of a part-time health department, clinics, and two modernly equipped hospitals. And speaking of old doctors, a story is told, and it is true, that one of these performed a surgical operation on a Mississippi notable with a log or fallen tree as the operating table. This was at a hunting camp and it was a case of emergency.

It has been the purpose of this history to include all authenticated facts available, especially those with an enriching savor, and particularly to give credit where credit is due, or to "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," and we trust that the contents of the following pages will convey to its readers at least a faint picture of the county, as it has merged from its embryonic state to its present fully grown state, and that the spirit in which it is submitted will be provocative of good will and kindly understanding, as they are scanned.

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## GENESIS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Lucy Somerville Howarth  
Member Veterans Board of Appeals  
Washington, D. C.

County government preceded state government in Mississippi, the county of Adams being created in 1799 shortly after the establishment of Mississippi Territory. Though the territory comprising Mississippi had been for many years under French and Spanish rule, those countries left no permanent imprint upon the government of Mississippi, and the first permanent governmental unit, the county, was Anglo-Saxon in origin. By 1817, when Mississippi was admitted into the union as a state, there were fourteen counties, Adams, Claiborne, Jefferson (originally named Pickering), Wilkinson, Amite, Franklin, Warren, Wayne, Marion, Greene, Hancock, Jackson, Lawrence, and Pike.

The first counties were those in the southwestern part of the state along the Mississippi and the Pearl and along the Gulf Coast. The state was settled rapidly in the early nineteenth century, and by 1836 fifty-five counties had been created. The state now has eighty-two counties, the most recent county being Humphreys which was created in 1918.

Our county government is a natural development of the British shire; the history of the shire reaches far back into antiquity; it was an established unit at the Norman Conquest. The Normans accepted the shire as a governmental unit but changed the name to "county." The colonists, particularly in the South, transplanted the county plan of government, and as adopted, it has become the logical unit of local government. As originally set up, the colonies had highly centralized forms of government, and county officers were appointed by the governor. After the Revolution and with the rising surge of democratic ideas, control of county government was localized, and officials were elected by the citizens of the county. Mississippi's first constitution, 1817, provided for the election of the sheriffs and the appointment of other officers; the constitution of 1832 made elective the office of the justice of the peace in addition to sheriff. By 1869 all constitutional officers were made elective.



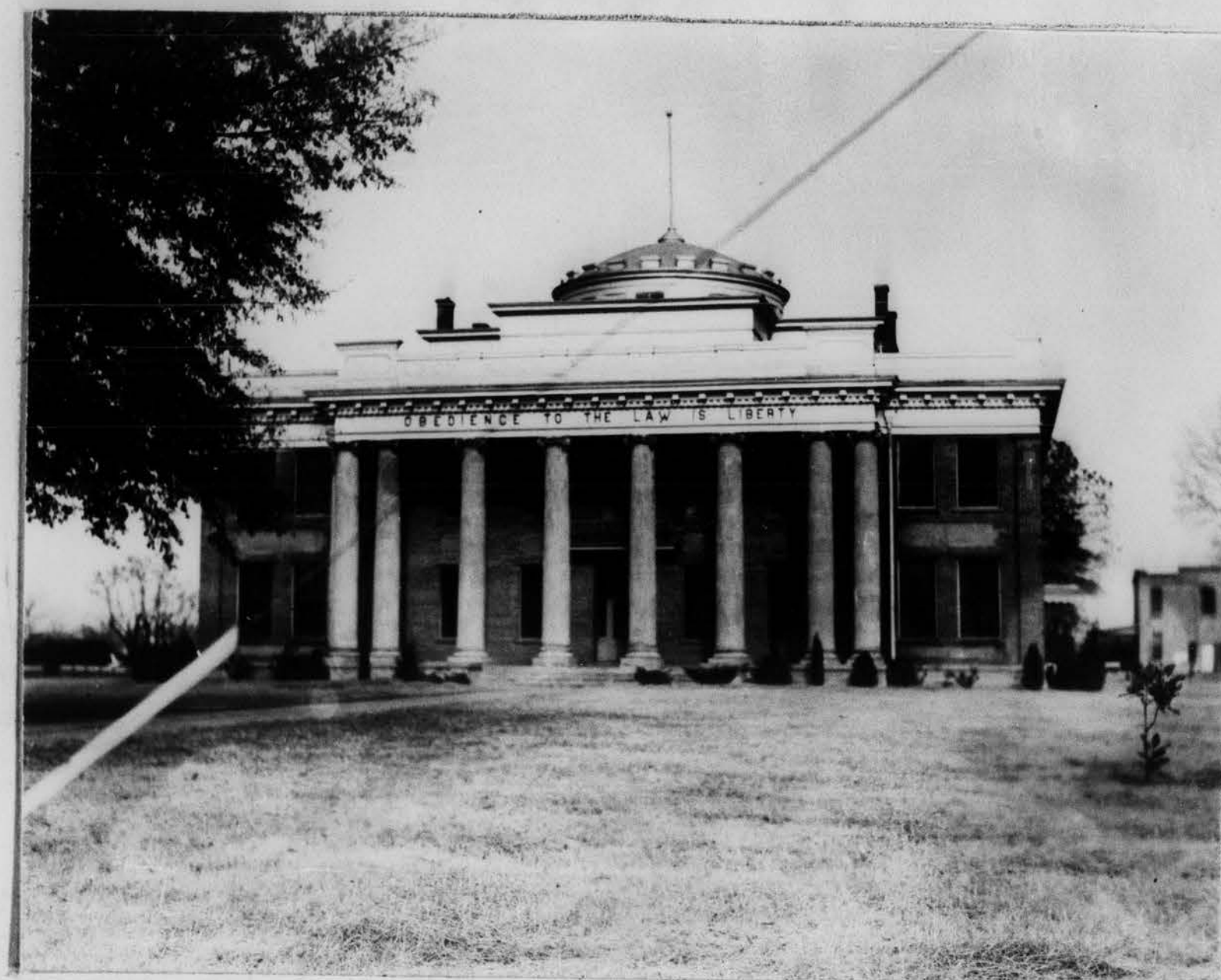
While county government in Mississippi has been described as "largely traditional, copied from institutions evolved more than a century ago - not in Mississippi, but in other states - and adopted in this state with little essential modification and with little, if any, critical study," other observers have noted that county government in Mississippi has undergone few changes in structure; but in recent years, there has come a marked change in the basis of its support. A new character, "State Aid," has come upon the stage and is demanding modernization of county government, both in structure and manner of the performance of its functions.

Counties have two-fold functions: They are divisions of the state for administrative purposes, and they also have local duties. Counties are bodies politic and corporate, but their powers and activities are only such as are bestowed upon them by the state. The Mississippi Supreme Court has said, "They have no life, no power, no rights, no obligations, but such as have been conferred upon them" (Jefferson County vs. Grafton, 74 Miss. 435). In modern times the county has been given greater power and responsibilities, but it remains a governmental unit created by the state, and not, as is true of municipal governments, by choice of people comprising them. However, though the people did not create the counties originally, county boundaries followed natural lines, and county pride and county tradition soon became and are strong forces. The people of each county develop and cherish its own traditions and exploit its own assets. This has happened because the county is a natural unit. More than that, it is a unit that has made possible local self-government in rural and agricultural communities. It is through the counties that the people of Mississippi have exercised local self-government, which has been defined as "The right of a people within a given area to determine some governmental policies to levy and collect taxes, to make appropriations, and to administer these policies through officers of their own choosing." County government is the heart of our democratic system. That its roots are deep in the past should assure it of greater strength and usefulness in the future.



While the government of Mississippi has been... from institu-... not in Mississ-... in this state... and with little, if... have noted that... has undergone few... years, there has... of its support. A... has come upon the stage... of county government,... of the performance of its...

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COURT HOUSE AT MARKS

The Court House at Marks was built... in 1887... by the... of Marks... The building was designed by... and built by... The first... was... The building was... in 1887... The building was... in 1887... The building was... in 1887...



## Chapter I

### FORMATION

#### Introduction

It is known that many thousands of years ago the Mississippi Delta was a part of the Gulf of Mexico, but gradually the Mississippi River, in its mad rush to the sea at floodtime, overflowed its banks and deposited so much mud along them and at its mouth, that it formed one of the largest and most fertile deltas in the world.

Lying in the heart of the great land section referred to above as the Delta, Quitman County is renowned for its superior fibre of long staple cotton, and is, consequently, noted as one of the great cotton producing regions of the South. The soil, generally designated as black alluvial, is inexhaustible, has plenty of moisture, and is capable of producing a great variety of agricultural products.

#### Formation of County

The immense fertility of the soil and the valuable timbered section have drawn settlers from different parts of the country to this northwestern portion of the state. After the War between the States, there were enough people in the district to make it expedient to form a new county from certain territories which belonged to Tunica, Panola, Coahoma, and Tallahatchie counties, respectively.

The bill for the formation of the county was introduced in the Legislature by L. Marks, representing Tunica County, and passed on February 1, 1877, during the administration of Governor John M. Stone. The first officers appointed were: J. T. Phipps, sheriff; C. E. Stanford, clerk. The Third District in Mississippi embraced Quitman County, and Judge Powell was the first judge.



### Boundaries

"The original boundaries were as follows: Beginning in the N.E. corner of Coahoma County and running thence south with the boundary of Coahoma County to the N. E. corner of section 33, T. 28, R. 2, west; thence west on section lines to the range line between ranges 2 and 3 west; thence south on the range line to the S. W. corner of T. 26, R. 2, west; thence east on the Township line to the range line between ranges 1 and 2 east; thence north on said line to the boundary line between the Chickasaw and Choctaw Cession; thence N. W. with said line to the point at which it touches the western boundary of Panola County; thence north with the said boundary to the N. E. corner of T. 7, R. 10, west, of the Chickasaw survey with the northern line of the beginning. The old boundary line between the Chickasaw and Choctaw cessions cuts across the N.E. corner, and forms the northeastern boundary for a short distance." (1)

Quitman County is bounded on the north by Tunica; on the east by Panola and Tallahatchie, on the south by Tallahatchie, and on the west by Coahoma.

Quitman County has a land surface of 395 square miles, and is a narrow irregular tract of land.

Coldwater River flows from the north in a winding course through the center and unites near the southern border with the Tallahatchie and Yocona rivers, to form the sluggish Yazoo. These streams, together with Cassidy's Bayou and Opossum Bayou, afford good water facilities.

"It was decreed that the county of Quitman be attached to the 6th Congressional District, the 28th Senatorial, and the 3rd Circuit and Chancery Court Districts, and should be entitled to one member in the lower branch of the State Legislature in connection with Tunica County, and that said county should receive its proportion of the common school fund, as other counties of the state." (2)

### Name Selected for County and County Seat

The new county was named for John A. Quitman, a distinguished citizen, who was born in New York in 1798, and who moved to Mississippi in 1821, and soon

- (1) Dunbar Rowland's Heart of the South, Vol. II
- (2) Record in Circuit Clerk's Office, and Heart of the South - Dunbar Rowland, Vol. II

became a prominent lawyer at Natchez. At one time, he was elected president of the State Senate, and later, governor of the State.

When war with Mexico was declared, the First Mississippi Regiment was organized and was a part of General Quitman's Brigade. He rendered himself conspicuous by his gallantry at Belen Gate, where he was first among those to enter the proud capital city of Mexico. Hence, it was decided that the courthouse town should bear the name of this historic gate.

In 1908, Judge M. E. Denton organized the Marks Township Company, laid off the town of Marks, and named it for Leopold Marks, pioneer settler of the county. The county seat was then located there by special election.

### Hill Home was First Courthouse

The story of the creation of the new county called Quitman and that of its first white settler, Tom Hill, are so closely interwoven that they may well be told together; the Hill home, located on the bank of Coldwater River, was used for the first courthouse.

The Act creating the county, however, directed that the seat of justice be located by the Board of Supervisors at a point on the west side of Coldwater River, and that it be called Belen. Subsequently, in 1883, the courthouse was moved to this village, which extended to the west of the county. (1) An old log house was used as the jail and a blacksmith's shop was the courthouse. Then, when the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad avoided that place in the early nineties and passed through the center of the county, the county seat was transferred to Marks, and has remained there since. (2)

### Stories Connected with Thos. H. Hill

Various tales have been handed down of the aforementioned Hill, two of which are given here for what they may be worth to this history. One is: In 1861, Mr. Hill, a bachelor from Panola County, decided to migrate to Texas, and as he crossed Coldwater River at a location which is now Marks, he noted the great richness of the soil, and resolved that this would be a suitable place on which to settle. Immediately, he started building a brick home and with the aid of his slaves it was soon completed. By making

- (1) Record in Circuit Clerks' office
- (2) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram.



the walls a thickness of nine bricks, he fortified his house against any outside attack, a constant cause of dread to all new-comers in this wild and unsettled land. The building was commodious, containing slave quarters in the rear. The land which he bought from the government, and later became his plantation, occupied all the north end of river front; not long after, Tom Hill was domiciled in his new home, the War between the States broke out. However, he was not responsive to its call, and took his faithful slaves and fled to Whitening Thicket to make his abode in an old shack until the end of the war. (1)

The other, as told by George Moreland in the Commercial Appeal, of December 9, 1928, is as follows:

"The story of the coming of this first white settler - or certainly among the first - is interesting. His name was Thomas B. Hill. Whence he came the analysts have not learned. That he was a man of wealth and affluence is apparent, because it is known he brought along 100 slaves, using them to clear a great plantation in the heart of the wilderness along what was then called Moore's Bayou, now known as Cassidy Bayou, which winds through the City of Marks.

"Even before the arrival of this man Hill in the vicinity, a denizen of the wilds - a trapper and woodsman named Moore - had established a home upon the bank of Coldwater on the site, it is said, of the Quitman County courthouse. Hill ousted the old trapper, who, probably, had no legal title to the lands. He departed for parts unknown, and nothing has ever been heard from him. His name for many years applied to the Bayou, but it was later renamed Cassidy Bayou, which name it still retains.

"When Thomas B. Hill died, his slaves buried his body in an Indian mound in the vicinity, but its location is not known now by any citizen of Quitman County. He is said to have been a man of eccentricities and whims. However, he was a man of prominence, and James A. Alcorn, whose home was not far away, was his friend, and often visited him at his 'castle' upon the banks of the Coldwater." (2)

In refutation of, at least the former impression of this man, depicting non-patriotism, county records show that he was awarded for services rendered in the Mexican

(1) Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.

(2) Commercial Appeal, December 9, 1928.



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 brought a large number of slaves with him to clear a great  
 tract of land. He was one of the first settlers along what  
 is now known as the Mississippi River, but known as Cassidy  
 River, which flows through the town of Marks.

Very little is known of this man Hill in the  
 early days of the colony. He was a trapper and woods-  
 man. He was the first to build a house upon the bank  
 of the river in the city, it is said, of the Quitman  
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 However, he was a man of prominence, and James A. Al-  
 corn, whose home was not far away, was his friend, and  
 often visited him at his 'castle' upon the banks of the  
 bayou. (2)

In confirmation of, at least the former impression of  
 the man, depicting non-patriotism, county records show  
 that he was awarded for services rendered in the Mexican

War, Jackson, Miss.

December 9, 1928.



RESIDENCE STREET, MARKS



War as under the provision of An Act of Congress all soldiers who had fought a length of time in the Mexican War were allowed homestead land. Through this Act, Thomas B. Hill, an early settler of Quitman County, obtained title to 161 acres of land on October 4, 1849, which, later became known as The Hill Place. This now is section 33, near the town of Marks.

In connection with Grants, the Government disposed of land through the Chickasaw School Land Grant, in 1845. Thus, every Sixteenth Section, south of the boundary line was reserved for the schools. There are eight of these sections in the County. All of the Sixteenth Sections north of boundary line, the government rented, and the money was held in trust for school purposes.

When a part of Georgia was added to this territory, and because of the strife and warfare which existed between the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians, a boundary line was drawn so that each of these tribes would have, and could recognize, his own ground. This line runs through the northeast corner of Quitman County, and because of this divisional line, some of the land sections are not over three miles. (1)

#### Early Settlements and Landmarks

Belen, one of the first settlements opened in the county, was peopled by only a few whites and a small number of negroes, who had been slaves to the Hatch and Hill families. Near here lived J. J. Burleyson, or "Uncle Jap," the first voter of the newly-formed county and who, with his family, played an important part in the development of affairs. He acquired a large tract of land and, with his brothers, John and Newt, tilled the soil. His old home is located near Belen, in the center of a plantation which passed out of the Burleyson's possession some years ago. The house is built of logs and has two large bedrooms, with a hall between, and two side rooms. It has been modernized, but the logs are still underneath the weather-barding. The family burial ground is almost a backyard for the place. (2)

Near to the Belen opening, M. M. Gibson, from Cumberland Gap, Virginia, located in 1874, when Quitman was a part of Tunica County. He paid taxes at Austin, Tunica County, while assisting in 1880, in the clearing of the surrounding land—then a wilderness. (3)

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- (1) Quitman County Records.
  - (2) Mrs. Beulah Ashmore, Marks, Miss.
  - (3) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Marks, Miss.



**Darling** was named in honor of Major Darling, civil engineer, who built the Y. & M. V. Railroad; **Hinchcliff**, was named for Titus Hinchcliff, land owner and an early resident of that section. In 1850 A. C. Crowder patented from the Government several thousand acres of land, a part of which was the location of a town. It was named for its founder, **Crowder**; however, the land changed hands in 1900.

Among the oldest settlements of the County, were Shine Turner's neighborhood, Neil's Ferry Crossing, and Riverside. There had been some cultivation, and a few farm houses and cabins had been built. A draw-bridge, operated across the Coldwater river at the Turner place, was a convenience for travelers coming into or leaving the country, and was used particularly, by those coming or going to "the hills." Prayer-meetings and occasional preaching services were held in a log house, which still stands. (1)

Neil's Ferry Crossing, located in the northern part of the county, was built around the ferry. A commissary or store-room was used for dispensing groceries to the neighborhood, (which was a busy one). A livelihood was possible there only through tilling of the soil; the customs of the white dwellers were typical of all pioneers, but they led a contented life. (2)

Riverside attracted a group of settlers because of its nearness to the center of the county, and its easy access from different directions. Quite a few people, principally trappers and hunters, and those who sensed the timber values in the section, were among the first to come. Religious services, as well as any meeting of interest to all, were held under the grove of oak trees growing on the banks of Coldwater River. (3)

The Oak Tree which stands on the bank of Coldwater River in front of the home of S. S. Cox, in Marks, was once a land mark. Pieces of board were placed there to show directions and distances, and from this, old river-men determined their whereabouts. It is said, because of this bit of history, M. I. Marks, son of L. Marks, chose this site for home, which he later sold to S. S. Cox. The spreading branches of this tree were used for a Temple of Justice before any kind of building was erected. (4)

Will Hatch lived here when Quitman County was a part of Tallahatchie, Panola, Tunica, and Coahoma counties.

- (1) Jim Blackmon, Marks, Miss.
- (2) Ibid.
- (3) W. A. Cox, Marks, Miss.
- (4) Philey McArthur, Marks, Miss.

He built and lived in what is known as the "Shine Turner Home," before the War between the States. The first marriage certificate issued in this county was for the union of his daughter, Thirza Hatch, to J. J. Blackmon, in 1877. (1)

According to James A. Blackmon, son of Joe Blackmon, the second sheriff of the county, a ferry was once operated across Coldwater River, near the point where the town of Sledge is located; it was an important point along the way to Tunica County, when land-owners here paid taxes in Austin. It was known as "One-Eyed Gleason's Ferry," and when this was reached, it was "such and such a distance" to Austin. Sledge was named for R. F. Sledge, prominent planter and early citizen. (2)

Fitting tributes should be paid to such early settlers as the Hatch, Jamison, Turner, and other families, among them Joe Blackmon, and John Cooper, second sheriff and clerk, respectively, of the county. (3)

#### A Review of the County's Progress

The following article was read by Sally Denton before a community gathering at the County Library at Marks, on June 12, 1936:

"Within the past several weeks some very happy and interesting observations relative to Quitman County have been made. There are many traditions in regard to the first settlements, and different stories have come to us of the Indians, and how the mysterious mounds, which dot the county promiscuously, indicate that another civilization was here in prehistoric times. The name, 'Coldwater,' as applied to the river which flows through and drains a good portion of the county, may have been suggested from one of two sources: First, that the river has its origin from a group of very cold springs just over, or on the Tennessee border line, and was consequently referred to as Coldwater River; the other, as given by Judge M. E. Denton to Mr. Moreland was, that in winter the Mississippi River would bear down on its breast great floes of ice from the frozen Northland; the water flowing through the Yazoo Pass into Coldwater River would float ice that way. Thus, while the other rivers of Mississippi were free from the floes, this little stream would present the unusual spectacle of floating ice. The Indians, ever ready with suggestions, called this river by an Indian name, which, in

- (1) W. A. Cox, Marks, Miss.
- (2) James Blackmon, Marks, Miss.
- (3) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.



English, meant 'Coldwater.' Since the construction of the levees, preventing the waters of the Mississippi from passing that way, there are no longer ice floes in Coldwater, but the significant name still remains to remind annalists of a period in Mississippi's history which has been altered by the ingenuity of man.

"So much for tradition and sentiment, but, just now, we are interested in facts - how our county came to be, and its development; It was organized February 1, 1877, portions of Panola, Tunica, Coahoma, and Tallahatchie Counties, respectively, being taken for the formation of the new county. In a recent chart, county government, roads, transportation, industries, education, and health were discussed as the outstanding factors in the development of the county, and as we studied these subjects we were pleased to note unusual progress, and we would like to pass these findings on to you in statistical form, but time forbids. Suffice it to say that, from the beginning, we have had a wise and prudent Government; roads and transportation have improved with drainage and gravel, with a sprinkle of concrete; standards of education have been brought up from a one-teacher, non-graded school, to well classified ones, taught by skilled or well paid teachers, with brick buildings equipped in an up-to-date way for teaching, not only of regular courses, but many extra curricula subjects. Then, we have come from the insect infested, (principally, flies and mosquitoes) period, when there were no screens and disease was rampant, to the time when we are taking every precautionary measure conducive to good health. Where we once had driven pumps, we now have artesian wells, over fifty in the county; and where we once had our faithful old country doctor who sometimes would get to you, bringing his pills etc., in his saddle pockets, a day or so after he was notified that he was needed, we now have drug stores, hospitals, part time nurses, and a County Health Officer.

"In the field of industry we go back to the time of timber cutting and floating logs down the river to market, and after the land was cleared came farming, principally cotton, and the raising of chickens and hogs for family consumption engaged our people. In olden times, cotton was ginned by mule power - now we have electric gins.

"In 1917 there were five lumber plants at Crowder, employing 450 men, with a payroll of \$10,000 weekly. There were, also, two barrel factories, and Mr. Phelps



and the "ice bridge." Since the construction of the levee, which kept the waters of the Mississippi from rising too high, there are no longer ice floes in the river, but the significant name still remains to remind us that it is a period in Mississippi's history which was the result of the ingenuity of man.

[illegible]

The last phase of development was to build to the time of  
the river to market,  
and the building of the bridge, principally  
for family  
cotton gins. The river gins, cotton  
gins and electric gins.

... ..  
... .. at Crowder,  
... .. \$10,000 weekly.  
... .. and Mr. Phelps



MAIN STREET LOOKING WEST  
MARKS



owned and operated a stave factory successfully at Marks. Among present industries are: The Quitman County Meat Curing Plant, Hatcheries, and Ice Factory.

"In conclusion, we would pay homage to those who successfully blazed the trail and who have given us an inheritance of which we are justly proud----- QUITMAN COUNTY."

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Cox, W. A.	Marks, Miss.
Denton, Mrs. Blanche	Marks, Miss.
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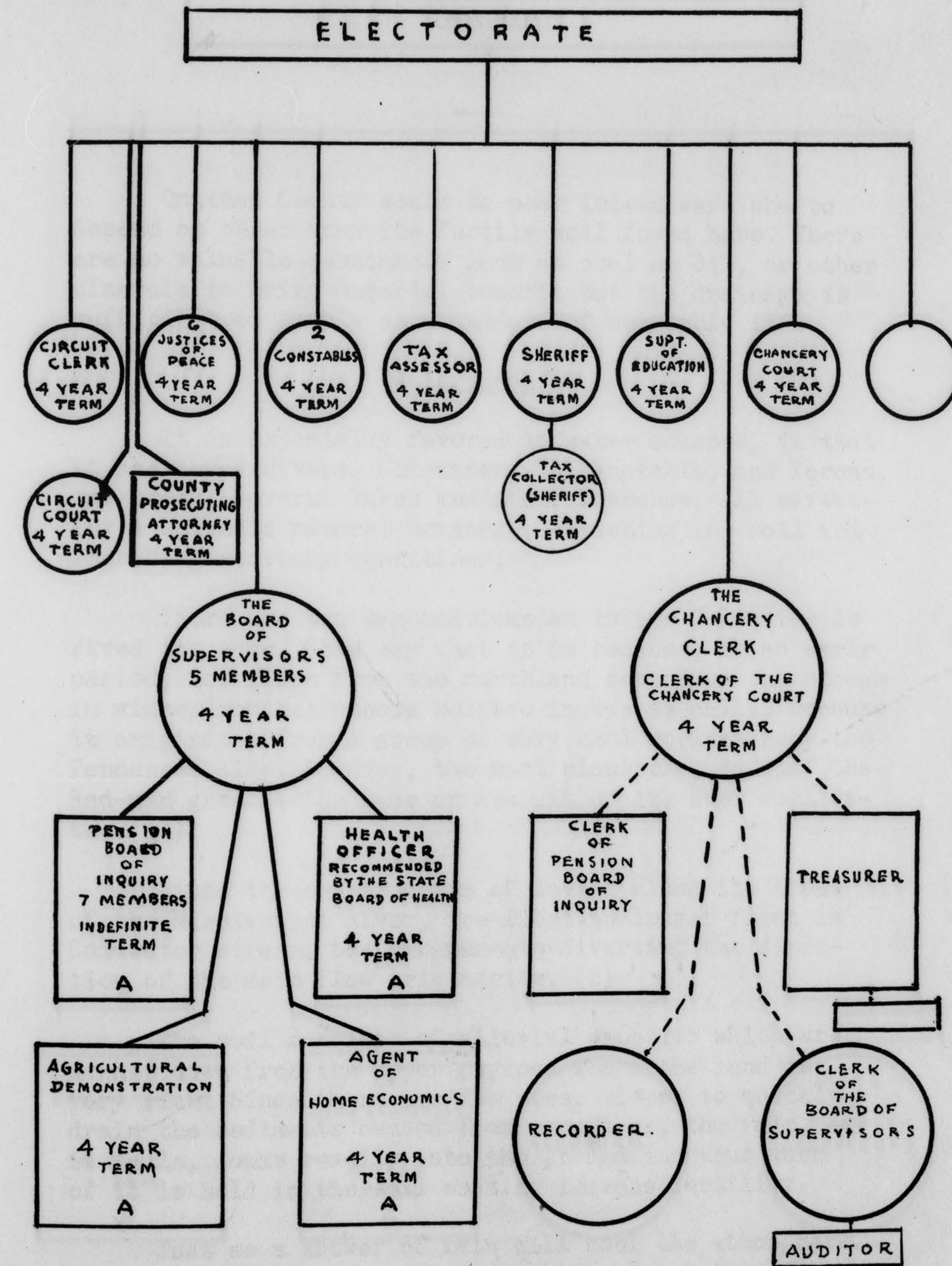
Rowland, Dunbar	<u>Commercial Appeal</u> , 1928
	<u>Heart of the South</u> Vol. II
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	Office.



☐ Not sustained by  
☐ Appositive.  
☐ Dotted line



# CHART OF GOVERNMENT QUITMAN COUNTY



O Established by Constitution. Made Elective by Statute.  
 □ Established and made Elective by statute.  
 A Appointive.  
 ..... Dotted line indicate Ex-officio Offices.



## Chapter II

## TOPOGRAPHY

Quitman County would be poor indeed were she to depend on other than the fertile soil found here. There are no valuable substances such as coal or oil, or other minerals to bring material benefit but the drainage is sufficient to supply an abundance of vegetable life.

## Watersheds

It is especially favored in water courses, in that it has three rivers, Coldwater, Tallahatchie, and Yocona, one creek, several lakes and other branches, all effecting a splendid natural drainage, enriching the soil and improving sanitary conditions.

There are two suppositions as to how Coldwater derived its name. Some say that it is because, in an early period, ice floes from the northland came down the stream in winter months; others believe it was so called because it originates from a group of very cool springs near the Tennessee line. However, the most plausible, is that the Red-man gave it the name on account of its ever cool water. (1)

Since the construction of levees along the banks of the Mississippi River, ice-floes no longer float in Coldwater stream, the embankments diverting the direction of the main flow tributaries. (2)

The soil consists of alluvial deposits which are washed down from the upper regions where the land is very rich. Since there are few steep slopes to quickly drain the sediments caused from overflows, the rain, as it falls, soaks readily into the ground and thus much of it is held in the soil causing immense fertility.

Just as a shower of rain will cool the atmosphere, so will the temperature around a body of running water be cooled. Because of the numerous lakes and bayous, over fifty, in Quitman County and the small proportions of the

- (1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram  
(2) Louise Yeager



county it is sure that the general temperature is somewhat cooler. Also, breezes fan the branches of the trees and bushes which are alongside the banks of these streams.

Although the soil around the lakes and bayous is heavy and fertile it is evident that the streams are beneficial to the general health of the people at large. This is because of the natural drainage which dries the earth and atmosphere. Too, the number of malarial mosquitoes is greatly reduced where we find good drainage.

Coldwater River flows into the county from the north, out again, into Tunica, and back through its northwest corner, running southeast in an irregular way, turning east, and slightly north, where it makes another turn, to meander south-westerly until it empties into the Tallahatchie. It is said to be one of the most crooked rivers in the world.

The Yocona River has its source in Pontotoc County, flowing in an almost westerly direction, coming into Quitman County from the east, and running into the Tallahatchie. The name, Yocona, is from the Indian word Yakni, meaning "land on earth." It was originally called Nocknapatalfa.

Tallahatchie River enters the county from the east, runs in a southwesterly direction for some distance, then turns south, to course the remaining length of the county and empty into the Yazoo River. Little Tallahatchie is a tributary of Tallahatchie River.

These rivers serve as natural drainage which promotes better health. Quitman was not settled so early as other regions of the Delta, and because of the forest or almost dense woods, the land was swampy and people were unhealthy. But as the timber was cleared away and a few levees built here and there the rivers served as avenues of drainage.

**Yazoo Pass:** Besides the rivers and the lone Creek, Fowler, which is in the northern part of the county, near Sledge, is the Yazoo Pass, commonly referred to as the "Pass," a body of water connecting Moon Lake and Coldwater River just on the border line of Quitman County and Coahoma County. This is about sixteen or eighteen miles in length and about the width of a small river. Near the southern border of Quitman County, Coldwater River unites with Tallahatchie and Yocona rivers to form

the Yazoo River, and it was the Yazoo Pass, which afforded the way for General Grant to move from the Mississippi River down into the Coldwater thence into the Yazoo, during the War between the States.

#### Elevation

The highest point in Quitman is 192 feet above sea level. It is in Section 12, Township 7 south, Range 10, west, just east of Crenshaw. Several low points, (145 feet) are found in sections 25, 26, 27, 34, township 26 north, range 1, east.

The Yocona and Bobo lowlands, commonly called "bottoms," lying on and around the streams also lowlands on both sides of the Tallahatchie River, are a part of Quitman County.

When the county was unprotected by levees and we had no drainage the surplus water found its way into certain bottomlands or marshes. With no outlet, certainly, the soil is found to be only mud, not cultivable and with a lot of underbrush and trees. Several of these marshes are in this county and they serve as a refuge for wild life such as squirrels, birds, coons, opossums, ducks, and deer. The marshes are known as Bobo, Chinguapin, Burrel Brake, and Beaver River Brake.

There are no prairie lands, but just about the center of the county lies a portion of land, four or five miles square, which is known as the Flatwoods. This is a favorite retreat for hunters, because of the abundance of wild ducks and other small game.

#### Lakes and Bayous

The following comprise the lakes of the county: Otter, Oxbow, Black, Wilson, David, Boyce, White, Horseshoe, Crondip, Long, Willow, Agar, Blue, Pecan, Yellow, Flag, McNeil, Pruitt, Forked, Fish, Pompey, Whiting, Grassey, Mussel, Hornet, Locust, Squirrel, South, Red, Bear, Little Whiting, Eagle, Clear, Bobo, Buford, Nation, and Lost Lake.

LOST LAKE is classed as a very strange formation, is located in the south central part of the county on what is known as the Barksdale Place. It was originally almost the shape of a tub, with no outlet, but a few years ago, was



opened up to prevent the adjacent land from overflowing. It is said that the bottom has never been reached even by the best divers, and that probably it is partly composed of some rugged substance resembling rock, which is a very plausible supposition, because there is such an abundant growth of water lilies, and yonquapins. There are also strange plants or trees which seem to float instead of having roots in the ground.

Of the many bayous, two of them are unusual: OPOSSUM BAYOU into which empties the Canal, known as the Devil's Race Track, supposedly dug by the natives long ago. Because the Opossum runs into Coldwater they hoped to get through for supplies. CASSIDY BAYOU is among the longest bayous, if not the longest, in the world and springs from Coldwater River, flowsthrough the central part of Quitman County and then out into Coahoma County and back again and out again where it goes on its course through Tallahatchie County. A very strange thing happens at a given point in the extreme lower portion of this county. Cassidy Bayou and Hopson Bayou run parallel and yet Cassidy runs south and Hopson runs north. They are separated only by about six or seven hundred feet.

Other bayous are: Canal, Walnut, Hopson, Ash Log, One Mile, David, Pecan, Burrel, Cassidy, Thomason, Four-mile, Buck, Beech, Bobo, Cry, Opossum, Sledge, Stovall, Muddy, and Otter. Along these bayous the soil is very fertile and the temperature somewhat cooler than afar, but health conditions are not so good on account of the low water holes nearby, which furnish good breeding places for mosquitoes.

#### Springs and Wells

No springs of appreciable size or importance are in the county, but along the banks of Coldwater River, when it is low, are a few natural springs, gushing forth a scant supply of cold but impure water.

Driven pumps and artesian wells afford all water supply. Of the latter there are forty or fifty. Recently, (1937) two wells have been bored, each 900 feet deep. One is located on the home and hospital property of Dr. J. E. Furr, in Marks, the other on R. M. D'Orr's Plantation half way between Belen and Marks. The town of Lambert has a new artesian well, 900 feet deep; the water flows through a six inch pipe. The cost of construction



opened up to prevent the adjacent bay from overflowing. It is said that the bottom has never been reached even by the best divers, and that perhaps it is partly composed of some rugged substance resembling rock, which is a very plausible supposition, because there is such an abundant growth of water lilies, and yuccas. There are also strange plants or trees which seem to float instead of having roots in the ground.

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Other bayous are Quack, Walnut, Hopson, Ash Log, One Mile, David, Panna, Panna, Cassidy, Thomason, Four mile, Duck, Beech, Red, Coy, Opossum, Sledge, Stovall, Muddy, and Otter. Along these bayous the soil is very fertile and the temperature somewhat cooler than afar, but health conditions are not so good on account of the low water holes nearby, which furnish good breeding places for mosquitoes.

#### Springs and Wells

No springs of appreciable size or importance are in the county, but along the banks of Coldwater River, when it is low, are a few natural springs, pushing forth a small supply of cold but pure water.

Driven pipes are numerous wells along all water supply. Of the latter there are forty or fifty. Recently, (1907) two wells were bored, each 300 feet deep. One is located on the home and hospital property of Dr. J. S. Ford, the other on R. M. D'Orr's Plantation. Both are drilled with a 12 inch pipe. The town of Lambert has a well drilled with a 12 inch pipe. The cost of construction



CASSIDY BAYOU, BELEN



of this well was twenty nine hundred dollars (\$2900.00). The town officials furnish the railroad company water from this well. A reservoir is placed to catch all waste water and this is pumped into the railroad tank. This water has been analyzed and rates as the second purest water in the state. The town of Marks has a well that cost twenty-eight hundred dollars (\$2800.00).

Wells with pumps are principally used on small plantations where the owners are not able to have artesian wells. The pumps are from thirty to fifty feet deep and the water is hard, is not good for washing or cooking purposes.

#### References

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Yeager, Louise	Marks, Miss.

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Moreland, George M.	<u>Column in Commercial</u>
	<u>Appeal, December 9, 1928</u>
	<u>Official Map of Quitman</u>
	<u>County, used by Paul</u>
	<u>Claxton, Engineer</u>



of this well was twenty nine hundred dollars (\$2,900.00). The town officials furnish the railroad company water from this well. A reservoir is placed to catch all waste water and this is pumped into the railroad tank. This water has been analyzed and rated as the second purest water in the state. The town of Hurst has a well that cost twenty-eight hundred dollars (\$2,800.00).

Wells with pumps are principally used on small plantations where the pumpers are not able to have an eastern well. The pumpers are first tried to lift the deep and the water is pure, is not good for drinking or cooking purposes.

Leggett, Mrs. Blanchard  
Leggett, Mrs. Blanchard  
Leggett, Mrs. Blanchard

Morland, George W.  
Morland, George W.  
Morland, George W.

### Chapter III

#### SOILS AND MINERALS

The soils of Quitman County are derived from the alluvium of the Mississippi River bottoms. Two main classes of soil have been deposited here: The sandy and loamy and the clayey type. The loam soils, especially the coarser varieties, contain quite a bit of clay. There is also silt found. On the list of soil-forming materials there are lime, clay, phosphorus, marls, and potassium.

Soil types are clay, clay loam, silty loam, and fine sandy loam.

The most outstanding series found in Quitman County may be divided into two main groups: Sharkey Soils and Sarpy Soils. These are opposite in nature, the Sharkey having heavy clay subsoils, and locally called "buckshot" land, and the Sarpy being composed of light-textured subsoils. In some small areas we have the Yazoo series, and in the southeast part of the county is an area of the Collins type.

#### Soil Series

Surface soils of the Sharkey series run from a snuff-color to drab, while the subsoils seem to be of several different decided colors, producing a mottled effect. In certain lowlands the surface soil is nearly black, this being caused by organic matter which has been left by water standing a greater part of the year. Also this matter is often deposited back from the principal drainage sources by this quiet overflow water. On drying, the soil cracks, and is locally known as "buckshot."

Sarpy soils are characteristically known as brown on the surface, and lighter-brown in the subsoil. The texture is much lighter in the subsoil than at the surface. The surface color varies from place to place, running from brown to brownish-drab, or very dark, almost black when wet. The rather-open structure of the subsoils and light texture give chance for good drainage in these soils.



The silty clay loam of the Yazoo series is found here but is not extensive. The top soil is of a brownish color and the subsoil is yellow. Due to the impervious character of the subsoil, it is much less productive than associated Sharkey soils.

In a certain part of the county, in the vicinity of Crowder (just on the dividing line of Panola and Quitman counties) is the Collins series, extremely light and pliable in texture. This is very rich, and would be highly productive except for the lack of proper drainage.

The Sharkey very fine sandy loam, of brown to light-brown color and heavier with depth, is crumbly, but becomes plastic when wet. It is well adapted to the raising of cotton, corn, oats, cowpeas, and forage crops. This type is well suited to rose culture.

The Sharkey clay, found in Quitman County, is so closely associated with other types that it is hard to state with accuracy its separate value. General rotation of crops greatly improves this, as well as other types. The color on the surface is of a rather mottled color, becoming somewhat lighter deeper down. The subsoil is more plastic than the surface material. This soil can be plowed in a very wet condition, and any clods which form will crumble down and settle after intermittent periods of rainy and dry weather, which we usually have in the spring. It is known in Quitman County, as well as throughout the Mississippi bottoms, as "buckshot" land.

Sharkey silty clay loam is usually found between the areas of the Sarpy soils and the better drained phase of the Sharkey clay. It lies slightly higher as a rule, than the better-drained phase of the Sharkey clay, and is high enough for successful cultivation, without artificial drainage. Cotton, corn, and forage crops grow abundantly here.

The Sarpy clay is a strong soil, and good yields are obtained without the use of a fertilizer. Originally, we found this soil heavily timbered with sweet gum, overcup oak, red oak, and pecan, with a thick undergrowth of cane. This clay is a dark-brown to dark-drab clay on the surface, and turning into a yellowish brown-rusty brown and drab color. It is plastic to a good extent.

This surface soil of the Sarpy fine sandy loam consists of a light brown, loamy fine sand. In places, the subsoil passes from a yellowish brown to a mottled effect. The type seems to be of little importance. However, cotton does very well here, also Irish and sweet potatoes and cowpeas are raised on this type. This type, by reason of good drainage, is good for vegetables and melons.

The colors found in the Sarpy silt loam are light brown and yellowish-brown in the subsoil, while the surface is dark brown. The silt loam usually occurs just back from the Sarpy very fine sandy loam, and sometimes lies between that type and the Sarpy silty clay loam. It is a strong soil, well suited to all the common crops, and where there is rotation in crops, it becomes highly productive. Red clover and lespedeza are grown as forage crops; also sorghum and sweet potatoes do well. There was on this soil much forest growth, consisting of cottonwood, sycamore, red oak, sweet gum, pecan, and other hardwoods.

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## Chapter IV

## FLORA

Though there are no National Reserves in the county, (1936) the American Legion Post, of Charleston, Tallahatchie County, made an effort to establish a hunting reserve with a large portion of it lying in Tallahatchie and almost three or four thousand acres in Quitman. They failed to obtain a title from the state, thereby being forbidden any custody. However, interested persons keep a careful watch so as to prevent the slaying of game ruthlessly by hunters who come here from far and near to "bag" big game - principally deer and bear. (1)

A privately owned bird reserve of three hundred acres or more is situated in the east-central part of the county. Lespedeza is grown here as food for hundreds of quail, each year.

Forest Trees and Forest Types

Growing here are oaks - red, white, water, post, and over cup; ash, white and green; locust - black and honey; also sweet gum, black gum, Tupelo gum, elm, maple, hickory, dogwood, cottonwood, walnut, pecan, and persimmon.

Fruit and nut-bearing trees are: pear, fig, plum, quince, peach, apple, cherry, persimmon, pawpaw, pecan, walnut, hickory, and red haw, which bears a berry useful for home purposes.

Nearly one-half of the land in the county is woodland. According to the latest available figures (1930 census), the woodland amounted to about 121,169 acres. The important regions are: Approximately 12,000 acres adjoining the state farm in the south; 7,040 acres five miles south of Crowder; 8,000 acres eight miles northwest of Marks; and 24,960 acres one mile north of Crowder, two miles east of Marks. The remainder of the woodland is scattered back of the different farms.

Economic Value of Forests

Trees improve and build up the soil. Certain kinds, moreover, like the locust and acacias, build up poor soil

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(1) Douglas Carr, Sr., Marks, Miss.



through the nitrogen-gathering bacteria in the root nodules; leaves, small twigs, and other tree-litter decompose and form a layer of dark-colored vegetable mold which enriches the soil and stores up soil moisture.

By means of the layer of mold, the binding of the soil by the roots of the trees, and the resistance of the trunks to the rapid flow of water, the woods prevent floods from gullyng or destroying the land by erosion, particularly on the steep slopes.

In their relation to climate, the forests may be considered great natural reservoirs, which accumulate the rainfall in the thick covering of decaying humus beneath the trees, while the heavy foliage, shutting out the sun, prevents rapid evaporation. Not only does the forest preserve the earth's moisture; it also moderates the winds.

We have an area of about fifty thousand acres of woodland in the county where the timber is cut and shipped principally to The Mississippi Valley Lumber Company in Clarksdale, Welch Lumber Company in Memphis, and Shannon Brothers in Memphis. This area is called "Bobo Woods," and is owned by the state. Livestock is excluded, because invariably they cause damage to the trees by nipping off the branches and peeling the bark.

Most of the industries buy their supplies largely in the log; persimmon, ash, and hickory -- most important hardwoods -- range from about forty to sixty dollars per thousand feet; also oak, gum, maple, sycamore, and birch are among the principal hardwoods grown here. Three million feet of hardwood have been shipped out of the county this season, yet there is a remainder of about 15,000,000 feet.

The Caledonian Plantation, managed by G. O. Denton, of Belen, has a private forest, with an estimate of about 860 acres, which consists largely of maple and oak; an offer of \$10,000, was made recently for this property. G.D. Whitaker, also of Belen, owns a private forest of 110 acres of oak and hickory.

Eight or ten "ground hog" sawmills are in the county, usually at some central locality on different plantations. Rough lumber, used for improvement on the farms, is sawed at these mills.

There is an eight-acre cypress brake on the sixteenth section school land that is valued at over a thousand dollars.

Forest trees on a farm increase the income and the value of the farm in the following ways: By making waste-lands yield a profit by growing timber on them; furnish employment for men and teams during spare time; utilizing timber for better advantages; and marketing the higher grades of wood products to consumers at fair prices. It is estimated that 300,000 board feet of logs, ten carloads of piling, and two carloads of posts are shipped annually to markets.

#### Cutting and Handling Timber on the Farms

The amount of timber cut and handled on the farms is negligible. When there is found a place around the farm where fences are to be built, the hands on the place cut the trees down with axes and haul them to the nearby mill to be sawed into rough lumber; posts are also "split" by farm help; sometimes the lumber is used to construct out-houses, chicken runs, etc., and repair run-down cabins; cotton platforms, also, are built of this lumber.

#### Marketing Farm Timber

There is no cooperative marketing in the timber business for dealers in Quitman County. Each man handles his own shipment from the woods to the buyer. Men are sometime hired at from \$1.50 to \$2.00 a day to cut the trees down with axes or with saws, and the logs are then loaded by men and derricks on trucks and carried to Clarksdale, to the Mississippi Valley Lumber Company; or the logs may be taken to the nearest railroad shipping point, then sent to Memphis and sold to the following firms: Welch Lumber Company, Shannon Brothers, and Memphis Veneering Plant.

It is estimated that fifteen carloads of timber leave Quitman County daily during the dry season or summer months. Number one persimmon brings \$60.00 per thousand, usually; but one man, according to Paul Claxon, county engineer, received \$65.00 per thousand for 8,000 of this in 1935; varieties bringing lowest prices are: Tupelo gum, sweet gum, and elm. Cottonwood, ranges from \$12.00 to \$9.00 per thousand feet. However, the average prices, aside from these, range from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per thousand feet. (1)

#### Protecting the Woods

There is no organized effort at present to protect our

(1) Jim Blackmon, Marks, Miss.; R.M. D'Orr, Marks, Miss., and Willard Jamison, Marks, Miss.



woods. A forty-acre tract of land owned by Miss Alice Gibson, near Belen, is fenced closely and posted against trespassers of any kind. There is no waste of timber here; and game is allowed to increase without being disturbed by hunters. Lately, there was found a white squirrel in this woodland. No particular efforts are made in this county for forest improvement and reproduction.

#### Street and Highway Trees

As a result of the Works Progress Administration Beautification Project and the efforts of the Garden Club of Marks, there have been planted along the highways an abundance of crepe myrtle, red bud, weeping willows, and water oak. Pink crepe myrtle has been rather extensively used on the town streets, and is watered, mulched, trimmed, and generally cared for by the garden club members. (1)

#### Tree Survey

"I think that I shall never see  
A poem as lovely as a tree."

In the Partee lot at Belen, and among the oldest sites in the county, stands a pin oak tree with a rugged bark that measures seventeen feet in circumference, the bole extends six feet above the ground and then divides into two branches, forming a large crown. One of the branches is nine feet at the base, while the other is ten feet. The small leaves are slender and tough.

In the southwest corner of the yard of the G. O. Denton residence at Belen, stands a proud old water oak with a circumference of twelve and one-half feet. According to Mrs. Denton's estimation it is over one hundred years old. Some time ago the branches became so huge and spreading that it was necessary to have them trimmed to protect the house.

The colorful history of a tree is related as follows: In 1889 William Wallace Steadman migrated to Quitman County from Natchez, and settled in what is now known as the Birdie community. Along with his personal possessions, Steadman wanted to bring something that might act as a reminder of the years he had spent in South Mississippi, therefore he packed two small trees, one a cedar, the other a pear, in a little box of southern soil. They were planted on the premises of his new home and as time

(1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Marks, Miss.

on, the trees, adapted themselves to a new climate, reaching full maturity. In the meanwhile their owner and keeper had acquired a large family of children and grandchildren. Today, long after Mr. Steadman has passed away, the property is in the hands of a son; the cedar has grown to the circumference of five feet while the pear is two feet in circumference. Strange as it may seem, though the pear is almost a half century old, it still bears fruit of a quality that can be preserved. (1)

Near the entrance to the old home site of Mrs. W.P. Porter, of Sledge, stands a magnificent red oak more than a hundred years old and with a circumference of seventeen feet and five inches. Its numerous spreading branches with dense pear shaped foliage, afford ideal shade and speak a voiceless language of the past. This living monument of the years grows slowly, with a surface of medium rugged bark which is sometimes used for a medicinal astringent. Also flourishing on the expansive lawn of the Porter home are several other interesting trees. A flowering catalpa, fifty years of age, is of rapid growth with a purple-tinted white blossom and a grayish coarse bark. Its circumference is seven feet and eight inches, and its irregular spreading branches have a very broad sheltering foliage. Two graceful Austrian pines, though twenty-seven years of age, have only a circumference of five inches each; this slow growth being attributable to the unsuitable climate. Their limbs grow straight, forming needles and have an extremely rough bark, secreting a solid inflammable substance known as resin, often used commercially. A hawthorne tree twenty-seven years old, with a circumference of thirty-five inches, is also among this group. Low in statue, it has small white blossoms with a pungent odor. In the fall of the year it bears red berries and is believed to be the most beautifully flowered and berried tree of the South. (2)

Located at the J. H. Jennings home, two miles south of Walnut, stands a huge old red oak tree with a circumference of sixteen feet. Though it is short and sturdy, branches are long and closely set, making an ideal shade when in full foliage. The bark is rugged and very dark. Though the commercial value is very high, it is prized by the Jennings family principally for its shade and beauty. Another red oak nearly a hundred years old is located in the southeast corner just outside the yard of the late C. W. Partee residence; has a circumference of eleven feet. (3)

(1) R. Steadman, Sledge, Miss. (Rural Route).

(2) Mrs. W. P. Porter, Sledge, Miss. (Rural Route)

(3) Mrs. Willis Neil, Walnut, Miss.



A magnificent old red oak with a circumference of fourteen feet stands at the front entrance of the Methodist church in Belen.

Near the Burleyson home site is a stately old cottonwood measuring thirteen feet in circumference; due to its hundred years of growth, this tree is of an enormous size. Being rather closely situated to Cassidy Bayou, it thrives in the moist soil; the blossoms shedding, transplant themselves, and the leaves are very large. The bark of the cottonwood is scaly and light in color.

Forty yards east of Whitehead Bridge, which is two and one-half miles northeast of Darling, on the banks of the Coldwater River, stands another cottonwood tree with a circumference of four feet, and it is fifty feet to the first limb.

A magnificent old hackberry, passing the century mark in age, stands on the south side of the yard, near the street at the home of Mrs. J. L. Ikerd, of Belen; an ivy vine completely covers the entire bole of the tree. The wood of the hackberry is brittle, and is impregnable to disease. (1)

One of the oldest trees in the county, a very large water oak, stands in the yard of the Shine Turner old home, six miles southeast of Lambert on Coldwater River, and measures thirteen feet and ten inches in circumference. The bark is very rugged and the branches grow low, affording an ideally shady spot. The historic importance of the tree lies in the fact that during the flood of 1882-83 one of its huge limbs served as a place of refuge for Mr. Turner. Having been warned of the rising waters, Turner persuaded his family to go to the hills for shelter and security, while he remained at home to protect the property and livestock. When he realized the inundation was upon him, he climbed to the attic of the house for safety, where he crouched for several hours. From here he watched, only to see roofs and walls of houses, lifeless bodies of farm animals, household goods, bridges and barrels hurtling past in the swift current or floating more slowly on the calmer waters near at hand, so he gathered up his bedding and dragged it through the single attic window onto the limb of the oak tree, which was several feet higher than the house. Here, he remained two or three days and nights, until rescued by friends. (2)

At the S.E. Jones home, four miles west of Belen, is

- (1) Mrs. J. L. Ikerd, Belen, Miss.
- (2) Miss Annie V. Turner, Marks, Miss.

an enormous old white oak tree. The land where the house is located is very high, but it slopes gently where the tree stands, and erosion has worn away the soil from around the tree until its roots resemble gigantic talons. The magnificent bole, thirteen feet and two inches in circumference, supports a top which, when in the full foliage of summer, shades the yard and house like a gigantic green umbrella. This type of tree is inclined to grow slowly; its smooth bark is light in color; the scalloped leaves are very large, and the timber is valuable. It is stated that this tree, much over a half century old, still stands staunch, magnificent, and unchanged. (1)

One mile east of Marks is an elm tree which marks the site of the old Jamison Ferry Landing and the Jamison old home - one of the oldest in the county. Because of the moist and fertile soil, this elm has grown to be of an enormous height and with a circumference of fifteen feet. The large spreading crown, symmetrical and graceful, proves to be of great advantage as a shade. The elm is the first tree to bud in the spring; its wood is close-grained and very hard. (2)

On the banks of Coldwater River, four and three-fourths miles east of Crowder, stands a black oak tree measuring four feet in circumference and which has in its body, three feet above the ground, a hole made by a cannon ball fired from General Grant's boat as he traveled down the Coldwater to the Yazoo, thence to Vicksburg. Lieutenant General E. H. McGinty, father of Mrs. F. W. Garrett, of Crowder, was on the boat at the time. Black oak wood is filled with knots, causing the timber to be of little value. (3)

According to L. G. Newsom, one of the interested settlers in Quitman County, the pin oak, located west of the railroad on 4th and West Main Streets, in the town of Marks, is one of the oldest trees here. It stands on property bought by A.P. Brown in 1908. In 1922, the Mississippi Power and Light Company offered to buy the tree because of their franchise to put lines in streets and alleys; Brown finally agreed that the tree might be trimmed, for which he received \$250. With a short, stubby trunk, and a circumference of seven feet, its spangled leaves are small and slender; the bark is rather rugged and has a silvery appearance. (4)

In 1934, the house on this lot burned and part of the tree was destroyed, but it lives on.

- (1) Julius Jones, Lyon, Miss.
- (2) Miss Alice Jamison, Marks, Miss.
- (3) Mrs. F. W. Garrett, Crowder, Miss.
- (4) L. G. Newsom, Marks, Miss.



On Darby Street, east of the railroad in the town of Lambert, is a mimosa tree. This flowering tree has blossoms resembling powder puffs, and color shading from a pink base to almost white at the tip and of the petals. Being a moderate grower, this tree is only one foot in circumference; one of the characteristics of the mimosa is that it grows crooked and the blossoms close at night; the bark is rather smooth, and the attractive leaves are very large. (1)

Many flowering trees have a long and honorable garden history, but none has a better record of candor and beauty than this genus of the leguminous plant. It is worthwhile for its own showy presence and grows in beauty and interest every year.

Located in Miss Annie V. Turner's garden, in Marks, is another mimosa, and also a beautiful magnolia with a circumference of four feet. (2)

Standing in the front yard of Mrs. W. A. Cole's home at Lambert, is a tulip tree, six inches in circumference, and characteristically smooth-barked; the first mild days of spring - March and April - seem to transform it into a giant bouquet of pink tulips; It always blooms before putting on its foliage, and then sheds the leaves, which are very large, late in the fall. The "Japanese magnolia," and "Tulip tree" refer to one and the same tree, this being rare and expensive. (3)

Located on Second Street, in the front yard of Mary King, negro, of Marks, who has lived here since 1920, is a beautiful magnolia tree. It is stated that Pearl Dale lived in this house prior to 1910, and that the tree was there at that time. This type of tree grows very slowly and will not thrive in a cold climate. It unfolds its buds in early springtime, and they blossom into a white loveliness which lasts through the months of May and June, and sometimes a longer season, and flowers diffuse a delicious odor. However, it is not dependent entirely upon its flowers for value and appreciation, as the foliage presents a particularly rich and clean appearance all summer. (4)

A magnolia at Second Street, on Highway 3, and in front of Dr. A. C. Covington's residence, is one foot in circumference, and located two miles south of Walnut, at the Jennings home, is one which measures four feet in circumference. They are both typical with large, thick leathery leaves and great white cup-shaped flowers which bloom

- (1) Mrs. J. P. Walker, Lambert, Miss.
- (2) Miss Annie V. Turner, Marks, Miss.
- (3) Mrs. W. A. Cole, Lambert, Miss.
- (4) Miss Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.



VIEW ON DENTON PLACE  
BELEN



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est sized tree, this tree is only one foot in circumference;  
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upright and the blossoms close at night; the bark is rather  
smooth, and the attractive leaves are very large. (1)

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Walker, Lambert, Miss.  
Annie V. Turner, Marks, Miss.  
Cole, Lambert, Miss.  
Covington, Marks, Miss.



DEER ON DENTON PLACE  
BELEN



throughout the months of May and June. The thick, fleshy roots decay easily if disturbed.

At Marks, on the corner of Coldwater and Walnut Streets, near the bank of the Coldwater River, stands a pin oak tree whose protecting branches once served as the site of justice; here, law-breakers were tried, this being before the old Hill residence was appropriated for the same purpose. This staunch old oak seems to bespeak the past to those who hold closely the memories of the early form of government in Quitman County. Its circumference is ten feet, and it has a bark that is rough and silvery in appearance. (1)

#### WILD LIFE IN QUITMAN COUNTY

Opossums are plentiful in the woodlands here and are hunted for their hides and for the table. Here, as elsewhere in the South, "possum and taters" is regarded as a wonderful dish.

Moles are small, burrowing animals, and not many of these are here; bears and wolves are almost extinct, but one woodsman now has a bear about three months old which was rescued after its mother was killed. He proudly exhibited the black cub on the streets of Marks in July 1936.

Weasels, minks, and raccoons are common animals here; bob cats, the same as a bay lynx, are very common, and some panthers are left in the woods. They belong to the cat family; muskrats, rabbits, cotton patch and can-cutter, black, red, and gray squirrels are rodents of this county;

The quail is a favorite game bird in Quitman County, and several varieties of ducks are valued for hunting and for food; mallards are very common; squealers have pretty plumage, but they are too small for cooking; blue wing and green wing teals are very uncommon and small; wood ducks have nice plumage and brilliantly colored eyes which have orange and blue rings around the pupil; Florida mallard, or black duck, is the biggest species here, but they are scarce; pin tails, which are smaller than mallards, are here, but not in quantity; canvas backs are large and there are numbers of them on the lakes and bayous, and there are a few turkeys in the southern part of the county. Canadian goose and brant are rare.

Mocking birds are plentiful here; robins, orioles, wild canary, and field larks are song birds, while birds of prey are sparrow hawks, sharp shank hawks, cooper hawks, screech owl, horned owl, and barn owl. Shrikes, or French mocking

(1) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.



bird, and blue jays rob nests; crows are destructive here in the springtime.

#### Aquatic Birds

Aquatic birds abound on the numerous lakes and bayous; they are herons, white and blue cranes, and bitterns. Other birds are the nut hatch, sapsucker, humming bird, cliff swallow, martins, black bird, blue bird, killdeer, cow martin, yellow hammer, snipe, sparrow, English, and weeb, and the wood cock. The wood guard, or Indian flicker, is an interesting native bird. He is the sentinel of the woods, and gives alarm if anything is about to happen, such as hunters being near, or dangerous animals roving about. (1)

#### WILD FLOWERS

Wild flowers grow in abundance along the roadside, in the fields, and vacant lots.

Goldenrods have a prolonged season of blooming, and when the bright yellow flower clusters fade, the seeds, tipped with fine feathery hairs, are wafted in every direction.

The dainty pink and white bell-shaped wild morning-glory may be seen almost everywhere in summer, winding and twisting its way among the wayside shrubbery. Its round, leafy stem grows from three to ten feet in length; with the first peep of dawn, the morning glory opens its blossoms to the world, and blooms as late as September.

Springing from amid broad, hairy leaves, the delicately fragrant yellow blossoms of the primrose grow singly on long stems, blossoming during April and May, in colors ranging from bright yellow to the deepest purple.

Common blue violets are found in woodlands, on ditch banks and in marshes during April, May, and June. Other species, such as the round-leaved violet, the sweet white violet, and the Canada violet, also grow wild.

Toward the last of August and through September and October, purple aster blooms and adds much to the charm of autumn; its starlike flower-head varies from a half-inch to nearly two inches in diameter. They spangle every roadside and fence row, and grow in dry, exposed places.

The blue bell is a hardy plant with bell-shaped blossoms which droop on their slender stems, so that the petals form a roof to protect the pollen from the rains.

(1) Hal Denton, Huntsman, Forester, Jackson, Miss.

The first bright yellow blossoms of the dandelions seen in the early spring and throughout the summer, soon turn to white, fluffy balls; whose seeds are scattered by the wind, gaining for it the name of blowball.

The dogwood, which blooms in the early spring, has flowers of white pinkish hue that make the tree a gorgeous sight in the woods.

From May until August the clustered, pink-tinted buds of forget-me-nots, are sometimes found in the dry fields.

Common sunflower is a giant among composite flowers, having large, coarse heart-shaped leaves, and brown-centered golden blossoms, which often measure nearly a foot across.

The water lily, queen of the water, finds its home in the waters along the borders of lakes, in quiet shallow places, where the soil is rich. The thick stems make their way to the surface, adjusting themselves to the water's depth and serving as anchors for the flowers which majestically float in their field of waxy-green leaves. The blossoms usually open and close at dawn and sunset, and their life is about three days. Some expand in the evening only; others close soon after noon; still other varieties remain open throughout the day. These flowers may be found from June until September.

Red-bud has conspicuous, bright, purplish red, pea-shaped flowers in numerous clusters along the twigs and small branches, and appear before, or with the leaves in early spring.

On the road along Coldwater river, south of Marks, is a beautiful hedge one-half mile long, of Osage orange which is a small tree about two or three feet high and has small, light-green flowers. (1)

(1) Mrs. Emma Bailey, Marks, Miss.



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### Chapter V

#### INDIANS

No Indians have lived in Quitman County since it's organization but a few things regarding their characteristic traits, in general, are given here. The Chickasaws and the Choctaws were the only major tribes who inhabited this section. No minor tribes have been known to settle here.

#### The Choctaws

The Choctaw tribe was the largest in Mississippi and owned one half of the state. Their land reached from the central part of the state to the northeastern.

In personal appearance the Choctaws were slender in form and very active, unclean, and slovenly in their appearance. Their heads were flat, which was effected in this manner: "As soon as a male child was born the nurse provided a cradle or wooden case, hollowed and fashioned to receive the infant lying prostrate on its back, that part of the case where the head reposes being fashioned like a brick mould. In this portable machine the little boy is fixed, a bag of sand being laid on his forehead, which by continual, gentle compression, gives the head somewhat the form of a brick from the temples upwards; and by these means they have high and lofty foreheads sloping off backwards."

"The Choctaws were divided into three districts. Each district having its principal chief. Mingo Puckshen-nubbee ruled the western district, situated west of Pearl River; Mingo Hommostubbe was chief of the northern district, which adjoined the Chickasaw country. Pushmataha ruled the southeastern district. His residence was near the present site of Meridian. Major John Pitchlynn, United States Interpreter, resided in the northern district, near the mouth of the Oktibbeha, on the Tombigbee."

The Choctaws played an important part in the early history of Quitman County.



### Choctaw Characteristics

"The Choctaw Indians were affectionate and truthful, and their friendship among relatives was worthy of imitation. They excelled all Indians in hospitality, all visitors receiving a hearty welcome, and were entertained royally.

"They love war and are acquainted with strategems. They never fight in order, or stand their ground. They only harass and tease their enemies much, without being cowards; for when they come to close engagements they fight very coolly.

"Some of their women are so fond of their husbands as to go into the wars with them. They stand by their sides in the battle with a quiver full of arrows, and encourage them continually by telling them they ought not to fear their enemies, but die as true men."

### The Chickasaws

"The Chickasaws were not as numerous as the Choctaws, but they were brave and warlike. This tribe was haughty and cruel, and were considered the fiercest and most insolent of all the southern Indians.

"They were excellent swimmers and taught their children this art in pools and clay holes. They were also expert hunters and when they killed a deer they sent their wives to drag it in, and dress, cook, and serve it.

"The men would not cultivate the soil, and when they were not hunting or waging war, they spent their time playing on reed flutes or sleeping, while they left the cultivation and sowing of the seed to the squaws."

### Chickasaw Burial Customs

When a Chickasaw warrior died, his face was painted red and his head annointed with bear's oil. He was dressed in fine garments and was buried in a sitting position with his face toward the east. They placed with him bow and arrows, because it was thought he might need them in the new hunting ground.

### Choctaw Marriage Customs

"When a young Choctaw sees a maiden who pleases his fancy, he watches his opportunity until he finds her alone. He then approaches within a few yards of her and gently casts a pebble toward her, so that it may fall at her feet. He may have to do this three or four times before he attracts the maiden's attention. If this pebble-throwing is agreeable, she soon makes it manifest; if not a scornful look and a decided "edwah" indicate that his suit is in vain.

"When a marriage is agreed upon, the lovers appoint a time and a place for the ceremony. On the wedding day the friends and relatives of the prospective couple meet at their respective houses or villages and thence march toward each other. When they arrive near the marriage ground, generally intermediate space between the two villages, they are within about a hundred yards of each other. The brothers of the woman then go across to the opposite party and bring forward the groom and seat him on a blanket spread upon the ground. The man's sisters then do likewise by going over and bringing forward the woman, and seating her by the side of the man. Sometimes, to furnish a little merriment for the occasion, the woman is expected to break loose and run. Of course she is pursued, captured, and brought back.

"All parties assemble around the expectant couple. A bag of bread is brought forward by the woman's relatives and deposited near her; in like manner the man's relatives bring forward a bag of meat and deposit it near him. The man's friends and relatives now begin to throw presents upon the head and shoulders of the woman. These presents are of any kind that the donors choose to give; as articles of clothing, money, trinkets, ribbons, etc. As soon as thrown, they are quickly snatched off by the woman's relatives and distributed among themselves. During all this time the couple sit very quietly and demurely, not a word being spoken by either.

"When all the presents have been thrown and distributed, the couple (now man and wife) arise, the provisions from the bags spread, and just as in civilized life, the ceremony is rounded off with a festival. The rites over, the company disperses, and the gallant groom conducts his bride to his home, where they enter upon the toils and responsibilities of the future."



### Legends and Beliefs

Tradition tells how the Indian corn came to America:

After the Indians had lived for a long time on the products of the soil and the forests, a crow brought a single grain of corn from across the great waters and gave it to an orphan child, who was playing in the yard near Nanih Waiya, the great mound situated in the southern part of Winston County, Mississippi. The child planted the grain and when it came up, hoed it, hilled it up and laid it by. The plant grew up, bore two ears of corn, and in this way the cultivation of corn began.

According to tradition, immediately after the Choctaw tribe was formed the Great Spirit divided them into clans. One clan was stationed on the north and the other on the west side of a mound. The Great Spirit gave them the law of marriage, which they were never to violate. This law was, that children must marry some one in the opposite clan.

The Choctaws firmly believe that they were created in a mound, and crawled through a hole to see daylight.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws of Quitman County had many stories of love, and war. They sat around the campfire and told them over and over, and had a favorite animal story that they liked to tell repeatedly. It is similar to the old fable that the white people tell about the hare and the tortoise.

They were frightened when the sun was in eclipse, and believed that it was being eaten up by wild animals. When it began to grow dark, they made great noises, shot arrows and threw stones and sticks at the sun.

Pushmataha was the greatest chief of the Choctaws. Because of his lowly birth he claimed he had his origin at the spot where a great, magnificent red oak tree stood for years, when it was splintered by a lightning storm.

### Treaty of Doak's Stand

One event important to Mississippi, was known as the Treaty of Doak's Stand, by which the Choctaws ceded to the United States nearly 5,500,000 acres of land in the western and central part of the state, or the southern portion of the Yazoo delta. Thus that

great and fertile tract of land with its marvelous future was brought to the ownership and exploitation of the white race.

The Commissioners for the United States were Andrew Jackson and Thomas Hinds, old comrades-in-arms of the War of 1812, and at this conference serving their country with the same zeal each had displayed on the battlefield.

After negotiations between the American representatives and the Choctaw chiefs had been going forward for more than two weeks, the treaty was signed on October 18, 1820.

The grand council was held at grounds on the Natchez Trace at Doak's Stand, a tavern about four miles north of the southeast corner of the present Madison County, on Pearl River.

Pushmataha and Muschulatubbee, the two great medal chiefs of the Choctaws, were the representatives, (and helpless ones to a great extent) of the Indians in their conference with the Americans. The Indians had 103 representatives at the confab who signed the treaty.

The Choctaw cession comprised all the lands, except a few reservations, which lay west of line drawn northwardly from a point on the former Choctaw boundary, near the southeast corner of Simpson County, to the source of Black Creek, a tributary of the Yazoo; thence westward to its mouth, and from that point, by a direct line, to the Mississippi River, one mile below the mouth of the Arkansas.

### County Opened to Settlers

The broad area was thus thrown open to the white man and to an extension of Christian civilization that would appear even more beautiful, if it reflected more of the spirit of the divine law it sought to uphold. The New Purchase was subsequently erected into the counties of Hinds, Simpson, Copiah, Rankin, Madison, Bolivar, Yazoo, Washington, and Holmes, and was rapidly filled up with new settlers of Anglo-Saxon origin from older communities of the Southern States, and from the southern counties of Mississippi.



### Pushmataha

The Doak's Stand Treaty was nullified by Secretary of War, Calhoun, but in 1825 the cession was carried into effect by new compensations and annuities at the treaty held in Washington, D. C., on the 20th of January of that year.

Both Pushmataha and Mushulatubbee, were delegates to that conference; both died before the treaty was signed. The celebrated Choctaw chief, Pushmataha, was one of the few leading red men of America who, though he was intensely loyal to his own race - acknowledged the growing power of the American Republic, and felt honored to have his part in every crisis that arose; his consistency won him the sincere admiration of the white man.

During his visit to Washington Pushmataha was received with high honor by President Monroe and Secretary of War, Calhoun. The distinguished chieftain also visited General LaFayette, who was then at the National Capitol as the guest of the country, making his tour of the United States.

While in Washington, Pushmataha, unaccustomed to the lavish feasting and drinking, to which he yielded too immoderately, was taken seriously ill and died soon after. One of his biographers writes of his death as follows:

"Finding that his life was drawing rapidly to a close, he expressed the desire that he should be buried with military honors, such as became a warrior, and that the 'big guns' should be fired over his grave. His last request was complied with. He was accorded all the honors of a military funeral, such as befitted a great chief. A procession, civil, and military, more than a mile in length, followed the dead chief to his last resting place in the Congressional cemetery."

"Thus perished Pushmataha," Claiborne continues in eulogistic phrase: "The great Choctaw warrior was of humble and lowly origin; in other words, he could not trace his lineage from a long line of warriors; a fact of which, like the great Napoleon, he was proud."

"Napoleon, at the height of his power, exclaimed:

'I am the founder of my own dynasty.' The great Choctaw chief once said: 'I had no father, no mother, no brother, no sister. The winds howled, the rain fell, the thunder roared and the lightning flashed; a pine tree was shivered, and from its splinters stepped forth Pushmataha with his rifle on his shoulder.'"

Among the statesmen of that day to pay tribute to the famous chieftain were Andrew Jackson and John Randolph, the former characterizing him as "the greatest and the bravest Indian he had ever known." The latter declaring him, in the course of a eulogy pronounced in the United States Senate: "wise in counsel, eloquent in an extraordinary degree, and upon all occasions and under all circumstances the white man's friend."

### Indian Mounds

There are about eight Indian mounds in Quitman County. No two of these are at close range to the other. "Posey Mound," six miles northwest of Marks, on a plantation owned by P.M.B. Self, is now being used for a home site. However, the house that stands on this mound is about sixty feet square and twenty feet high. Evidently the mound is not as high as it originally was, as indications show that it was leveled in order to build the house substantially.

The largest mound in the county is near Coldwater River, six miles northwest of Lambert, but the rains have washed it down considerably. Another large mound is on the Shine Turner plantation.

The mounds have proven to be a place of safety for flood refugees in the recent years. At present there is a cemetery on top of this "Shine Turner Mound," and at the foot of it is a negro church.

There are no Indians living in this county at present.

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I am the founder of my own dynasty. The great chief once said: 'I had no father, no mother, no brother, no sister. The winds huffed, the rain fell, the thunder roared and the lightning flashed, a pine tree was whirled up and the lightning stepped forth from its trunk with its wife on its shoulder, and from that time the world began.'

Among the statements of that day to pay tribute to the famous chief were Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun. The former, interesting him as the greatest and the bravest Indian he had ever known. The latter, associating him, in the course of a speech pronounced in the United States Senate, with all occasions and in an extraordinary degree, and upon all occasions and under all circumstances the white man's friend.

Indian Mounds

There are about eight Indian mounds in Putnam County. No two of these are at about range to the other. 'Turkey Mound', six miles northwest of Lake, on a plain, is the largest. It is now owned by P. B. Self. It is now owned for a home site. However, the house that stands on this mound is about sixty feet square and twenty feet high. Evidently the mound is not as high as it originally was, as the house shows that it was leveled in order to build the house substantially. The largest mound in the county is near Colchester River, six miles northwest of Lake, but the ruins have washed it down considerably. Another large mound is on the same river, six miles northwest of Lake. The mounds have grown to be a place of safety for flood refugees in the recent years. At present there is a cemetery on top of this 'Turkey Mound', and at the foot of it is a negro church. There are no Indians living in this county at present.

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HOME OF MR. J. C. SELF





G. O. DENTON HOME  
BELEN



## Chapter VI

## OLD HOMES

The Old Burleyson Home

Only a few homes of the olden days remain standing here, but among those revered because of its saturation with love, gallantry, hospitality, and purpose, as well as warfare, is the old Burleyson Home, which is located near Belen, in the center of a big plantation, and which was once owned and occupied by J. J. Burleyson and his family.

It is of the usual ante-bellum architecture, built of logs, having two large front bedrooms with a hall between and two side rooms, as they were called at that time.

The old family graveyard where members of the family and their friends were once interred, is now almost a back yard for the place.

Mention of Mr. Burleyson's being the first person to vote in Quitman County is given elsewhere in this history. (1)

Shine Turner Home

On the banks of Coldwater River, almost eight miles from Lambert, a home still stands, the atmosphere of which bespeaks old-time living. Like most homes of that time, it was built of logs, and in the style of the day. Two large bedrooms form the main part of the house and two shed rooms are added. It has a hall-way, where used to hang hunting horns and guns, and where men, coming in from work or hunting, would stop at an impoverished washstand to get "cleaned up" before going to dinner. The wooden bucket, containing water and a gourd dipper, was also kept here. Just back of the house is an Indian mound which served as a place of refuge during the floods of 1882 and 1883, and in front of the

(1) Mrs. Beulah Ashmore, Marks, Miss.



house is a very large Catalpa tree. This house was occupied by the Shine Turner family at the time Quitman County was organized, and is still owned by these children, but it is supposed that it was built by the Hatch family, who lived there before the War between the States.

Miss Jennie Simpson, who afterwards married Mr. Turner, was the first school teacher on the place. "Mr. Shine" was a member of the locally notable Turner family, and is survived by a daughter, Mrs. John Allen, Sr., of Lambert, who is the owner of her father's farm and old home, and a son, George Turner, prominent citizen of Tallahatchie County. (1)

#### Gibson Home

Mrs. Alice Gibson, seventy-four years of age, is the proud owner of a typical home of the olden times, and it is here she now lives with her daughter, Alice, near the village of Belen. There have been several changes made to modernize the appearance, but on investigation, one finds that it is truly ante-bellum and is of the architecture of that day.

A grand old open fireplace has been left intact, and has the old andirons and shovel made at the shop where all things pertaining to the "big house" and farm were welded or molded. A large orchard with fruit trees of various kinds peculiar to this climate is fenced in, around the house. Various garden paths wind through borders of jonquils, violets, many rare roses, as well as trees of crepe myrtles and weeping willows, add much to the loveliness of the place.

To visit this hospitable home is a treat, and the trend of conversation often drifts to the past, when Mrs. Gibson will proudly recount experiences in connection with her coming to the county; this was after her marriage to M. M. Gibson, "Mack," as he was called by the settlers, who came here from Cumberland Gap, Virginia, in 1874, when Quitman County was a part of Tunica County. He paid taxes in Austin, Tunica County, and later assisted in clearing the land, hitherto a wilderness, for the town of Belen, in 1880. This was one of the first settlements to be opened in the county and was peopled only by a very few whites and a small number of blacks, who had been slaves to the old Hatch and Hill families. (2)

- (1) Mrs. J. S. Allen, Sr., Lambert, Miss.  
Mrs. Lelia Turner, Marks, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. Alice Gibson, Belen, Miss.

#### The Davis Home

The R. S. (Bob) Davis Home is among our old home sites. In fact, this home and the S. E. Jones Home are the two oldest sites in the county, and was first known as the Maddux Home. Robert B. Maddux, with his wife and four children, Hugh, Lou, Ula, Musie, came here from near Friars Point and bought a tract of woodland from the state. A seven-room house, along with the slave quarters, were made of logs hewn by the slaves.

After Mr. and Mrs. Maddux's death, the children went to Cotton Plant, Arkansas, to live with an uncle, and there, Lou Maddux, age sixteen, married Robert Simpson Davis, age seventeen, on October 18, 1871, after which they returned to the old home site; then Ula married Captain Elliot. The property was divided and the heirs "drew straws" to see who would get the home place. Lou Maddux Davis was the successful one, and about 1872-1873, the place became known as the "Davis Home." Later, Lou Maddux died, leaving two children, who lived only a short time after their mother's death. Sometime after this, the county line was run through this place, leaving a part of it in Coahoma County, and home-site in Quitman County.

On October 20, 1878, Davis married Martha McEchen Webb, of Abbeville, and to them were born six children. In 1899, the log house was torn down and the one that now stands, was built. A large screened-in front porch, made comfortable for loungers, with swings and cushioned chairs, is quite inviting; a ten-foot hall is joined by two rooms on the left and two on the right, each of these being eighteen feet square; kitchen and dining room are built on an ell; dining room extends through the hall. A screened-in porch joins the kitchen at the side.

Mr. Davis died June 9, 1928, at the age of seventy-five, after living at this one place for fifty-eight years. (1)

#### S. E. Jones Home

The site of this home was among the first places to be cleared while Quitman was yet a part of Coahoma, Tunica, Tallahatchie, and Panola counties, and it is difficult to separate the story of the Jones family from that of the old edifice itself.

- (1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Marks, Miss.

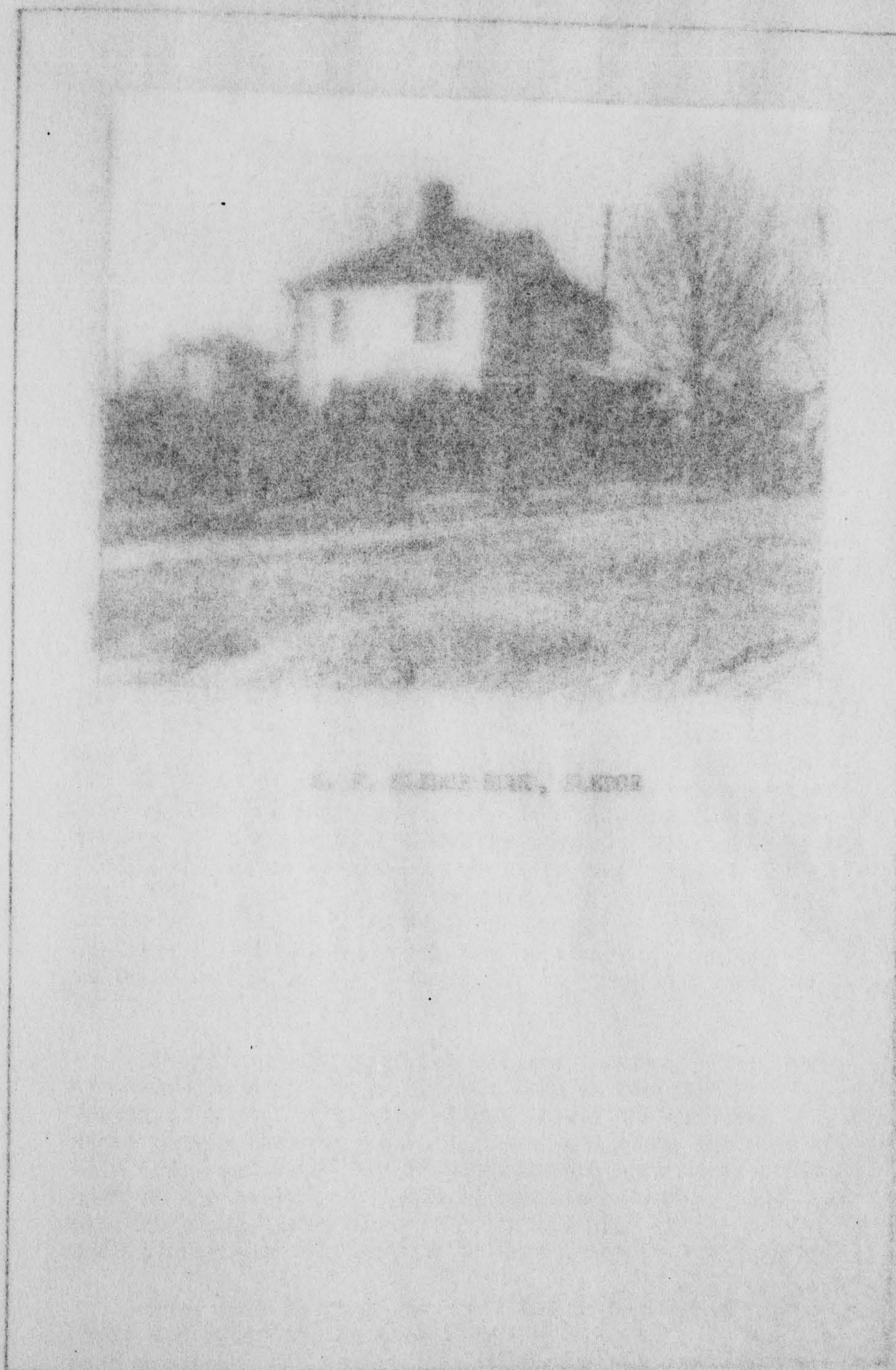


It is learned from Myrtle and Julius Jones, that their father, James W. Jones, was originally from Henry County, Tennessee, and that on coming to this part of the state, decided to settle here, and bought a farm consisting of 155 acres. This land was purchased from J. S. Sims on February 19, 1878, for \$4000; in 1888, it was sold to his brother, J. D. Jones, but in 1891, J. W. Jones bought the land back for \$6000, and has kept it in his possession.

After settling at this spot, which is four miles southwest of Belen, Jones lived alone for several years. This house comprised one large room, with a smaller one attached at the back, with a foundation of rudely constructed logs; there was a small porch across the front. Not long after the completion of this, two other rooms were added, with a hall between, and it was here on May 11, 1879, that he brought his young bride, Sara Ellen Brooks, from Tennessee. The furniture consisted of a home-made bed, a one-eyed stove, an old trunk, and two buckskin bottomed chairs. Holes were bored in the wall, where wooden pegs were placed to hang clothes on.

Practically all the land was a wilderness, and it took long, toilsome days to get it into cultivation. Being a man of powerful energy and ability, Jones stayed with the little tract of land and acquired enough money to buy another place. Being constructively economical, this couple prospered throughout the years, and about 1899, built the home which now stands, but which has undergone recent changes - architecture being modern and attractive; a hall separated the two rooms on the left from the four on the right; a screened porch about seven feet wide encircled the house; twelve feet apart were small columns that ran the length of this porch; the house was painted pure white, with deep red on the windows and doors. The roof treatment of the one and one-half story sections of the house followed the simplest of structural lines; shingles were made of cypress; one large room upstairs had three windows at the front, directly above the hall door on the lower floor, and at the back, were two windows; this home had windows and doors in abundance - twenty windows, twelve doors. A grape arbor was at the front entrance, but this soon became so dense that it was torn away; a board walk also extended from the front steps out toward the road, but eventually, this was removed.

Unfortunately, Mr. Jones did not have the opportunity to enjoy this home with the vast improvements over





It is learned from Myrtle and Julius Jones, that their father, James S. Jones, was originally from Henry County, Tennessee, and that on coming to this part of the state, he settled to settle here, and bought a farm consisting of 15 acres. This land was purchased from J. D. Jones on February 19, 1878, for \$4000; in 1888, it was sold to his brother, J. S. Jones, but in 1891, J. W. Jones bought the land back for \$6000, and has kept it in the same state.

After settling at this spot, which is four miles northwest of Selma, James lived alone for several years. This house, however, was large room, with a smaller one attached at the back, with a foundation of rudely constructed logs. There was a small porch across the front. After the completion of this, two other rooms were added, each a hall between, and it was here on May 11, 1891, that he brought his young bride, Sara Ellen Jones, from Tennessee. The furniture consisted of a bedstead, a parlor stove, an old trunk, and two wooden benches. There were bored in the wall, where wooden pegs were placed to hang clothes on.

Through all the land was a wilderness, and it was not until James had got it into cultivation. Being a man of great energy and ability, Jones stayed with the little band of men and acquired enough money to buy another place. Being constructively economical, this house was built throughout the years, and about 1895, built the present structure, but which has undergone several changes. Architecture being modern and symmetrical, well separated the two rooms on the left from the house on the right; a screened porch about seven feet wide separated the house; twelve feet apart were small pillars that ran the length of this porch; the house was painted pure white, with deep red on the windows and doors. The roof treatment of the one and one-half story sections of the house followed the simplest of architectural lines; shingles were made of cypress; the house had a gabled roof and three windows at the front, directly above the hall door on the lower floor, and at the side, over the windows; this house had windows and doors of mahogany. Twenty windows, twelve doors. A small porch was at the front entrance, but this soon became a porch that it was torn away; a board walk also was added from the front steps out toward the road, but eventually, this was removed.

Unfortunately, Mr. Jones did not have the opportunity to enjoy this home with the vast improvements over



S. F. SLEDGE HOME, SLEDGE

These apples, pears, almonds, peaches, and other fruits are the pride of the place. The house is built on a hill and is surrounded by a large yard. The house is built on a hill and is surrounded by a large yard. The house is built on a hill and is surrounded by a large yard.

Mrs. Sara Ellen Jones was always active in the church and religious organizations, even though she had very little money. She was a very kind and generous woman.



the one he and his family had previously lived in. There had been born to them seven sons and four daughters, all of whom are still living, except one son, Luther, who died in 1905. These children now live at close range to one another in this county, with the exception of one, H. O., who resides at Holly Springs.

Mr. Jones' greatest desire after having built this home was to install an artesian well. So, after his death, which occurred in 1904, the courageous little wife, with the aid of her elder sons and daughters, carried on the management of the farm quite progressively; during 1905-'06, the well, with a depth of eleven hundred feet, it was completed.

In 1920, the house was modernized by having the porch on the north side walled in with long strips of wood fiber; a partition between has made it a comfortable sleeping porch; there are eleven windows in these two rooms, and doors lead to each adjoining room and on to the porch across the front. On the south side of the house the porch has also been removed, and in its stead has been built a porte-cochere. The partition to the front bed room on the left has been taken out, a spacious living room, where French doors lead into the small hall that connects the two back bed rooms. Here, one finds the stairs to the half-story; in addition, it is equipped with a bathroom on the southwest and one on the north, while the remainder of the house is still the same. It is also equipped with a fireplace and heaters so as to take care of the heating, which facility is an integral part of the home. The entire house is an expression in cypress of today's beauty in frame construction, which was so abundantly employed in this section of the country at the time this home was built.

Crepe myrtles, spireas, altheas, cannas, roses, and arborvitaes adorn the yards; the lawn is beautifully shaded with huge pecan and walnut trees; the driveway makes a half circle across the lawn, and along the edge of this drive are four rows of jonquils and narcissus; at the back of the house is an orchard containing peach, pear, apple, fig, and cherry trees. All in all this is one of the most comfortable and attractive farm homes in the county.

Mrs. Sara Ellen Jones was always active in the women's clubs and religious organizations, even though she had very poor eyesight, and in her later years, became almost blind. Since her death in 1932, the two children, Myrtle and Julius,



aforementioned, have kept the home and farm in excellent condition. (1)

#### A. O. Peterson Home

A long time ago, L. H. Ellison, directly from Grenada, but a native of Ohio, obtained the land now known as the "Peterson Place," and built a plantation home in a picturesque spot on the banks of Coldwater River, two and one-half miles from Lambert, and lived there with a large family of children. One of these, Mrs. W. A. Cox, wife of W. A. Cox, the first mayor of Marks, and still a prominent citizen of this place, and another daughter, Mrs. Fern Davis, teacher of geography in the State College for Women, Milledgeville, Georgia, spends her vacations in Marks.

In 1900, J. D. Johnson, of DeSoto County, purchased this fertile land from Mr. Ellison and moved his family there. The house underwent some improvements, and the famous "lily pond" was made in the southeast corner of the lawn. Johnson's son, J. D., Jr., was killed during the World War, and the "J. D. Johnson Post" of Marks, is named in his honor. Mr. Johnson sold the place to P.M.B. Self, of Marks, in 1917, and moved to Blytheville, Arkansas; in 1922, A. O. Peterson, of Greenwood, who came to this state from Sweden when he was a young man, bought this place from Self, and has made it his home since that time.

In describing the home, one should begin at the beginning, which is the moment you approach the rambling old farmhouse. Typical of many old southern homes, the house sets in the center of a spacious lawn, where willow and pecan trees, shrubs, and flowers grow. There are two large rooms at the front, and an open hall with a long porch across the front, and seven rooms built to the back; the open hall has been closed with double doors and is used as a room; the house is built of cypress, with pine posts and window casings; a long front porch, screened from insects, faces the east, and swept by the breeze from the south, is where Mr. Peterson can be found these days reading his paper and smoking his Swedish pipe; Mrs. Peterson sits doing her needle work. The interior is now a modern farm home, having water and lights throughout. (2)

- (1) Mr. Julius Jones, Lyon, Miss.  
Miss Myrtle Jones, Lyon, Miss.
- (2) Mr. U. B. Ross, Lambert, Miss.  
Miss Lily Peterson, Lambert, Miss.

#### J. J. Dickey Home

A neat farm house stands southwest of Lambert, on Buckskin Lake. It was in 1894, or thereabouts, when J. J. Dickey, of Tennessee, drifted into Quitman County, "the land of milk and honey," and bought a large tract of land - twenty-two hundred acres - from J. W. Cutrer, wealthy and prominent lawyer of Clarksdale. Dickey moved his family into the crude plantation house, which had two large front rooms, wide open hall, front porch, a small back room, which was used for dining room and kitchen. He added three rooms to the back of the northeast corner to accommodate his large family.

At the time Mr. Dickey bought the land, he found only 160 acres in cultivation, but being a progressive farmer, the virgin land was soon transformed into a picture of fields of fine cotton and waving corn.

During the time he lived on Buckskin Lake, Dickey served two terms as member of the Board of Supervisors, and on the first Monday of each month, "Uncle John" (as he was familiarly known), saddled his horse and rode to the county seat, where he participated in governing county affairs. In 1912, when he saw the need for better schools for his children, he decided to sell his farm to C. W. Partee, Confederate veteran, at Belen. Dickey moved to Lambert, where he became notable in history as the town's most useful and staunchest citizen, being a member of the Board of Aldermen for several years.

The land was sold the same year to J. B. Anderson, of Sumner, who is the present owner. The original house, with many improvements, still stands in the spacious lawn, filled with magnificent shade trees. The windows and porches are screened; exterior is clean and white, with white wash, waterworks have been installed, etc. This house is used for the plantation manager, while the owner lives in a modern home nearby, and those possessed with imaginative minds, can yet see this grand old man (he died in 1919) in his early home, a three-room house located in almost a wilderness. (1)

#### M. E. Denton Home

In a spacious lawn on the banks of the Coldwater River, stands a fine example of Colonial architecture - having that simplicity of style which characterizes the colonial tradition of Virginia and New England - a home suitable for southern hospitality. However, it was built only thirty years ago.

- (1) Mrs. J. H. Morris, Marks, Miss.  
Mrs. Jesse Austin, Lambert, Miss.



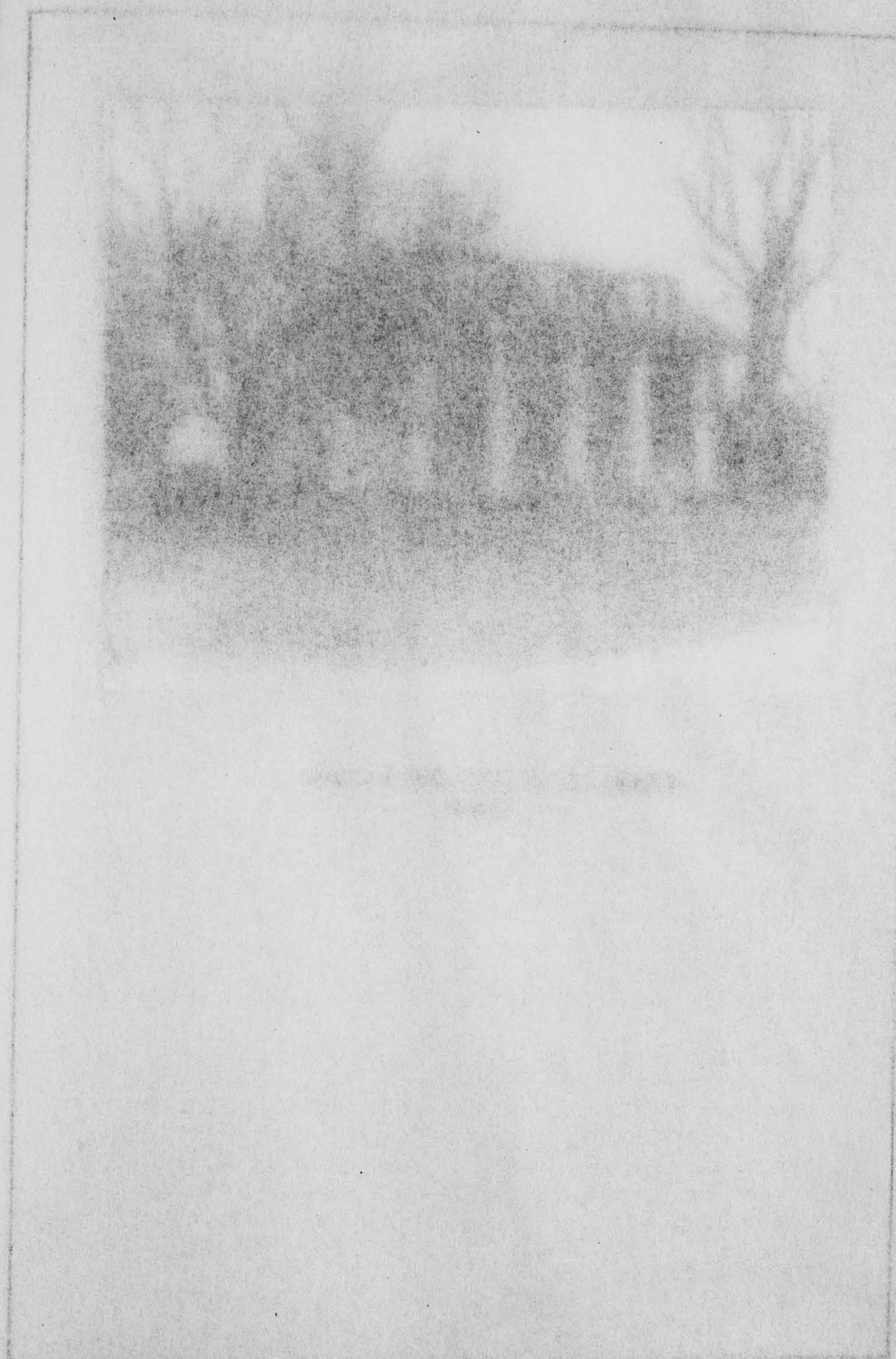
Upon approach, one wonders whether the site was selected to suit the architecture, or whether the architecture was chosen to suit the site. It doesn't matter - for the combination is that of a delightful southern home.

The house built in 1908 - though not ante-bellum - is of architectural importance. Simplicity distinguishes this house containing nineteen rooms. In addition to the twelve rooms on the ground floor, there are seven on the second floor; the first floor has two large rooms connected by a wide hall extending through the full length of the house; there are two long, wide windows, though the panes are divided into small rectangles in the front of each room; these large windows are well placed for inside livableness, and give clear, broad vistas of gardens and landscapes, and allow wide wall space for furniture arrangement. The hall is closed by double doors of glass, with front panels set in on each side of the double doors, and a transom above. A deep porch is built across the front, extending around the left of the house; the first floor plan is repeated on the second, with the exception of a balcony instead of a porch across the front, and to the left of the house. Thirteen square columns support the spacious porch and balcony; the sloping roof has three dormer windows - the middle one is double and directly above the double glass doors on the first and second floors; back and sides of the house are similar to the front.

As I looked at this old house, it seemed to beckon to me its friendly portals, and I drifted into a reminiscent mood. I recalled that the credit was given the owner of this house for the beginning of the town of Marks; he persuaded L. Marks to sell the land upon which it was proposed to build a new town. In 1895, he began the practice of law in Quitman County, and his first public office was serving the State Legislature through a period from 1892 to 1896.

For eight years he served as Chancellor for the 7th Chancery District; Judge Denton was a leader, not only in material changes which have occurred, but also in elevating the moral tone of the entire county. At the time of his death, June, 1935, he was serving as Senator from District 34.

During the troublous days of the World War, money was raised in every way possible to be used for the winning of the war, and it was in this home that a dance, netting \$300, was given.





...and wonders whether the site was  
...the architecture, or whether the ar-  
...to suit the site. It doesn't mat-  
...is that of a delightful south-

The house built in 1895 - though not ante-bellum -  
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...1913, he was serving as  
...Chancellor from 1913 to 1921.

During the war years of the World War, money  
...to be used for the win-  
...in this home that a dance,  
...was given.



HOME OF THE LATE M. E. DENTON  
MARKS

...the house was built in 1895, and it is a fine example of the architecture of that period. The house is a two-story structure with a prominent front porch supported by columns. The house is surrounded by bare trees, suggesting a winter or late autumn setting. The house has a gabled roof and multiple windows.

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Mrs. Denton served as president of local women's clubs, and was president of the Women's Federated Clubs of this district, and women of this district and over the entire state, recall with pleasure the numerous meetings, receptions, and teas they attended in the Denton Home. It was a home of true southern hospitality; the same gracious reception was given the illiterate and unfortunate, as was given the educated and rich. (1)

#### Relics in Possession of Individuals

Mrs. Mary M. Stone, of Belen, has a chest of drawers brought by her grandfather, Daniel Rather, when he moved to Holly Springs, Marshall County, in 1838. It came from near the mountain peaks of Otter, Virginia, of which section he was a resident. This chest, made of walnut, has a dull finish now, but has the same glass knobs on the drawers that it had when it was bought.

A Masonic Emblem, the shape of a keystone, was made from a twenty dollar gold piece with the inscription, "Mrs. S. C. Stone, date 1854." (2)

A serving basket of teakwood and of ordinary size, is owned by Mrs. Reba Bizzell, who says it was brought to America by a forefather of hers over one hundred years ago.

When Allen Wilkerson moved to Mississippi from North Carolina, he brought a coverlet which was woven and dyed by his daughter, Mary Jane. The colors are rich in mulberry and ivory threads and it is eight feet square; the wool came from his own flock of sheep. It has been handed down through generations to Mrs. Reba Bizzell, of Marks, and she states authoritatively that it is 175 years old.

A poke bonnet was worn over one hundred years ago by an ancestor of Mrs. Speed, of Marks. It is a rare little article, made of fine straw and trimmed with brocaded taffeta ribbons, which form a band for the crown and hang-off as streamers; tiny red rose buds add to the piquancy of the off-the-face feature, and a black veil of Chantilly lace, which is so old as to fall to pieces if handled.

A knife owned by T. D. Bannister, of Marks, is most unusual. It is four and one-half inches long, one and one-half inches thick, and has fifty-two blades, each one being different. G. H. Grosvenor, of South Carolina,

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(1) Miss Alice Jamison, Marks, Miss.  
Douglas Carr, Marks, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Mary Stone, Belen, Miss.



bought the knife in Germany 150 years ago for twenty-six dollars, and Bannister acquired it from him. It has a mother-of-pearl handle which is broken on one side, and which is decorated a little with inset of silver of almost an inch.

A quart-size bullet pot, fashioned after an ordinary wash pot of iron, with three little legs an inch high, was brought from Ireland in 1799 by George Marion Cox, who settled in Tallahatchie County, and later gave it to Miss Annie V. Turner, great-great-granddaughter, who is the present owner. Children of today are surprised to learn that the real use of the pot was to melt lead for making bullets with which game was killed.

At the close of the Mexican War, a conch shell was brought to Mississippi by an unknown soldier, who gave it to the Cox family, in Tallahatchie County. It was used as a dinner horn on the Cox Plantation, near Enid, as well as for a door stop; it also has a place in the old-fashioned whatnot in the parlor.

Mrs. R. W. Barham has in her possession a coverlet, hand-woven from linen thread in colors of dark red, white, and dark blue, with a trace of rich green of dark hue. The design is of birds, trees, and conventional motifs, and is reversible. It is almost the size of an ordinary quilt with a heavy fringe which is considerably worn from usage. The story is that Dr. Sampson Bannister went home on a furlough, and a friend accepted, but was carried home to his sister-in-law, Rose Bannister, who left it to her daughter, Mrs. Barham. In one corner is a block six inches square with the following inscription woven into it:

J. Biesec  
Ker x Jr x  
New - In -  
Vention x  
Frank -  
Lin x T x Ad x  
Co x 1840

An interesting piece of old furniture is a chair which came from the old capital building at Jackson. Judge M.E. Denton was a member of the legislature which planned and appropriated for the new capitol, and in the disposition of the old furniture, he received the chair and desk used by him in the House. It is of walnut and was originally upholstered in black leather, which has

been replaced by tapestry in a quiet pattern. It is quite different from the present day auditorium chairs, having a rather high back, with the crest or Coat of Arms at the top.

A walking stick belonging to Dave L. Sistrunk of Lambert, has been in the Sistrunk family for five generations. It goes to each "David."

A treasured quilt was made from Mrs. L. V. Ruth's wedding dress in 1857; Mrs. Ruth also has a pair of tan, brass-toed shoes that belonged to one of her ancestors, Mrs. J. H. Bryant, of Pittsboro. These little shoes are sixty-seven years old.

Mrs. Bob Baker has two pairs of glass curtain knobs that are 150 years old. Mrs. R. C. Ingram has a Methodist Hymnal that her grandmother won as an attendance prize at Sunday School over one hundred years ago at Raleigh, North Carolina; Baird Freeman has a razor that belonged to his grandfather, Mr. Zacharias Freeman, eighty years ago. It is in good condition yet; a clock one hundred years old, which keeps perfect time, is a relic belonging to W. A. Allen; a unique dinner ring belongs to Mrs. J. P. Walker. It came into her possession through her father, L. T. Gaines, of Iuka, and is about two hundred years old; a walnut cradle over eighty years old is cherished by Eugene Harris; his grandmother, Mrs. Charles Harris, of Oxford, rocked her ten children in this cradle, then J. W. Harris used it for his three children; Dan Ashford is the proud owner of a sword that his great-grandfather, Col. Jim Knox, used in the Battle of Bull Run.

Mrs. Sam W. Jones, of Belen, is the possessor of a piece of home-spun linen and a pair of odd home-spun pillow cases that were made during the War between the States, while the lace, 125 years old, is prized by Mrs. Ross Ingram, of Lambert.

A hand-axe in the possession of J. W. Woods, Marks, is only a bit larger than an ordinary hatchet but much heavier. It was bought in Houston, Texas, by J. S. Woods, a volunteer in the Mexican War of 1846; it was carried into that war and used by the Buena Vista Rifles, Jefferson Davis commanding. Later, it was carried in the War between the States, and came into good use to cut timber to build a pontoon bridge across the Potomac River, so as to enable the soldiers to go to their forward march to Washington.

Among the prized possessions of Mrs. Van Savage is a beautiful black lace shawl that has belonged to her



family for a period of 150 years. It is a dainty lace pattern, triangular-shaped, with scalloped edges. So often black material loses its sheen and newness, but this shawl has been well preserved, and is as fresh and black as a new one; it was used by Mrs. Savage's great-grandmother, Jemima Johnson, of North Carolina, as a part of her trousseau, and also used for dress occasions. Mrs. Johnson having no daughter, left this valuable shawl to her son, Zora Needus Johnson, who gave it to his daughter, Helen Buford Johnson, wife of S. N. Fewell, of Vance. At her death, Mrs. Savage came in possession of this prized antique. Her daughter, Catherine, wears this shawl as a light wrap at social functions, and as a decorative scarf in music recitals.

A wreath of hair flowers, which belongs to Mrs. J. W. Edwards, is truly interesting, being almost perfect in its representation of shasta daisies, bachelor buttons, periwinkles, pine burrs, apple blossoms, and ferns, all woven from hair. She came by it through a friend, Mrs. Charlie Bowers, many years ago. During the War between the States, this particular kind of art was much in vogue, and when one morning as General Grant stopped with his regiment in Cincinnati to water their horses, a young woman went out and asked of the soldiers a contribution from the tops of their heads, meaning hair, of course, to put into the wreath she wanted to make; gallantly the request was granted from the soldiers, as well as from the general himself. (There is a certain flower from the general's hair, which is slightly gray, and there is also a showing of very stiff white hair which came from the mane and tail of General Grant's white horse.) This wreath is encased in a deep wood frame, which is thirty-six inches square, heavily carved and very deep, being covered with heavy glass.

Marion Hamblet has a sampler that belonged to his mother, and is ninety-seven years old.

Mrs. Johnnie Jones possesses a silver waiter, two goblets, and a finger bowl that was brought to her from Vicksburg by some ancestors after the War between the States; a necklace of old gold with a cameo breast pin; Waverly novels that were published in 1829; a dresser china set that consists of two perfume bottles and a powder bowl. These were imported from England, and are over 140 years old.

Mrs. Sam Davidow has in her possession a silver wine cup that was brought from Russia by her mother.

It was buried during the World War through fear of its being taken; she also has a set of teaspoons made from hammered silver dollars; Mrs. E. Tidwell has her father's (Mr. Van Landingham), pegging awl which was used during the War between the States; Mrs. O. Garner has a vase and sugar bowl that belonged to her great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Matilda Quertermous, in Kentucky, before the War between the States; Mrs. John Rich treasures a yellow gold lace pin and earrings; also an onyx pin that is over one hundred years old.

Mrs. Martha Hawyard owns a daguerreotype of her grandfather Gates; a loving cup that belonged to her great aunt, Jane Burnett, who won it at a fair in Monroe County for quilts, flowers, needlework, (1856); a heavy china cake plate which belonged to her mother, Mrs. Marina Gates, and which is seventy-five years old; mother's white stockings and father's white kid gloves used in their wedding over sixty years ago. She also has a beautiful black lace shawl that is over one hundred years old.

Mrs. J. Thompson has in her home a turkey platter of blue imitation Wedgewood over one hundred years old; a blue flowered china saucer, a sampler, and a black brocade shawl which belonged to her mother. (1)

The first marriage license issued after Quitman County was formed, uniting J. J. Blackmon and Miss Thirza Hatch, is shown on the county records. (2)

A letter written by Claiborne is in the possession of E. E. Boone, lawyer of Marks, Mississippi. (3)

- (1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss., observations at Historic Exhibit.
- (2) County Records, circuit clerk's office
- (3) E. E. Boone, Marks, Miss.



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Austin, Mrs. Jesse	Lambert, Miss.
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Carr, Mrs. Douglas	Marks, Miss.
Denton, Dorothy	Marks, Miss.
Gibson, Mrs. Alice	Belen, Miss.
Jamison, Alice	Marks, Miss.
Jones, Julius	Lyon, Miss.
Jones, Myrtle	Lyon, Miss.
Lipsey, H. A.	Lambert, Miss.
Morris, Mrs. H.	Marks, Miss.
Ross, U. B.	Lambert, Miss.
Turner, Mrs. Lelia	Marks, Miss.

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and Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Historian, Historical Research  
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### Chapter VII

#### WARS

"When our land is illumined with Liberty's smile,  
If a foe from within strike a blow at her glory,  
Down, down with the traitor that dares defile,  
The flag of her stars and the page of her story.  
By the millions unclaimed when our birthright was gained,  
We will keep her bright blazon forever unstained!  
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave  
While the land of the free is the home of the brave."

#### WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

Quitman County was not formed until after the War  
between the States, but one interesting incident occurred  
just west of the site of the present town of Marks.

General Grant was very anxious to take Vicksburg but  
had no way of getting his supplies there. To overcome this  
difficulty, he had the Yazoo Pass cut from the Mississippi  
to the Coldwater, and cleared of undergrowth and driftwood.  
Governor Alcorn, a Federal sympathizer, assisted him by  
gathering together slaves throughout the state and having  
them do the work. Grant's intentions were to ship his sup-  
plies through the pass, down the Coldwater to the Yazoo,  
and thence to Vicksburg. His men brought the supplies in  
wagons, following an old but well beaten Indian trail.  
When the old men and boys of Panola and Yalobusha counties,  
(all men of fighting age were in the army,) heard that  
the Yankees were coming through, they decided to harass  
them as much as possible. Grant's men, with wagons of  
supplies, camped about one mile west of the present site  
of Marks. Having torn down fences to build campfires,  
they were quietly eating supper with no idea of a raid  
in this wilderness. The band of young boys and old men  
suddenly fired into their midst. The Yankees, having no  
idea of the number of the enemy, fled in confusion, leav-  
ing their wagons and supplies. The attackers then, with  
the burning of rail fences set fire to everything. Later,  
Federal boats were sent down the Coldwater with supplies,  
one boat sank below Marks. When the river is low, the hull  
of the old boat can still be seen.



Even though the War between the States had been over twelve years, the South had been reconstructed, and the Ku Klux Klan had ridden before Quitman County was organized, a few Confederate veterans have lived here and their names are connected with the county's early history. Prominent among these are: Will Hatch, C. W. Partee, James A. Ingram, Captains Neal, N. A. Smith, and G. F. Phipps. Records of only two are available - Partee and Ingram. (1)

C. W. Partee enlisted with Captain John R. Dickens' Company, the Sardis Blues, which was sent, with a number of other companies, to Union City, Tennessee, for training. After training, the Sardis Blues became Company F, Twelfth Mississippi Infantry; they were rushed to Virginia, but missed the Battle of Bull Run; after participating in the Battle of Manassas, Partee came back to Mississippi to help his father move his slaves from Panola County to Lost Lake (in what is now Quitman County). Food was scarce, and the story goes that Captain Partee killed an alligator, cooked it like fish, and fed it to the slaves. After his father's slaves were settled, young Partee joined Joyce Floyd's Independent Cavalry, which regulated some of the conditions that were arising around Memphis; later, the company became Company H of Alex Chalmers' Battalion. He served valiantly under General Forrest in the Battles of Harrisburg and Tishomingo. When the war ended, he was with General Forrest in Gainsville, Georgia. In the early 80's he, with his beloved wife, Lizzie Jackson, established a home in the Belen community, where he, grand old pioneer that he was, lived until his death, January 10, 1929, and where his modest, but strong characteristics have left their imprint in the building up and betterment of things material, moral, and spiritual. (2)

James A. Ingram: Though enlisting in another part of the state, under Captain Qualls, of the Mississippi Regiment, this old Confederate now lives in Quitman County, and is the only survivor of that awful conflict - the War between the States. He was in active service to the end, being in the Siege of Vicksburg. He is very old now, and the stories of the war, with its attendant privations and suffering, are interestingly and vividly told to passers-by, as he sits in the courthouse yard from day to day.

**Living Slaves:** It might be opportune to devote some space to the only living slaves in Quitman County -

- (1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.

Turner Fox, ninety-seven, and his wife, Hannah, eighty-four. Turner belonged to the Fox family, and Hannah to the Simmon's family, at Coffeetown. He went with Captain Fox and looked after his horses during the War between the States. Turner is deaf, and Hannah is almost blind; their son, who is sixty-six years old, lives with and cares for his aged parents. Thirty-nine years ago these two ex-slaves bought a little farm near Belen, where they have made their home since. (1)

#### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Richard W. Barham, of Marks, is the only living Spanish-American War veteran in Quitman County. In response to the call for volunteers, Barham went to Jackson, where he enlisted on May 26, 1898; he belonged to Company C, Second Mississippi Volunteer Infantry, which was commanded by Captain Noel. This war being of short duration, only four months, the Second Infantry was not called into active service and Barham received an honorable discharge from the army on December 20, 1898.

This conflict was the avenue through which the old hatred between the North and South went out to a great extent, since it brought men of a younger generation together in a common cause.

Spanish-American War veterans, who have lived here are J. W. Montague and C. G. Williams. (2)

#### THE WORLD WAR

If "War is Hell," then it, with all its fury, was turned loose in the World Conflict; Quitman County had its part in this, as is subsequently reviewed in these pages.

Much credit is given and keen appreciation felt of such laudable enterprises as the production of "The Stars and Stripes," which held true to the interests of the rank and file of the army, and which was published in France by and for the American Expeditionary Forces during the period from February 8, 1918, to June 13, 1919, as "an aid to strengthen the morale of the troops and to promote a realization that one organization and one big purpose governed all individuals and units of our forces, then widely scattered and fulfilling many apparently unrelated functions." But when we thought of this or that dear boy, leaving home to do his part in this war,

- (1) Louise Yeager, Belen, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.



he was a personality; perhaps he was a neighbor's son; sometimes the mythical Knight of the local Round Table and off and anon a choice flower from the garden of young manhood. So, though embracing the stated purpose of "The Stars and Stripes" and glorying in the big things that were being done in an organized way, we were, at the same time, looking through our tears to the day when individual heroes would be "Over Here" instead of "Over There."

And it came to pass that the Quitman County boys did "come marching home," some of them with stories of actual conflicts, in which they were engaged, or of gallant deeds performed by a Buddy; some crippled, some gassed, and some disabled for life; some proudly preserved in body and principle, and with a new urge for further usefulness under a new regime.

#### War Work at Home

Liberty bonds were sold through the Riverside Bank, W. A. Cox, president, and the Citizens Bank and Trust Company, P.M.B. Self, president; War Savings Stamps were sold at the postoffice, Mrs. Thirza Clark, postmaster, and it is certain that Quitman County went "over the top" in both the buying of bonds and stamps.

Money was raised in every possible way for the winning of the war. Conservation was the key word to the living - conservation of time, finances, talents, etc. - even to the boys raising a pig and the girls canning everything in reach. School credits were given for such activities. And then, the fine arts came into their own in the community "sings," and other such meetings, which were an inspiration in keeping the home fires burning. Old fiddlers gave concerts and had contests, always donating their individual prizes (money) to the cause of freedom. Each church in the county responded with its quota on all county calls and contributions were made by all missionary societies. Especially should the Riverside Culture and the Coterie club of Marks, the Tuesday and Friday Book clubs of Lambert, respectively, and the Sylvan Book Club of Belen be lauded for their devotion to the cause. As will be remembered, the clubs hitherto social and cultural, foreswore previous objectives, and to the member took up the business of flag-bearing. All meetings were in a service form - some knitting socks, etc., to be sent over for bodily comfort; some rendering musical selections, and some reading poems aloud for the comfort of

a member, who perhaps was thinking in terms of love and anxiety. One poem was preferred, because it reflected a love of someone far away to his homefolks. (1)

#### "The West Wind"

"The west wind is the home-bound wind  
As it blows across the sea:  
And every breeze bears a breath of love  
From a lonely heart to thee.

"And the west wind sings as it sweeps along  
Where it plays with the white-capped foam:  
But it will not pause for it bears a song,  
And the theme of the song is Home.

"And the west wind whispers soft and low,  
As of old in the lullaby,  
And a father hears, as it starts to blow  
The sound of a baby's cry.

"Then he sends a kiss to his little child  
And the west wind bears it home;  
While a dough boy down in the front line trench  
Wings a prayer on the wind in the gloam.

"For France is the east and the wind is west,  
And the sea is a long, long way,  
But the bridge of the sea is a wisp of love  
At the close of a lonely day.

"So the west wind bears on its broad, broad breast,  
As it swings its way o'er the sea,  
A thought of love to a million hearts,  
And a throb of love for thee.

"To thee does the west wind bear a thought -  
Dost thou hear it over there?  
Oh, mother heart and baby dear,  
On the soft, sweet twilight air.

"And, woman, God gave, dost thou hear it, too?  
For it goes like a dart to thee;  
Hark! It blows on the path of the sunset warm,  
West bound on the eastern sea.

"For the west wind is the home bound wind,  
and it blows with no vagrant chance;  
'Tis the Wind of Love in the hand of God,  
And it blows from the fields of France." (2)

(1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.

(2) Copied from Stars and Stripes, published in France, early in 1919.



### Individual Service Records

Dr. E. C. Gillespie, a resident of Lambert, willingly and cheerfully offered his services to his country immediately after war was declared. On August 6, 1917, he volunteered in the United States Army as First Lieutenant of the Medical Corps at Memphis, Tennessee, and was ordered to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Dr. Gillespie served overseas from July 20, 1918 to June 30, 1919; he was active in a charge of the Hindenburg line, Meuse, Argonne, and Thiacourt; he served with the Army of Occupation from November 11, 1918, to May 31, 1919; on July 5, 1919, he was discharged to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, as Captain of the Medical Corps. (1)

Marion Hamblet, then quite a young boy, volunteered for service before the war got under way. On May 1, 1917, he joined the Air Corps, serving an apprenticeship with the Fourth Aviation School Squadron at Memphis, Tennessee. After two months training, he was sent to Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois, for further instruction; in 1917, he completed the test and received a commission as pilot, after which he was transferred to Mitchell Field, New York City; in ten days, he went over in the Rainbow Division, a convoy of nine ships transporting them. He was first at St. Johns, Newfoundland, seventeen days, thence he went to Belfast, Ireland; thence to Liverpool, England, and from there to Manchester, England, where he stayed three weeks. Here, he enjoyed his stay along with others at the Black Swan, a famous tavern nine hundred years old, and a favorite rendezvous of the royalty. He was later at La Havre, Tours, Issonden, France, and was subsequently ordered back to Tours as flying instructor. Hamblet made a remarkable record in that he had only two and one-half hours in the air before making his first solo flight, and had only nineteen hours of flying before he passed to go over seas. But every take-off was not smooth sailing, for while a member of the Artillery Observation School at Tours, he smashed into an oak tree, tearing the plane up, but escaping injury himself. However, after a second fall, just a week later, he was confined in a base hospital at Dijon, for five months. He said that the only time he ever had a man to kiss him was just after the plane crash in which he was not hurt. A Frenchman rushed up and proffered the kiss out of spontaneous excitement and joy. After leaving the hospital, he found that he had been replaced in his previous work, but was sent to St. Jean DeMont, Aerial Gunnery School, and later to 85th Aerial Squad Headquarters Attachment of Air Service Corps. It was now November, and peace was declared, so Hamblet was sent to the University of Lyon,

(1) Mrs. E. C. Gillespie, Lambert, Miss.

France, for further education, from which point he traveled through Spain, Italy, Switzerland, and Belgium. In July, he sailed from Paris on the Northern Pacific, bound for New York City, making the trip in five days; he was discharged at Camp Pike, the 15th of August, 1919. (1)

Arthur Chastain enlisted April 6, 1918, and was trained at Camp Funston. Sailing for England on June 30, 1918, via Halifax, Nova Scotia, he was with a convoy of seventeen transports that landed in England in July, 1918. From here they crossed over to Sherburgh, France, where he went into the French Training Camp. Fighting began the 8th of August, and out of Company F, 355th Infantry, composed of 250 men, and of which he was a member, only eighteen survived. (2)

Todie Bonner, Company E, 357th Infantry, 90th Division, had an agonizing experience, having been locked up while suffering from a machine gun shot, without food or water for three days. He was placed in a "shock" division on November 3, 1918, and they lost their way in Argonne Forest; the captain got blue, and after wandering around, they hit a railroad about daylight next morning, when the sergeant told the captain that they were close to some Germans, but the captain didn't think so, but for the boys to shed their packs and "get ready for something." Just at this time, twenty-five Germans came out from under the railroad and began firing, but our boys advanced to the right to get behind a building for protection. The captain sent a runner to tell them to retreat, but it was too late for Todie, because he was already shot by a machine gun, and as well as he could remember, was picked up about eight o'clock by the Germans, put in an old house with hay for a bed, and was asked if he wanted water or coffee, but he was afraid to drink it. One of their men asked if he could walk, and Bonner answered, "No," whereupon, a German officer said that he would leave him to the Americans and walked out and shut the door. The Germans then bombarded the house three nights, but their efforts were directed in some other direction which gave an American boy, McDonald by name, a chance to get to the rescue. He said, "Bonner, try to walk out of here and we'll help you." So Bonner tried to walk, and when they reached a creek where the bridge had been shelled down, they waded across, although it was waist deep. And, in Bonner's words - "I gave out, and all I remember is seeing a stretcher and being in a convalescent ward somewhere." (3)

(1) Marian Hamblet, Marks, Miss.  
(2) Arthur Chastain, Marks, Miss.  
(3) Todie Bonner



### Others Who Gave Valiant Service

Among others from the county who gave valiant service are the following:

C. R. Berryhill - Ordinance yeoman in Navy, on U.S.S. New Jersey; T. N. Gore, 114th Engineer's Company Nine; stayed in Neussee-Argonne Forest from October 3, to November 11, 1918; J. P. Dunning, horseshoer, spent thirteen months at Le Havre, Chammont, and St. Nazaire; Andrew Acklin, ambulance driver, eleven months in France and Germany; W. D. Fitch, Arthur Jamison, Alfred Jamison, and Paul Claxon were in Headquarters Company, 70th Engineers; W. D. Newton, Company A, 114th Engineers, 39th Division; J. L. Locke, Company A, 114th Engineers, 39th Division; Will Brooks, O. E. Parker, Battery D, Field Artillery, 47th Regiment; Carl Ashley, police duty; Will Ellis Self, Company I, 39th Division, later 155th Infantry Regiment; machine gun instructor at Camp Beauregard; discharged on account of physical disability; William Bailey, Company A, 815 Pioneer Infantry, U.S.A.; J. D. Johnson, Jack Baucom, Will Allen, Marvin Garrett, killed in action.

H. L. Brown, coast artillery supply sergeant; Sam Davidow, served one year overseas; Spencer Coleman, worked in hospital six months; Joe Gates, marine aviation, six months in France; Volney Crothers, marine, seven months in Germany and seven months in France; Frank Pirtle, enlisted May 31, 1917, and entered training at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, with Company B, 114th Train, Headquarters of Military Police, as wagoner. Then he was saddler at Fort Hancock, a replacement depot, in Augusta, Georgia, and later was transferred from here to the Tenth Casualty Company at Camp Shelby for discharge. Altogether Pirtle was in training about two years.

A. L. Moore enlisted in May, 1918, and was attached to the 57th Company; after a month's time, he was transferred to Brigade Headquarters, Port au-Prince, Hayti, as stenographer until he was discharged in July, 1919.

P. L. Denton, in training at Student's Army Training Camp at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, for three months; Charles A. Smith, gunner's mate on Montgomery Ship and Fanning Ship, Convoy Duty at Berkely, Virginia; George A. Turner, corporal in motor transports; F. L. Stephenson worked with transportation crew.

In addition to the men and women experiencing an untold loyalty and chivalry within their breasts which would probably have been dormant always had it not been for the World War, the children were fired to a spirit of co-operation and service.

(See Addenda for complete Quitman County War Roster)

### One Gold Star Mother

Quitman County has one living GOLD STAR MOTHER and when she was seen to withstand the trying ordeal of having a flag-draped casket brought back to her home some years after the war was over, for re-interment on American soil, one could only cry within himself "What Price Glory?"

Though her's was a great sacrifice, intermingling emotions of grief, pride, and loyalty seemed to buoy her above the trail of the hour, and her soul seemed draped in serenity and peace.

The Willis Ikerd Post, Friars Point, is named in honor of her son, the soldier boy who laid down his life in the struggle. Two other beloved boys from Quitman died gloriously on the field of battle: Jimmie Johnson, for whom the present Legion Post of Quitman County is named, and Marvin Garrett, in whose honor the Lambert Post is named. (1)

### Home Fires Were Kept Burning

To those who had left to them the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must have been theirs to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom, the citizens not only offered sympathy and paid homage in respect to their dead, praying that the Heavenly Father might assuage the anguish of their bereavement, but worked individually and collectively to "carry on."

Here, was a group of Red Cross workers making bandages, knitting socks and sweaters, and cheerfully giving of their time and money. Mrs. U. B. Ross knitted forty-five pairs of socks and many other things, such as sweaters, mufflers, etc.; F. M. Bizzell, now deceased, was chairman of the local Red Cross, and also served as a Four-Minute man. He was ably assisted by E. E. Boone, young attorney of Marks. (2)

- (1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.



These two were called into other counties to speak and did much toward enlightening the people on issues at hand, and encouraging "giving and giving until it hurts."

#### Officers in the World War

Dr. E. C. Gillespie, captain overseas.  
 Dr. E. A. McVey, captain in U.S.A.  
 C. L. Wilson, first lieutenant enlisted, May, 1917, and discharged January 1, 1918; instructor in Air Service in U.S.A.  
 Dr. V. D. Franks, first lieutenant of Medical Corps, Company Nine, Battalion Three.  
 Dr. C. W. Denman, second lieutenant, veterinary.  
 Harry Lipson, second lieutenant, quartermaster corps.  
 J. M. Turner, second lieutenant.  
 John Tom Turner, first lieutenant.  
 Rev. W. A. Cole, chaplain, captain.  
 T. N. Touchstone, captain.  
 A. B. Smith, captain.  
 Henry Fife, first lieutenant.

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 Turner, Mrs. George  
 Smith, C. P.  
 Yeager, Louise

Marks, Miss.

Jackson, Miss.

Lambert, Miss.

Marks, Miss.

Lambert, Miss.

Marks, Miss.

Marks, Miss.

Marks, Miss.

Belen, Miss.

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 lished in France in  
 1919.

#### Chapter VIII

#### RECONSTRUCTION

Since the Reconstruction came about twelve years before Quitman County was organized, it had to do with those counties from which Quitman was formed, these being Panola, Tunica, Tallahatchie, and Coahoma; conditions throughout the state were practically the same, and the history of the period has been handed down by our ancestors.

Due to the fact that some of the most intelligent citizens had been leaders in the Confederate cause, they were denied any part in the Reconstruction program. There was much dissatisfaction about this, as the ignorant, the vicious, and the foolish could obtain office and hold it in spite of incompetence.

When the state was admitted back into the Union in February, 1870, carpet-baggers, scalawags, and negroes were chosen as representatives in the legislature, and to fill most of the other state offices. After Quitman County was organized in 1877, and before the adoption of our constitution, Jiles Smith, negro, was representative of this county, and some of its first officials were negroes, namely: Levi Pickle, member of the Board of Supervisors; Marshall Fisher, tax assessor; R. A. Cooper, justice of the peace; Henry Richardson, deputy sheriff. (1)

The few farms established in the early beginning of Quitman County, consisted of a small acreage of cultivated land, and after the slaves were freed, it was difficult to get them to contract for farm labor. The negro himself leaned on the new friends from the North, and the break between the blacks and whites, who, even in the darkest days of the war, lived harmoniously side by side, came to be antagonistic and united in opposition to each other. However, those slaves who remained loyal after the Emancipation Proclamation worked faithfully with their masters. The task of building up the land was not an easy one. Our present day method of farm management has, no doubt existed, in a measure, since that following the War between the States - that is, of the owner of the land assigning a portion of the farm land to a negro family, furnishing horses,

(1) County Records, Circuit Clerk's Office.



mules, tools, and supplies, and the crop being equally divided. Greenwood Leflore, chief of the Choctaw Indians, was among the first land-holders in this county.

The people found themselves subjected to social changes which they could not approve, and were thrust into a controversy more bitter than the first. They believed sincerely in the inferiority of the negro, and thought it quite enough to admit him to the elementary phases of citizenship. They could not understand clearly the demand that he have equal status with the whites, and it took them a long time to realize that the North would really make the demand. As the months passed, the negro became continually less willing to trust his former masters and more inclined to follow new friends; though back in 1867, when he was allowed to vote, he was as clay in the hands of the latter.

The war itself reduced the southerners living to a dependence on the simple products of his farm, and he became accustomed to do without the comforts of prosperity.

In order to protect themselves without the aid of the sheriff, the white citizens organized a secret organization known as the Ku Klux Klan. The members dressed in white robes with hoods over their faces, rode about the country at night, and probably whipped some of the leading carpet-baggers and negroes. Most of the acts of the Klan can be justified on the grounds of grim necessity. The Klan was dissolved after the government gave the people more protection.

A bill, the Enforcement Act, was passed to suppress the Ku Klux Klan. Anyone suspected of being implicated in a Ku Klux outrage was called before a Federal Court, and United States troops made arrests of many young men at different times in nearly all communities. These were taken before the Federal Court at Oxford or Jackson for trial, and a great number of witnesses were summoned, mostly negroes, and always of the Radical party.

It took several weeks for these trials, the expenditures being taken care of from taxes imposed upon the people of the community involved; however, the Ku Klux Klan did its work effectively and well. One after another unfit and corrupt person was removed from office; not only the negroes, but also the carpet-baggers and scalawags, were visited, and little by little these people became afraid to use their influence, or even to vote. After

unscrupulous men who were not members of the Klan began making raids upon the homes of people they did not like, the true members resigned and brought the society to an end. (1)

The Klan had served its purpose. In the election of 1874 so few people dared to vote, that the white men of the South were able to elect their own candidates to office; soon the southern whites had largely regained control of the political situation.

The appalling destruction of property and the loss of life during the four years of war would have made the reorganization of the South a highly difficult matter under most favorable circumstances. Without a supply of steady labor, the old plantation system of agriculture could not survive - an entirely new system had to be devised. Large holdings were divided into small tracts and offered for sale or lease; more reliable negroes became tenant farmers. It was several years, however, before the production of the great southern staple reached the proportion attained before the war.

A great abundance of the land in Quitman County at that time was open for settlement, but the art of fertilizing and building up the soil was just beginning to be understood in the world. Since the people were accustomed to cotton culture, it was natural that they should depend upon it. But it was found to be a great mistake that this one industry should constitute so large a part of the economic effort of the whole people. (2)

#### Religion During Reconstruction

Through the changed conditions of the negro, a most violent reform occurred. Out of desperation, grew a white "Solid South" and fierce contempt for every political ideal which was called "republican."

During the Reconstruction of the county there was little of that contrast between the rich and the poor which makes class hatred. It was often the case that men of wealth preferred to live on a level with their less fortunate neighbors. The people were sociable and hospitable.

Preparation for church work was not very systematic among the early settlers; different denominational leaders increased their efforts to spread their belief throughout the spiritual nature of the people.

(1) Mrs. Sarah Blackmon, Jackson, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Marks, Miss.



Circuit riders came through the county at long intervals and preached in homes and stores, as there were no churches. Educated and religious women taught Sunday School in their homes each Sunday, and as the years passed, religious denominations made substantial progress in the county.

#### Carpet-Baggers and Scalawags

Some of the northern men who had come to the state expecting to spend their lives here were greedy adventurers who cared only for their own pockets. They were commonly called "carpet-baggers"; they promised the negroes that the property of the whites would be divided among the former slaves if they would vote for them.

Scalawags were southern men who joined the Republican party; carpet-baggers and scalawags kept the best offices for themselves and gave the negroes only enough power to hold their votes. They taught the negroes to hate their former masters and to believe that the Republican party was their friend. They also spent much time teaching the negroes how to vote, but this was hard to do, for most of them could not read and were likely to vote for the wrong man.

The reasonable men in this section united in a party which would accept the issues of war and reconstruct the South. These men forgot their grudges against the North, and fought side by side under the new name of "Conservatives."

Near the close of the war, lands belonging to many Confederate soldiers were seized and leased to freedmen who had flocked to the towns and who were in destitute condition. Agents, a majority of whom belonged to the worst class of adventurers, were stationed in the county, and caused much disturbance between the races. After the slaves were freed, they were still attached to their former masters, until these agents of the Freedman's Bureau made them believe that the people among whom they had lived so long were not their friends, and that their best interests lay in their attachment to the strangers from other sections.

#### The Loyal League

The Loyal League was an organization to which almost all the negro men belonged. They were frightened, and at the same time pleased with the initiation ceremonies

into this league. They were taught various things which their white leaders wanted them to know, and if they failed to keep their promises, severe punishment was administered.

After the passage of the Reconstruction Act, the Republican party was organized in Mississippi by the northern men in the state and a few southern "loyalists." Measures were taken to enroll all the negroes which was readily done through the agency of the loyal league. This party undertook to identify itself with loyalty to the United States Government - notwithstanding the fact that half the people of the North were still Democrats, who had supported the war against the Confederacy no less arduously than had the Republicans, and that the Democrats of the South had manifested every intention of loyalty and abiding by the result of the war.

The negroes readily believed that to vote the Republican ticket was voting for United States Government, and to vote the Democratic ticket was voting for the South against their freedom.

A few genuine southern people advocated joining the Republican party, with the idea that by this means, confidence of the North would be regained, thereby giving the leadership of state affairs to proper men. (1)

#### State Conditions During Reconstruction

Local conditions in Mississippi cannot be even remotely comprehended without taking a view of the situation at Washington just after the War between the States. What happened in Mississippi was not due to the feelings and wishes of its own people, but was a result forced upon them against their will, and over every objection and resistance that they were able to make.

After Appomattox, it seems true from all accounts that President Lincoln wished to pursue a most conciliatory course. He wanted the lately separated states to re-enter the Union with the least possible friction. In this he was viciously opposed by leaders of his own party.

Immediately after his assassination, Radical leaders seemed to suppose that Andrew Johnson, the new president, would go along with them, but they soon discovered that he meant to pursue the milder line and carry out the policies of Lincoln. Therefore, they were determined to destroy

(1) Isabel Franks, Marks, Miss.  
Myrtle Hubbert, Marks, Miss.



Johnson, and the history of this long fight to impeach Johnson and put Ben Wade in his place, is written with such vindictiveness that we can scarcely understand it at this time.

Following the War between the States, this nation passed through a period of debauchery such as we all remember after the World War. Politicians and people alike seemed to have gone money-mad. Never was there a time in our history when public men were so corrupt and hypocritical.

Right or wrong, with a deadly fear our southern states dreaded the possibility of negro rule, while radical states were determined to force it upon them.

As a further motive, money was to be made out of the South - money and political power. Against such currents the South fought for its very life more desperately than at Shiloh and Vicksburg.

The Confederate armies had surrendered, and a triumphant Union recognized no government as existing in the South since 1861, prior to the Ordinance of Secession.

Charles Clark, Governor of Mississippi, issued at once his proclamation from Meridian summoning the legislature to assemble on April 18th at Jackson, the first step taken toward Reconstruction. This was at once met by a proclamation from the military authorities reminding the people that martial law existed. They did come to Jackson on the date set, and Clark recommended that they call a convention to repeal the Ordinance of Secession, as well as recognize the other results of the war. But he was promptly arrested and charged with treason.

Mississippi now had no Civil Government, and all affairs were in a state of anarchy. Union troops were quartered everywhere. Thousands of negro laborers had deserted the plantations. Bands of Guerrillas roved the country, plundering, and sometimes killing.

Words can give no idea of the condition of affairs at home when Ex-Chief Justice William L. Sharkey and Honorable William Yerger went to Washington, as commissioners appointed by Governor Clark. They were not officially received by President Johnson, but he talked things over with them.

As a result, the president appointed Judge Sharkey to be Provisional Governor of Mississippi, and a better selection could not have been made. He was a man of high character, a distinguished jurist, and possessed full confidence of all the people. As an old line Whig, of Union sympathies, and a non-combatant during the war, he seemed the man for the place.

The Reconstruction Convention of 1865, first to assemble in pursuance of President Johnson's Reconstruction Plan, met at Jackson, a majority of its members being old line Whigs who had fought secession and opposed the War between the States - all whites and men of standing.

It was earnestly desired by the president that they should extend a modified elective franchise to certain persons of color, who owned property, could read and write, therefore placing Mississippi on the same basis as the free states at the North which, as Johnson thought, would disarm "the radicals who are wild about negro franchise."

All the debates of the Mississippi convention were public and printed, being now available for accurate information. The amendment abolishing slavery was passed eighty-seven to eleven. Secession Ordinance declared null and void, but they did nothing towards granting any form of suffrage to the negro. The convention adjourned with a telegram from President Johnson congratulating them upon "paving the way for re-admission to the Union." Their action was utterly unsatisfactory to radicals at the North.

Under this constitution an election was held October 2, 1865, and B. G. Humphreys chosen governor over Judge Fisher. Humphreys had been a brigadier-general in the Confederate service, and had never been restored to his civil rights. So President Johnson pardoned him, and he was inaugurated governor of Mississippi on October 16, 1865, all of which was regarded most unfavorably at the North, and abuses were heaped upon President Johnson.

In spite of the election of Humphreys, Secretary Seward from Washington notified Governor Sharkey to continue his functions. This caused a more or less equivocal situation, with some friction between the civil authority of Governor Humphreys and the military powers of Governor Sharkey.

After an unsettled period, during which both Sharkey and Humphreys served in a sort of divided governorship, on October 14, Sharkey was instructed to retire, and Humphreys



continued as governor by sufferance of the military commander, General Irving McDowell, who was now the new military commander.

Throughout his administration Governor Humphreys was constantly trying to have negro troops removed from Mississippi, and the Reconstruction acts were passed by Congress in March, 1867.

Much discussion went on at this time as to exactly what rights would be extended to the freed men, for Congress was preparing its program of Reconstruction. Three different observers were sent down here to report the conditions, and feeling of the people.

The first of these was General Carl Schurz, who had served with some distinction in the Union Army. He reported "an entire absence of National Spirit, which forms the basis of true loyalty."

To break the force of this report, as they claimed, General U. S. Grant was sent on a tour of the South. His report, dated December 1, 1865, is far more kindly. A few of Grant's statements are as follows: "I am satisfied that the mass of the thinking people of the South accept the present situation of affairs in good faith. White troops generally excite no opposition, and therefore, a small number of them can maintain order. Citizens of the Southern States are anxious to return to self-government with the Union as soon as possible."

(References: Members of Investigation Com. McNeily, P.G. 75; Radical feeling against the South and Johnson, Ibid. 7; Tragic Era 12 : 55; Effects of Schurz Report, Ibid, 84; Schurz Reminiscences II - 157.)

On September 16, 1867, General Ord called an election to be held on the first Tuesday of November to determine whether Mississippi would come back into the Union or would remain under military rule, without representation in Congress. The election was carried in favor of a convention, the vote being 69,739 for, to 6,277 against it. (see Garner page 186, McNeily, P. G., page 31). (For Suffrage qualifications, the test of oath, etc., see Garner, 202).

The effect of the new construction was to disfranchise practically every native white man of prominence or property, placing all political power in the hands of negro carpet-baggers and scalawags.

After a session of 115 days the convention adjourned, having cost a quarter of a million dollars, \$28,518.75 of which was paid to four newly established newspapers to print proceedings.

The destructive constitution must be submitted to the people for ratification, and white men cast around for a means to beat it. But how? (See Garner 213, 214, 215. McNeily, P. G. 385 and 388).

To the great surprise of both parties, the constitution was defeated, 56,231 votes for; 63,860 against (Garner 216). As the result was announced by General Gillem, who was now again the military commandant, four of the five men elected to congress were Democrats. Humphreys, the lately deposed governor, had defeated Eggleston by a majority of over 8,000. The Republicans charged fraud, claiming that the negroes were threatened with the vengeance of the Ku Klux Klan, and prevented from voting. Possibly, it is a fact, that between two rival sets of bulldozers, the negro stayed safely at home. Not more than half of them voted, and the constitution was defeated. (Reports: Secretary of War, page 590, 603 (Garner 217, note) Historical Miscellaneous Documents).

Defeat of the constitution left Mississippi under military rule, and General Grant had become president. A committee of Democrats, including Ex-Governor Brown and Judge H. F. Simrall, went to Washington and laid the whole matter before him. Grant heard both sides and agreed that some of the harsher proscriptive clauses should be struck out. The amended document was adopted by the people, and the Constitution of 1869 went into effect.

General conditions when Ames took office: Even if Mississippi politics had been in the hands of her wisest and best men, her problems were heart breaking. The people were pauperized, property destroyed by war and raids, and the labor system completely disrupted. Plantations were practically ruined, with few houses left and almost no work stock or domestic animals. Cotton, the chief support of the state, had been burned by contending armies, and what little remained was confiscated by the United States Government.

When peace came, all cotton belonging to persons who had been in arms against the United States, together with their lands and other property, was considered abandoned, and confiscated for the benefit of the government.



The country teemed with treasury agents, spies, and informers who took every bale that they could lay hands on. The burden was upon the owner to prove his ownership, and proof was made so difficult that few claimants could establish their rights. As these agents and spies were receiving one-quarter to one-half of what they found, an honest farmer had no chance to keep his cotton, and only a small portion of it actually reached the treasury.

Many prominent southerners at this time left their homes and emigrated to Mexico or South America, (Garner, 134). One-third of the bread-winners were killed or disabled in the war - the state was desolated. Then Ames came into office. We had bad crop years in 1866 and 1867. The Mississippi River overflowed our western counties because of a ruined levee system; often, the embankments had been cut by Union troops. Conditions were so bad that whites and blacks alike appealed to authorities for rations.

In 1868 an abundant crop at good prices, made things look better. A few debts were paid off, and planters began to hope that free negro labor might be made profitable.

In such a state of chaos and distress, the native governor, Humphreys, had been deposed by military force. General Adelbert Ames became governor, both civil and military, with almost unlimited powers.

(For "Southern Outrages," see the following references: Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XI, page 117; McNeily, P. G. Page 126, 61; Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XII, page 412; Vol. IX, page 156; Vol. VIII, page 199. See County Histories of Reconstruction for details. The L.Q.C. Lamar "Court Scene" at Oxford; Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XIII, page 205; Vol. IX, page 142. Mayes, Life of Lamar; The Hickory Riot, February, 1868); The Chapel Hill Riot; Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XI, page 205; Vol. XIII, page 288. Clinton Riot, Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. IX, page 94; Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. VI, page 63; Tragic Era, page 385; Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XII, page 385; Vol. IX, page 94; Vol. VI, page 428, Clinton Riot, second; Negro mob at Starkville, Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XIII, page 277. Meridian Riot, Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XIII, page 203. Vicksburg Riot, Tragic Era, Vol. XIII, page 448. Vicksburg Riot, Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XIII; Other further reference Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XII, page 418. McNeilly W. and R., page 304.)



### The Ku Klux Klan

This famous organization, which became so notorious during Reconstruction Days, was apparently founded in a joke by six men of Pulaski, Tennessee. To amuse themselves, Colonel John C. Lester, late C.S.A., suggested that they start a club on the night before Christmas, 1865. Their first meeting was held in the home of Thomas Martin, and in selecting a name, they chose the Greek word - "Kuklina," meaning a band or circle, which evolved into Ku Klux; the word Klan was added for Euphony. (See Vol. Ku Klux Klan, "Fleming, New York, Tragic Era," page 306).

At first, these young men merely intended to have some fun riding around in disguise and mystifying their friends, but soon discovered their power to play upon the fear of superstitious negroes.

Through that idea the Ku Klux Klan grew and spread, and General Nathan Bedford Forrest, of Tennessee, became head of the entire organization.

Alabama, General James H. Clanton; then John T. Morgan, afterwards United States Senator.

Mississippi, General J. Z. George, afterwards United States Senator.

Arkansas, General Albert H. Pike, poet, scholar, soldier.

Texas, Roger Q. Mills, famous congressman.

North Carolina, Seb Vance, Governor and United States Senator.

Georgia, the gallant General John B. Gordon.

The character of such leaders is proof that the klan was not a gang of murderers and outlaws. Only the most conservative and dependable men were permitted to join.

(For activities of the Ku Klux Klan, see the following: Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. IX, page 123; Authentic History, page 80,81; Southern Exposure, pages 128, 129; Ku Klux Conspiracy, thirteen volumes published by Congress, Vol. II and Vol. XII; McNeily, W. R., pages 420, 421, 424; Tragic Era, page 311; Garner, page 334; Century Magazine, Vol. VI, page 398; Testimony, R. C. Powers, KKK report, page 586; Trials and court proceedings, Garner, page 338.)



### Freedman's Bureau

This organization was formed as a governmental agency to look after the new freed negroes, and see that they got their rights. It was part of the Bureau's duty to supervise all contracts made with negroes and their employers, and every such contract must be approved by the Bureau officer. This caused considerable friction, and sub-commissioners knew nothing of the economic conditions in the South. In case dispute or collision between whites and blacks, the negro appealed to the Bureau officials, who usually settled things in his favor.

Many of the better class Bureau officials tried earnestly to convince the emancipated slaves that he was not to receive any money or property from the government, but must go to work.

The Freedmen's Bureau, with branches in every community, wielded an enormous power, which many of its higher officers tried to exercise for good purposes. (See McNeily, W. R. Pages 13 and 240; Order of Negro Cases, page 224; Slocum's views, 341; General O. O. Howard, head of Bureau, 334; Garner, 249).

(For the general situation of public schools in Mississippi prior to the War between the States, see article "Did the Carpet-bagger give Mississippi her Public Schools"? By Miss Elsie Timberlake, Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XII. McNeily, Vol. XIII, page 258. The Union League, McNeily, P. G. page 321.)

### Military Commanders

Mississippi was far more fortunate than some other Southern States. Her military commanders, with headquarters at Vicksburg, were mostly high-minded gentlemen, discharging with kindness and forbearance a duty that must have been odious to any soldier. They did not arrest Governor Clark and put him in prison, but co-operated with Governor Sharkey and interfered but little in Civil affairs. General T. J. Wood broke up the practice of his officers buying stolen cotton. As a rule they helped the local court, reported fairly on conditions in the state, and gave excellent advice to vagrant blacks and used all means to make them work.

Upon several occasions in Vicksburg, the retiring commander was given a banquet or other testimonial of regard of the citizens. One of these meetings was presided over the Confederate General Wirt Adams. Altogether,



General Wood, General Ors, and General Gillem are remembered in Vicksburg, as friends, not enemies. (McNeilly, P.G. pages 294, 265).

### Negro Suffrage

This is difficult problem, and arouses controversy. In a land primarily of white men, where white genius had founded a government, the white man always believes in controlling the institutions that he has built. These feelings seem to be universal, and but for the fashions of war, might easily have been accepted as dogma throughout the United States.

(For further study, see: W. R. McNeilly).

### Election of November 30, 1869

On September 8, 1869, a convention of conservative Republicans at Jackson named Judge Louis Dent for governor. This was a sort of compromise and fusion of the Republicans with the white Democrats. The Radical Republicans nominated James L. Alcorn for governor on a ticket composed of northerners, native white scalawags, and negroes. Alcorn had come to Mississippi from Illinois sometime before the war, leased or bought plantations in Coahoma County, and became wealthy. Formally he had been a large slave holder. (McNeilly, W. R. pages 371, 381; Garner, 245).

Alcorn was elected by a tremendous majority, 78,186 against 38,097. In addition to being elected by the people, General Ames appointed Alcorn by military proclamation, and called the new legislature to meet January 11, 1870. This "appointment" Alcorn refused to accept, basing his rights upon the election.

By military power, by votes of negroes, scalawags, and carpet-baggers, civil government was re-established in Mississippi. The first Reconstruction Legislature sat in Jackson, with nearly forty negro members, most of whom had been slaves. (For a list of negroes, see: Garner, 269).

On February 10, 1870, Mississippi was re-admitted to the Union under the Reconstruction Act, with General Ames and Hiram R. Revels in the Senate. The military district ceased to exist.

There were no congressional elections that year, for no machinery had been provided to hold them. (For appointments by Governor Alcorn, see Garner 283). Most of the



judges appointed by Governor Alcorn were southern men, who like himself, had affiliated with the Republican party.

On November 30, 1871, Alcorn resigned to take the senatorial seat vacated by Hiram R. Revels, who became president of the colored school, which was called Alcorn College, and still exists. Governor R. S. Powers succeeded Alcorn, described as a "weak but well-meaning executive." (Garner, 277).

#### Campaign of 1873

Ames and Alcorn were now colleagues in the United States Senate, but a feud had arisen between them, so they denounced one another. (Garner 291), (McNeilly W. and R. 456). Their hostility led them both to become rival candidates for Governor of Mississippi, when Ames secured the regular nomination of his party, and Alcorn bolted the ticket. The Democrats made no nomination and they generally supported Alcorn. Negroes stampeded for Ames, and elected him 69,870 against 50,490, for Alcorn. So, after being military governor and United States Senator, Ames now became the constitutional duly-elected governor of Mississippi; his lieutenant governor being A. K. Davis, a negro from Noxubee County. (see Tragic Era, 436).

John R. Lynch, a mulatto from Adams County, about this time appeared in politics. He was a man of real ability, had previously been speaker of the House, afterwards elected to Congress, and presided over the National Republican Convention in 1884. Author of "Reconstruction Facts in Mississippi." This man was well thought of by the whites.

The Legislature of 1873 was overwhelmingly Republican: Twelve Democrats in the Senate, against twenty Republicans. In the House, thirty-six Democrats, and seventy-seven Republicans. Nine negroes in the Senate; nine white carpet-baggers. A negro man named Shodd was elected Speaker of the House.

Ames' second administration began January 22, 1874, with the publicly expressed intention of giving Mississippi an honest and economical administration. Governor Ames always went north to spend his summers, leaving Davis to handle the affairs of governorship, and he issued so many pardons that Ames wrote to him demanding the reason for each. (see Garner 298, 299). These pardons subsequently

constituted the basis of impeachment of Davis, and his removal from office by the Democratic legislature in 1876.

(For details of local officers and negro administration in various counties under Ames, see Garner, 305.)

The best account of the "Vicksburg Riots" is in pamphlet form, published by the Vicksburg Herald Company immediately after the occurrence. Mr. Harris Dickson knows of but one copy, now in possession of Mr. J. B. Cowen, Cherry Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

(For further information see the following: Boutwell Report, 1015, 1019, 590, 108; Garner 400, 337; Nordhoff's Cotton States in 1875).

#### Revolution of 1875

The Vicksburg troubles, the Clinton riot, and other outbreaks, set the people of Mississippi on fire, and they determined to carry the election of 1875. The psychology of these times is most illuminating. Nordhoff, an old-time abolitionist, and special correspondent for "New York Times" said: "It is a mistake to suppose that intimidation is wholly a democratic proceeding. It has been practiced quite as much, or even more vigorously by Republicans."

(For details see: Boutwell Report, pages 42, 1145, 1666, Vol. II, 1201, 1255, 1802, 1217. Garner 372. See testimony of General Parker. Impeachment Trial, page 131).

Governor Ames put the state on a war basis by the organization of two regiments of militia. White men charged that Ames threw every obstacle in the way of their enlisting in his militia, because he believed that he could not rely upon their executing his orders. Charged that Ames was organizing a war of races, and called upon all whites to enlist in their own companies for defense.

In Hinds County, seven companies were organized, in which only two were whites. (Reference: "Impeachment Trial" page 144; Boutwell Report, page 209).

(See: Reconstruction Articles in various counties; Testimony Senator Carradine, Boutwell Report, Houston Speech; Aberdeen Examiner, September 9, 1875. Garner 392).

(For election tricks, see reports on Reconstruction in various counties, and thousands of cases in the Boutwell Reports).



On election day, every man was armed and ready to fight, for which reason it was one of the most peaceable days ever known in Mississippi. The election passed off quietly, except in the counties of Claiborne, Kemper, Amite, Copiah, and Clay. (Garner, 394).

Democrats carried the state by a majority of 30,000, and swept most of their candidates into office. The terror of carpet-bag rule was over.

After the carpet-bag rule was overthrown, came the question of how to deal with Governor Ames. On February 15, 1876, Ames wrote to Senator James G. Blaine: "I think they will go on with my impeachment. A Republican and ex-union soldier cannot live in the South."

(See also his letter to Charles Carlton, Garner, 401).

In the new legislature which assembled January 4, 1876, twenty-six senators were conservative and eleven republicans, five of whom were negroes; ninety-seven representatives were conservatives, all but two calling themselves Democrats; nineteen representatives, of whom sixteen were negroes.

This legislature was an extremely able body of men; General W. S. Featherstone, of Holly Springs, introduced a resolution for the impeachment of Ames. Examined witnesses, five columns of testimony which is now available to historians.

(In this connection see the illuminating letter that Governor Ames wrote to Mr. Garner (see Garner 405). By agreement of counsel, Ames was permitted to resign, and the charges withdrawn.

A. K. Davis, negro lieutenant governor, was immediately convicted of bribery and removed from office. T. W. Cardoza, negro superintendent of education, was also removed. Honorable John M. Stone, democratic president of the Senate, succeeded by the law to the governorship; a man whose name is still regarded in Mississippi as a synonym for rugged integrity and courage.

(NOTE: The material for this chapter is taken from: Report on Reconstruction in Mississippi, by Harris Dickson, C.W.A. Technician.



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ELLEN DAVIS, BORN 1855

Ellen Davis was born in 1855 in the town of  
Hartford, Conn. She was the daughter of  
John and Mary Davis. She was educated in  
the common schools of her native town and  
in the Hartford Female Seminary. She was  
married in 1875 to a Mr. Davis of the same  
town. She has since that time resided in  
Hartford, Conn.

Ellen Davis was one of the first women  
in Hartford to take up the study of  
astronomy. She was a member of the  
Hartford Astronomical Society and was  
one of its most active workers. She was  
also a member of the Connecticut  
Astronomical Association. She has since  
that time been a member of the  
American Astronomical Union.

#### Her work in astronomy

Ellen Davis's work in astronomy was  
of a practical nature. She was one of  
the first women in Hartford to take up  
the study of astronomy. She was a  
member of the Hartford Astronomical  
Society and was one of its most active  
workers. She was also a member of the  
Connecticut Astronomical Association and  
of the American Astronomical Union.

(1) Mrs. Alexander Logan, Jct. N. Y.



## Chapter IX

## THE NEGRO

With the negro population of Quitman County standing three to one white person, it would naturally follow that this race would play an important part in the development of the county's resources.

Backed by such leaders as Ben Boothe, lately deceased, and Will Benson, prominent educator, the negroes have held up their heads fortuitously. In the early days they labored side by side with the white man to develop things industrially; they felt the responsibility, but lacked ability to do things, except through the instruction of supervisors. They worked wherever needed in the homes or on the farms. Most of the cotton gins were run by negroes, supervised by white managers, as were numerous saw mills and a barrel-stave factory.

There are certain well defined traits of character which our negroes possess in common with those of other sections. One of the strongest of these was mimicry, expressing itself in their eagerness to learn as the whites did, and from this desire and pressure, there were started small, one-teacher schools under guidance of the Department of Education.

There were no attempts to master any of the fine arts, but they were taught a rudimentary knowledge of arithmetic, geography, history, and grammar. They were also assisted industrially, such as raising chickens and hogs, and curing meats for home use. Bees which they looked after furnished honey for Sunday morning waffles. (1)

Progress of the Race

What our negroes have done is one thing; but what they are now doing, is altogether a different story. Where they once had a few hens to set and bring forth a brood of chickens, they now have hatcheries, using incubators and all other equipment necessary to raise chickens successfully; and while they do not own or operate a meat curing

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(1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Marks, Miss.



plant, they have advanced in intelligence enough to be glad of the privilege of preserving their meat through the above named method.

Where they once had one-teacher schools, they now have several schools with a superintendent and from three to six teachers. There is, also, being taught physical culture, music, public speaking, and manual training.

#### Individual Achievements

Cornelia Richards has served as demonstration agent to them for the past several years and they are now growing flowers and various rare vegetables, such as endive, salsify, and asparagus. They can all these; also beeves and chickens. Hitherto, there has been practically no interest in literature, but here we find a young woman writing poetry and short stories, and there a boy drawing posters and painting signs, illustrative of cultural things.

Bo Peep, porter in Brown's grocery store, paints almost all signs used by the town of Marks and surrounding territory. Some of them are illustrated with apt drawings. This same boy has a good voice, and has commercialized his talent singing over the radio and at conventions; Senie Barham at Lambert paints posters and signs, as well as doing some canvas work; Annie Mai Swan, teacher at Darling, writes poems and music, and has exhibited her needle work and basketry in several fairs, winning many prizes; Ora Lee Porter, a talented teacher in the Marks High School, sings and plays the piano, as well as teaching and supervising music. Twice within the past few months she has been called upon to bring her "chanters" to take part in the burial services of two of our most prominent citizens, Mrs. Annie Turner and Judge M. E. Denton.

Among land owners, Silas and Cicero Kelly have a prominent place because of their large possessions, and also of their interest and influence in the county. They always can be depended on for help in promoting things which are helpful and cultural.

James Butts, Sr., known throughout the Delta as a prominent layman of the Baptist church, owns his home and also two hundred acres of land in the northern part of the county. (1)

(1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.

#### Educational Leaders

There are moral, civic, educational, and religious leaders found among the race, and schools are established throughout the county. These are now in operation all over the county, or will be in the near future. In general, the negroes have taken advantage of the progressive plans which have given them better school buildings and equipment, far excelling those existing only a few years ago. The preparation of teachers has been bettered almost immeasurably and there is an abiding desire for knowledge which they may impart under favorable conditions, such as are now here.

Waddell Thompson, age sixty-nine, was born and reared at Okolona, and received his first education in the primary school. While still a young man he came to Quitman County and engaged in farm work, principally. However, for the past forty-five years he has taught school, and at the present location, "Woodland," since 1925. Forty pupils attend the school now.

Since Waddell attended Jackson College, his education has been furthered through summer normals both in Quitman and Panola counties. In 1900 he was general manager of the Falcon Progressive Land Company; during the time Waddell has been in the county he has owned 153 acres of land, but at the present, he has only forty acres near Lambert. Waddell has risen to leadership in both religious and political affairs, and in 1929, was selected as a delegate to the National Baptist Convention held at Newark, New Jersey. Since 1916, he has been president of the Sunday School Convention of the county and secretary of the Baptist Association. For the past sixteen years he has been chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of Quitman County and secretary of the Republican Committee of the Third Congressional District; gifted by a great power of oratory, he was selected as campaign speaker for each. Ten years prior to this, Waddell was appointed secretary of the Republican Executive Committee of the county, and served on petit and grand jury for both State and Federal Courts of Quitman and Coahoma counties. (1)

In 1906, Randall Ross, who had come to this county in 1888, made a resolute endeavor to get the people's opinion in his community (Sabino) up to the point of establishing a school. A petition was signed by all the inhabitants of the community and carried before the superintendent of education and board of supervisors. Six hundred dollars being provided, it was agreed that

(1) Louise Yeager, Belen, Miss.



there would be a school established and named Friendship; the teacher at that time was F. D. Hunter, Jr., and Randall served as one of the trustees. For many years, Randall helped manage the King and Anderson Place, and received his early education in the grammar school at Okolona.

Jesse Edison Hill, principal of the Jennings Negro School, came to this county in 1933 from Sunflower, and upon coming here he accepted a call as pastor of Peniel Chapel, A.M.E. Church at Lambert, and Allen Chapel, A.M.E. Church of Marks, where he served through the years 1934-35. With the beginning of the scholastic year 1935-36, he was elected principal of the Jennings School near Lambert, where he was an efficient teacher, and was re-elected as principal for the term 1936-37. His wife also teaches. Jesse, fifty years of age, received his education at Morris-Brown University at Atlanta, Georgia, obtaining a B.A. degree; he also attended the Turner Seminary of Theology at Atlanta for three years, and there received his D.D. degree. For one year he was trained for an International Sunday School teacher at the Morris-Brown University; in addition to this, Jesse has had teacher-training, which consists of two summer normals in Quitman, and one in Panola County.

Phil Coleman, age sixty-five, received his early education in DeSoto County, attending school at Holly Springs for two years, and has taught day school in this county for the past forty years; at present he is principal of a little school called Elliot, with an average of fifty pupils, and he has one assistant, Mattie Jones. Along with his teaching, Phil also does day labor.

William Fair, who teaches in Crowder, has written several text books on school subjects, which are of great advantage in his class room, and he has had quite a number of papers published.

Sam Tate is principal of Marks School, which carries one year of high school work. This is a separate school district and has a nice modern brick building, with necessary equipment.

Archie G. Reems, born in Pecan Point, Arkansas, in July, 1874, secured his education through experiences and contact with such white business men as Charley Craig, of the First National Bank in Memphis, where Reems worked three years, and other business men who were good friends of the negro. He later finished an Extension Course in Bookkeeping from LaSalle University, Chicago, had the



reputation of being the best negro bookkeeper in Memphis, and is now a qualified accountant. Later, he graduated as an embalmer, and it was in this capacity that he came to Marks in 1928. He thinks that he is the oldest embalmer in Mississippi in point of age and service. He organized the Marks Burial Association, of which he is secretary.

D. M. Gates, graduate of the Greenwood High School, and having two years of college work in Holly Springs, is principal of the Posey Mound colored school, having resided here for twenty years. He is now thirty-seven years of age, and his wife, a high school graduate, teaches with him.

Hardly a white citizen lives here who does not appreciate Will Benson, (previously mentioned) as a negro of rare intellect and all characteristics which go to make up a real man, whether black or white. Will has truly been a benefactor to his race, leading, teaching, and working with and for them in every way possible. In a few cases where some vital point was to be decided which would affect the progress of the county, Will has been the medium through which his people would move. He has held many meetings trying to make clear to them certain things by making addresses both practical and eloquent; now crippled, he has been inactive three years, but still his white friends go to see him and talk over times when he was a figure in the development of things. He has several children, three of them being college graduates and teachers, with an ambition not found so often in his race. He died recently. (1)

Joseph Peterson, pastor of Silent Grove Baptist Church, is an intelligent expounder of the gospel. His people revere him, and his influence is conducive to co-operation with the white friends of the county.

One old couple, Turner Fox and his wife, have been married sixty-six years and have built and kept a home together for all this time. He is deaf and she is blind, but it is a delight to see and talk with them. When we asked how they felt, she said, "Tolerable well, thank you mam." Their son is sixty-five years old.

To conclude this narrative without paying respect to Ben Boothe, lately deceased, would be unpardonable, he being the most prominent negro Republican ever to live here, but information regarding his life and activities are meager. Suffice it to say that he was held in high esteem by both the white people and those of his own color.

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(1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.



### Progress in Industry

Industrially, the negroes of Quitman County have shown an aggressive spirit, and at the present time own 180 farms, averaging forty acres each. One hundred and twenty-eight renters and seven hundred share-croppers are negroes.

Three general stores, three meat markets, six cafes, two shoe shops, two barber shops, and two undertaking establishments are owned and operated by them. Among the large land owners is Walter W. Wells, who is recognized as a business and civic leader of the race; he has three hundred acres of land near Darling, where he operates a public gin; he is also president of a loan association, and his family live in their nice, brick residence in Clarksdale.

A. Peterson owns large farming interests in the county, and his own home besides, having considerable stock in a burial association. (1)

### Status of Negro at Time of Emancipation

A proper appreciation of the status of Mississippi negroes at the time of their emancipation must take into account certain gains that had come to them in slavery. They had been closely associated with the family of their master in most cases. In 1850, there were in Mississippi 309,878 slaves, and 25,116 families owning slaves, making an average of 12.3 slaves to a family; the number of slaves increased somewhat by 1860. From this association, the negro slaves had secured at least the beginning of social order, under the influence of the master's example and tutelage.

In the field of industry, Mississippi negroes had secured in slavery a training of high importance. During that period, Mississippi was preeminently an agricultural state, and had been devoted almost exclusively to the cultivation of cotton. The necessary tools and the methods of cultivation were all simple and easily employed, and negroes had been well trained in this work; plantations were nearly independent economic units - food-stuffs being raised on them; crude furniture in the "Negro Quarters" was mostly of home construction; plantation blacksmiths and carpenters made most of the farm tools. Thus, without design on the part of the slaves or their masters, the negro had been carried through a long course of industrial training.

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(1) Louise Yeager, Belen, Miss.



In spite of these advantages, when the negroes became free, they were poor indeed. They had cultivated the soil, but they owned not an acre; they were surrounded by a populace of landowners, and with these, the negro must enter the struggle for bread. They had cultivated the soil, but they had no experience in purchasing or securing land for themselves.

Again, in 1865, Mississippi negroes were without capital. The country had been stripped of much of the capital; the negroes possessed least of all, and were ignorant of all means of securing it. They had no business past, and hence no credit to take the place of capital; furthermore, they knew no wage system, and worse yet, they had no experience in self-direction; for the cultivation, the gathering, the storing, and the marketing of crops had been under express direction. So the freed negroes had to build up for themselves whatever independent action their circumstances might demand.

Educationally, negroes were on the lowest plane, having almost no learning and no educational ideals; education had almost wholly been denied them.

The religious condition of the negroes was somewhat better than their educational condition, for they had been allowed to hold membership in the churches of the whites and to worship with their masters. Thus, they had learned the fundamentals of Christianity.

It is well to emphasize that the economic status finally attained by the negroes was secured by their own efforts. We do not mean that they had no aid in gaining their present economic status, but they gave value received for this aid. Neither can it be said that the native whites were hostile to the negroes or eminently unfair to them in the economic field, for they knew that the state could not be rehabilitated except by the aid of negro labor. They were ready to use the negroes, and stood ready to pay for their aid.

Booker T. Washington, looking back over a period of forty years said: "The negro had to learn to till the soil intelligently, to plan and build beautiful homes, to erect schoolhouses, and extend terms; to experiment in methods of instruction and adapt these to the needs of negroes; to organize churches, and prepare ministers." They also had to learn to co-operate with

(1) Largely compiled from a history of Negroes in Mississippi by Jesse Thomas Wallace. (By R. N. Kurrelmeier).



one another in general social movements; their marriage relations had to be placed upon a basis both wholesome and enduring; principles of public sanitation and public health had to be learned and applied; principles of public morality had to be brought into public esteem; systems of charity had to be developed and made to function; criminality had to be suppressed, and illiteracy had to be removed. B. T. Washington drew a striking contrast of the negroes of their early freedom and that of forty years later. "Then they felt that work was a degradation, but now negro schools are teaching them to work. They had no capital, but now they are landowners, bankers, and business men. They then thought the government would support and protect them; now they have settled down to build their own fortunes." "It may be added," says Jesse Thomas Wallace, "that they were then without churches, without schools, without benevolent and charitable institutions, without settled definite convictions upon moral questions, without self-directed public opinion as a means of social control, while now they possess all these things."

Says Mr. Wallace: "The home life of the negroes while they were slaves had not been conducive to the formation of a higher order of character and conduct. Still, this negro home life was far more superior to that of their ancestors in Africa. Negroes learned much in this respect and developed greatly under the slavery regime." With the coming of freedom, added responsibility and added importance came to the negro homes. Both the foundation and super-structure of home life must now be strengthened. The husband and wife must now live together in peace and must work together for the common good of the family. The children must be taught and trained. This rested, to a large degree, upon the home life. To a commendable degree, therefore, Mississippi negroes legitimated their marriages, gathered their children about them, and gave themselves to a self-directed family life. (1)

(1) Largely compiled from a history of Negroes in Mississippi, by Jesse Thomas Wallace. (By W. M. Kurrelmeyer).

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interfere with the right of the States to  
maintain their own laws and regulations.  
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THE RIGHT OF THE STATES TO MAINTAIN  
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## Chapter X

## FOLKLORE (FOLK CUSTOMS)

History in any form has a fascination for thoughtful readers, but after all, the greatest interest is in people, their various customs, manner of life, and home influences. Everything centers around man; the world was made for the happiness and comfort of God's crowning creation - the human being. In view of this fact, the writers compiling this county history have listed in this chapter all available material pertaining to human interest, customs, dress, religious observances, folk tales, legends, and other features which influence the life of the community.

Each county has customs particularly its own, yet in a general way all Mississippi history of this character is much the same. Negroes with their superstitions, as slaves on southern plantations, have left an influence that only time can dispel. And the romance of Indian legends never fail to add a mystery and charm. Furthermore, the white people have adopted certain community customs that make them different from other people. This chapter portrays a cross-section of the general folklore and folk customs of Quitman County. - Hattye B. Sturkey.

Observing Particular Days

All citizens of Lambert, both young and old, enter into the patriotic celebration of Memorial Day on May 30th. Mrs. G. L. Wilson, of Lambert, who is interested in the celebration of National holidays, appoints committees to arrange for the flowers, program, etc. Led by the Boy Scouts, a parade is formed, and this proceeds to the cemetery; the iron gate is decorated with U. S. Flags, and little girls and boys, dressed in red, white and blue, distribute beautiful wreaths to those marching in. After the crowd assembles, a local pastor reads the scripture lesson and pays a tribute to the memory of our dead. While National airs, accompanied by the local band, are being sung, wreaths are placed on the graves, beginning with the soldiers. After the graves are decorated, buglers



sound "Taps," and everyone returns to the Methodist church, where a program of sacred music is rendered by the leading musicians of the town and community. (1)

It is customary with people who are blessed with this world's goods to provide material things as well as amusement to those who are less fortunate. In accordance with such a disposition, Quitman County has instituted the custom of having a Christmas tree for the unfortunate children at Marks, the county seat, each year. Attractive gifts, consisting of toys, clothing, etc., are wrapped, tagged and placed on a huge beautifully lighted and decorated tree on a vacant lot next door to the theater. After the packages are unwrapped, Christmas carols are sung. This happy event is brought to a close when the theater manager presents all children present a free ticket to the show. (2)

#### Customs and Superstitions

In a slender volume entitled - "Walk God's Children," Lucile Donaldson Goodlett, devotes one section to the superstitions of negroes. A quotation from one of these poems shows the efficacy of the black mammy's charms.

"Ole Ma'm Pattie settin' in de sun,  
Countin' her conjuh tricks one by one;  
Mumberlin' dis an' mumberlin' dat,  
Tellin' de chillun to 'Scat, yo brat,'  
Ain't no knowin' how old is she  
Say she reckon she ninety-free,  
A houn' dawg toof an' a sack uv bone,  
Dead mans ashes an' wishin' stone,  
Ain't no tellin' who she hate,  
She not-ch her stick an' wait an' wait  
She watch yo' step an' watch yo' ways  
An set yo' time for certain days.  
She take off warts an' take off moles  
An bury de charm in crawfish holes.  
But eny ole time yo' cross huh will  
She bury yo' luck on Dead Man's Hill  
Yo' keep on goin' but yo' ain't so spry  
When de sign turn seben  
Yo' pine and die."

Mrs. Gladys Donaldson, Secord, tells us of an interview with her "wash woman, Freddie Garrett," in which

(1) Dan Ashford, Lambert, Miss.

(2) Mrs. M. J. Claussen, Lambert, Miss.



Freddie says: "Honey, us black folks is more super-spirious than white folks." "Then she regaled me for an hour with some of her superstitions," said Mrs. Second. "She warned me never to step over a rag left in my floor or yard, but pick it up and bury it before it brought ill luck, as it was a sure sign of a conjurer's work." (1)

A colored midwife, Susie Douglas,, is very superstitious. She begins telling her patients certain things to do and not to do, immediately after the child is born; she firmly believes it will die if its hair and finger nails are trimmed before it is one year old, and so protests this. She says that if the nails get very long, one must chew them off. Another belief is that if the inside of a baby's mouth is rubbed with a piece of fat meat, which is then given to a dog to eat, the infant will not have thrash.

Though some people will not admit any acceptance of the superstitions which have been our heritage from the dear old "Black Mammy" because it might effect a lack of intelligence, there is no doubt but that the influence of Aunt Eliza, Aunt Effler, and Aunt Rebecca will live on through many years to come. That a woman with a new baby must not leave the house until the baby is at least a month old, and that when she goes out of the house she must return through the same door of her exit, otherwise the baby will die within three months is a superstition now, and though it is not really believed, there is felt an urge to come back into the house in accordance with this subconscious impression. (2)

#### Superstition of the Davis Family

For the last twenty or thirty years an old negro family by the name of Davis has lived in Belen. Aunt Savannah, the head of the family, is eighty-six years old and has been the "black mammy" of the town. Her mother, 106 years old, makes her home in Memphis.

Aunt Savannah's youngest daughter had two sons, Long John, so called because of his height, six feet and three inches, and Lonnie, seven; Long John died May the second, and a big funeral was held for him; on the night of his death, negroes could be heard moaning and crying. Not long after his death, his little brother became seriously ill with malarial fever, but no doctor was called.

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- (1) Mrs. Gladys Donaldson, Second, Pontotoc, Miss.  
 (2) Susie Douglas, Marks, Miss.



Vague rumors began to be whispered around that Long John had come back for his brother - "The Lord need them both," it was said. The child grew thinner and thinner and his appetite was completely gone, his mother and grandmother were unable to tempt him with any food. He would say, "Go way and leave me alone, go way and leave me alone," and lie staring at the ceiling.

On September eight, the wails of the negroes were again heard, moaning the death of the child. "John did come after him, he came back after him."

Superstitions of this type often arise, and it is impossible to convince the negroes of the fallacy of it. (1)

#### Table and Dress Customs

In one large family who lived in Marks many years there was the custom of having the servants in the house come to the big dining room to enjoy the devotional and historical program which is always given before Thanksgiving dinner is served. There is, perhaps, a song of patriotism, a story of the Pilgrims, and various original speeches of thanks given by the members of the family, and then the chapter is read and prayer said, as the servants stand like sentinels near the foot of the table until the close. (2)

#### Social Customs

The many lakes in Quitman County furnish an abundance of small fish and this may suggest the popular social custom of fish fries. During the summer months groups of congenial people plan to spend a day on the banks of some lake and have dinner together. Those who are the best fishermen are detailed to produce that part of the repast, while different members of the party bring baskets of edibles, such as, potato salad, pickles, cole slaw, and corn balls, that are made by pouring boiling water over meal and making into small balls and frying to a golden brown. Also cakes, pies, and hot coffee are served. (3)

In Quitman county the crops, meaning cotton, are "laid by" about the first of August, and the intervening time which ensues until the harvest season, is regarded as a rest period. To the tenants on the large plantation there is a red letter day - that of the barbecue. As a token of appreciation and a reward for good labor, the

(1) Lama Alice Bryan, Marks, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.

(3) Ibid.





SAVANNAH DAVIS, BORN IN SLAVERY



landlord gives a big spread to which everyone on his place is invited. Two days before this occasion, the slaughtering of beeves, pigs, goats, and sheep begins. This creates quite a bit of excitement on the place, while a certain selected few build the barbecue pit and make up the sauces, etc. The meat is parboiled the day before the feast and then placed on rocks over the fire with about four people doing alternate duty all through the night as refuellers and basters. Oak wood is preferred as it furnishes a better flavor. About twelve o'clock of the appointed day, the tenants, mostly negroes, begin to emerge from their cabins and assemble on the barbecue grounds, which is usually under a group of trees and near a well or pump. Then the meat, along with quantities of sliced bread, pickles, cole slaw, ice cream, and cold lemonade in a keg or barrel, is spread on the narrow long table made of two planks nailed at intervals to wood horses. As everyone is gathered at the table to eat to his own content, a blessing is always asked by someone, and many expressions of gratitude are expressed by the partakers of the occasion. (1)

Another social custom particularly enjoyed is that of the "pounding." Usually this is brought about by some member of a missionary circle, ordinarily the president, who suggests that each member and invited friends bring a pound of food to the home of one of their members at an appointed time. After all are gathered there, everyone enjoys about an hour of wholesome fun. Usually, the meeting is brought to a close by the serving of delicious refreshments. (2)

#### Religious Customs

In addition to the most familiar religious denominations of the county - Methodist, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Catholics - two others have a very good following, the "Jehovah Witnesses" and the Holiness Church. In the latter two, the customs are unusual in many ways.

The churches first mentioned carry out the usual customs of their separate denominations, such as observance of special days, revival meetings, and all-day assemblies.

#### Negro Religious Customs

About a week before the revival meeting begins, the church calls a council meeting and no one but the members can attend. The purpose of this meeting is to report any

(1) R. M. D'Orr, Marks, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Leon Odom, Marks, Miss.



sin that has been committed among them; each member accused has to repent, or he is immediately turned out of the church.

The revival opens, and each night the preacher announces, "If there be any sinners, stand up." The ones who care to repent stand up, and the preacher asks them if they will accept the anxious seat of mercy? Usually the ones that stand up accept the mercy seat that is located on the right side at the front of the church. Each night after service, religious leaders come around the mercy seat and sing and pray for the sinners. All during the meeting, shouting is going on by the religious members as well as the people on the mercy seat. The shouting of some is so loud that the church calls a committee to serve in holding them. The meeting closes on Sunday morning after Sunday School, and over half who accept the mercy seat join. Each "mourner" is then given permission to name the person he wants to pray for him.

After Sunday School, the crowd meets at the nearest bayou or lake, where shouting is heard throughout the Baptismal service. Each person to be baptised has on a white gown, and after the baptizing, they redress and return to the church, where they are given fellowship - every member shaking hands with them. Following this, each new member is given a leader whose duty is to see that the candidate comes to church regularly and also collects his money for the pastor on "Pastorial day." (1)

#### Miscellaneous Customs

In a certain part of Quitman County there is a group of boys and girls, (or we should say, young men and women), who look forward to Sunday as a day of social diversion. Bright and early they dress in their best, gather at some appointed place and walk in a group to the community church, carrying their lunches. After Sunday school or preaching services they spread their dinner together. Then they go to the home of some favorite friend, or to a grove nearby and play games and sing until time for the evening services, after which they go to their respective homes. It might be added that, however, much this may smack of rural life, it is at least the result of a wholesome attitude. (2)

The first Sunday in September is set aside by the people of Walnut for an all-day singing from

- (1) Mr. R. D. Charan, Belen, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Leon Odom, Marks, Miss.

the song book called "Old Harp." Car and truck loads of people come from Calhoun City, Bruce, Water Valley, Crowder, and various other towns. The crowd begins to gather about nine o'clock and by twelve approximately fifteen hundred people are on the ground. The singers meet in the Baptist Church and the singing master, with the use of a tuning fork, pitches the tune. At the noon-hour the ringing of the church bell brings the people to the lawn, where a delicious dinner is served on long tables; dinner is furnished by those who attend this all-day singing. This is a time when relatives and friends meet and talk over old times, and young people take advantage of this day to see their sweethearts. About four o'clock in the afternoon the crowd begins to scatter and all return to their respective homes. (1)

Though the custom of having log rollings on a co-operative basis was instituted during the days when this county was almost a forest, it is still a means of social contact for the communities where there is yet new ground to be cleared. The men of the neighborhood are invited or notified to come to so-and-so's farm on a certain day to roll logs, which they have previously cut down with axes. They come early and stay till "sundown," which is quitting time; in the meantime great piles of logs have been made and are burning. Log-rolling day is a great day for the strong man of the community to "show off," as there is usually some game planned to give him a chance to perform some feat involving real muscle. He is awarded with a prize, which is sometimes the biggest drink of cider. At noon they all come "to the house" for dinner which has been prepared by the housewife with the help of several neighboring women, which is always a feast, consisting of barbecued pig, beef, chickens, lake trout, vegetables cooked and raw, home-made light bread, corn pones baked in a dutch oven, cakes, pies, and boiled custard or ice cream. Often, there is iced lemonade served, and sometimes it is thought a bit of whiskey makes the men work better. When the first log-rolling is over, they plan where to go next, and on and on, so that all who need help may get it. In the afternoon the women quilt. (2)

Just as log-rollings are held in the spring of the year, so must follow cotton pickings in the fall. The purpose of these days is to mix work with pleasure, by coming together on one man's farm to help him "gather" his crop, and to a big dinner. Cotton pickings are usually planned in rounds and on a co-operative basis.

- (1) Mrs. E. Tidwell, Lambert, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Leon Odom, Marks, Miss.



But sometimes it happens that a family is unfortunate in having sickness or death, and the whole community will join in picking their cotton as a token of good will and a spirit to help their fellowman. They take their own dinners, and usually enough to serve the other family for several days. (1)

#### Folk Tales

A railroad coal chute in Lambert is believed by the negroes to be haunted. The coal is drawn up in buckets by chains that fit in cog wheels; when the chute is almost empty and the buckets get free from coal, the cogs slip and make a screeching noise. As the negroes pass by and hear this weird sound, they begin to run and scream that a ghost is after them. The reason they fear this place is because so many negroes have been shot and hung there.

(1) Mrs. Leon Odom, Marks, Miss.

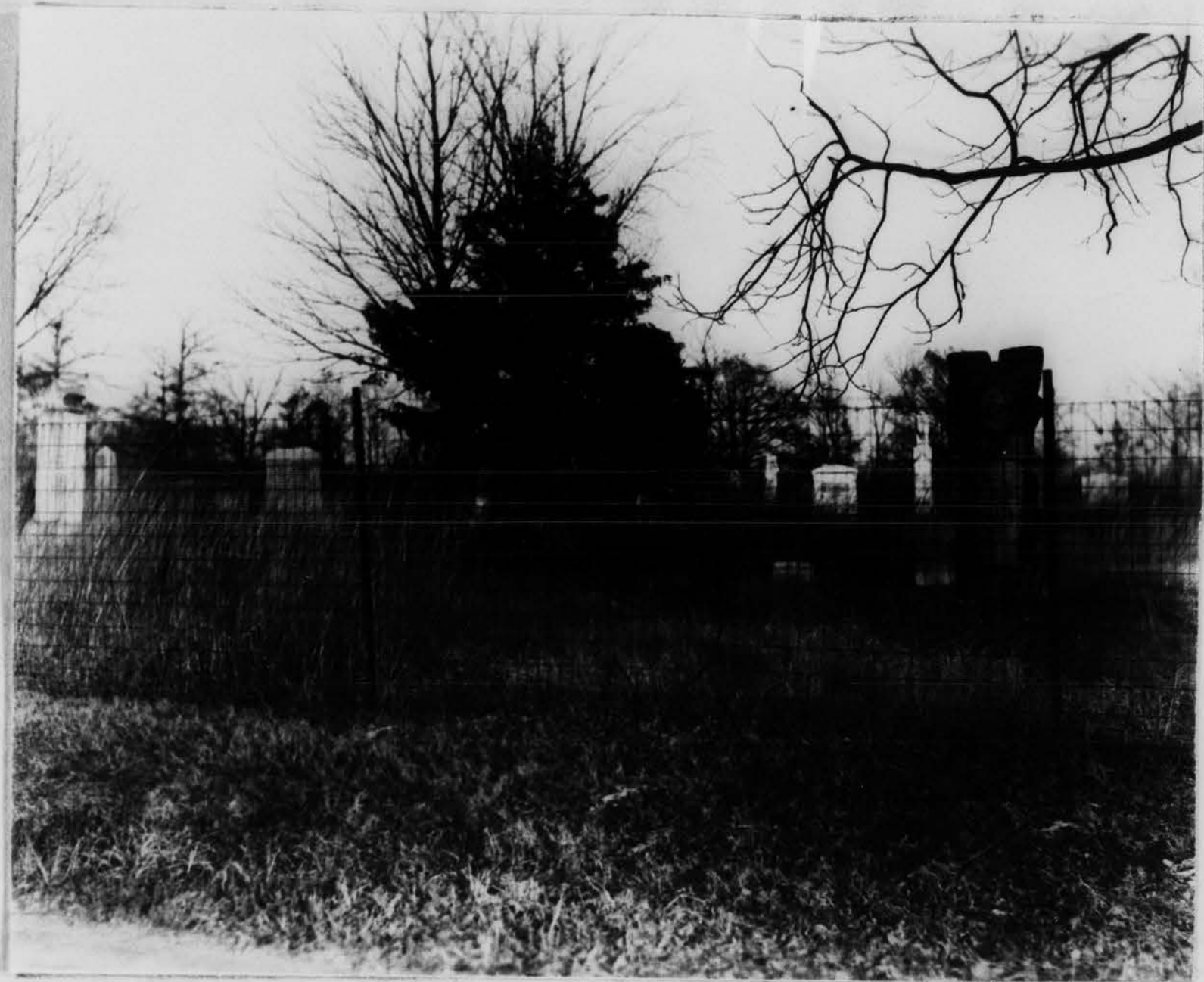
#### References

Ashford, Dan	Lambert, Miss.
Bryan, Lara Alice	Lambert, Miss.
Claussen, Mrs. M. J.	Lambert, Miss.
Denton, Mrs. Blanche	Jackson, Miss.
Secord, Mrs. Gladys D.	Pontotoc, Miss.
D'Orr, R. M.	Marks, Miss.
Douglas, Susie	Marks, Miss.
Ingram, Mrs. Blanchard	Lambert, Miss.
McCharan, Mrs. R. D.	Belen, Miss.
Odom, Mrs. Leon	Marks, Miss.
Tidwell, Mrs. E.	Walnut, Miss.



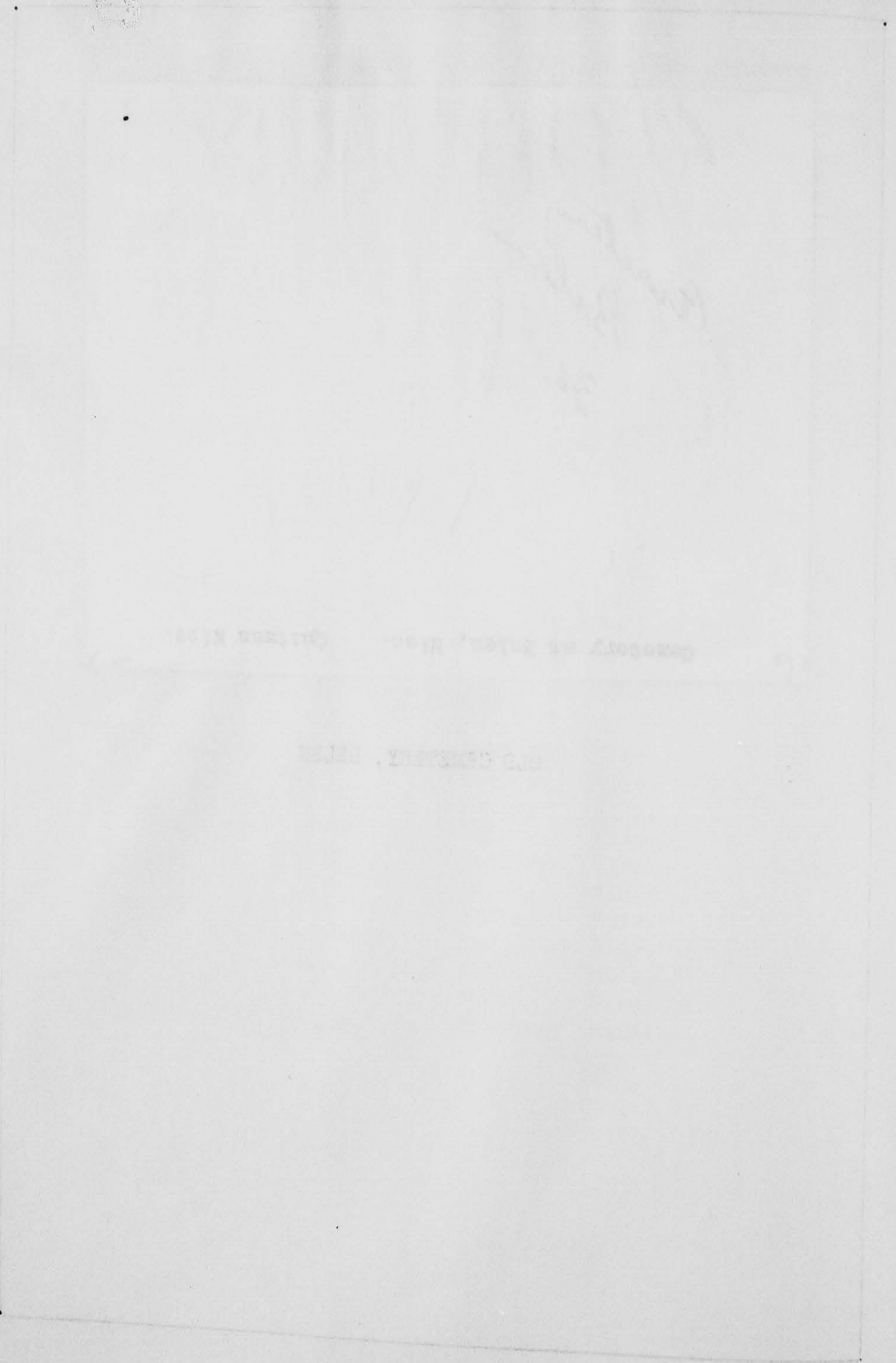






OLD CEMETERY, BELEN





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## Chapter XI

## RELIGION

Just as religion is the backbone of the nation, so are the churches of Quitman County the backbone of all its spiritual and moral development; of these, seventeen are white. According to denominations, seven are Baptist, six Methodist, one Presbyterian, and two Union. There is also a group of Catholic devotees, but as yet they do not have a building for services; they affiliate with the congregation in Clarksdale. (1)

Religious Pioneers and Early Churches

In the early days of the county John Herring, who lived at the mouth of Coldwater River, journeyed on a "Knock-Kneed Stallion" to the fork of the Shine Turner and Dickens Road, where he organized a Baptist church. A pen made of poles served as the first meeting place; negroes and whites worshiped together in this pole pen, each race donating his part toward the promotion of right living. (2)

In 1907, Rev. C. W. Wize, with nine members, met to reorganize, or start a Baptist church in Marks. Mrs. W. W. Powell, G. A. Cox, and P. M. B. Self, present citizens and religious leaders, were charter members. This small band of workers built a one-room frame building, where services were held once a month; but such organizations as the Ladies Aid and mission Sunday school met frequently and made up the greater part of the church life. Due to a disagreement among the members, the congregation divided, some remaining in this church and others formed a new one, and erected a house of worship about 1930, naming it Riverside Baptist Church, and calling Rev. W. M. House as pastor. Later the new church was abandoned and the building was sold to the Methodist congregation. These members joined other churches, many of them returning to the first congregation. (3)

Lambert Baptist Church, like most all of the others here, was at one time a part of the Union Church; however,

- 
- (1) Rev. Avery, Jonestown, Miss.
  - (2) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.
  - (3) Public and Church Libraries, Marks, Miss.



in 1908, a group of interested Baptists organized a church and called Rev. Smith as pastor. The building was erected by contributions from the members and friends, and by money raised from suppers which the women of the church put on. Sometime later, it was razed by agreement and the material sold to the negroes for a church; the lot was sold to Dr. E. A. McVey, whose home now stands on the identical spot of the old Lambert Church. A lot was then purchased on the west side of the railroad and a brick church erected there. In the old pioneer church a group of Christian workers invited two or three ministers from some distant church to come and visit them on the fifth Sundays of the month, this being a day when they had no regular duties. In the morning one of these ministers had charge of the preaching hour, dinner was served on the ground, and about three o'clock in the afternoon another minister had charge of the services. Occasionally they had as many as three meetings, with a different preacher in charge each time. (1)

In 1917, the group of Baptists living in and around Darling had increased to such a number that they felt it necessary to organize a church. For some years after organization and until 1927, when the church was built, the Baptists used the school building for a church, and alternated Sundays with the Methodists, who also had their services in the school building. A few Sundays out of every year union meetings were held on fifth Sundays; ministers of the various denominations alternated in having charge of these. The only two organizations in this old church were the Ladies Aid, as the missionary society was then called, and the Sunday school. Often there was a picnic dinner at noontime.

In 1917, the Baptists of Crowder, with the aid and encouragement of Rev. Gregory, banded together and organized a church. There was no place of worship; but undaunted, these people had their gatherings in the school building until 1921, when they erected a church about one block east of the school. There were no missionary societies at that time. The Sunday school, however, was a union school, composed of Baptist and Methodist alike. They used Methodist literature for a few months, then changed to the Baptist for the same length of time. (2)

In 1910, the Sledge people grouped themselves together to form a Baptist church, using the school auditorium to hold their meetings. A friendly and Christian feeling existed between the Methodists and Baptists,

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- (1) Rev. Chas. McCormick, Lambert, Miss.  
 (2) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.





DARLING BAPTIST CHURCH



both denominations contributing equal parts to the financial support of the church. In 1926, a Baptist church was built by people who were Baptist in belief. (1)

Rev. Lee and a group of interested workers organized a Baptist church at Walnut, and at the first services held, fifty names were added to the church roll. At the very beginning a missionary society was organized and began functioning. They had many interesting meetings, and to help finance the church, ice cream and oyster suppers were given which were patronized by large crowds. (2)

Belen Baptist Church was organized about 1900, when a small, frame church was built. Billie Turner and L. Marks made special donations for it, the rest of the money being raised by donations, picnics, and ice cream suppers. The church was small, but was quite adequate at that time, and it was only a few years later that the county seat was moved to Marks. (3)

The present Presbyterian church was organized in 1914 with seventeen members. Prior to this time, a Presbyterian church was in Belen, which was the county seat until about forty years ago. However, the church quit functioning, and affiliation with the Presbytery was broken, but the Woman's Missionary Society continued all this time.

In the minutes of the present Presbyterian Church is the following: "Sometime prior to the organization of the Marks Presbyterian Church, the members of the denomination at Marks were served by Rev. T. W. Raymond, of Holly Springs, and through his encouragement, advice, and help, the organization of the church was attempted; negotiations were entered into with the Baptist people which resulted in the purchase of the Baptist church house, furniture, and lot."

The financing of this church was done through donations and through a loan from the Committee of Home Missions of Atlanta, Georgia. In 1926, the church agreed at a meeting of its members to sell the property and raise money through donations to build a new church. L. A. Graeber, an elder at that time, was the man who did most to help build this present church; he and another member, while in Arkansas, saw one that they liked very much, and the church of Marks was copied from that. The lumber salvaged from the old church was used to build a manse.

(1) Margaret Rivers, Lambert, Miss.

(2) Ibid.

(3) Ibid.



In 1926, about the time of the building of the church, the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society gave a party to celebrate its thirtieth birthday; though the church had not been going on all that time, the missionary society had continued. From an article in the county newspaper, giving an account of the party, describing the birthday cake with thirty candles, and in the center of which, all the members placed their contributions to the society, we find that the original organization was formed in 1896 at Belen. Mrs. Furr, mother of Venn Furr, now prominent citizen of Marks, and Mrs. Mattie Jamison, beloved resident of Belen, were among the first members. (1)

A Mr. Darby built a small frame structure to be used as a church for all people of every denomination in Lambert. He equipped this building with a kitchen and cooking utensils so they might have suppers and other socials there, so the people organized a Union church in 1903. The Christian people of Lambert bought this building from Mr. Darby a few years later and it became the only Christian Church in the county. About ten years ago this structure burned, and a modern edifice was erected in 1932. Every year the people in this pioneer Christian church set aside one day as roll call day. They also designate Memorial Day as graveyard cleaning day, and if any member of the church cannot get there, he always sends someone in his place. (2)

The first stage in the history of the Methodist church of Marks may be called the pioneer period, dating back to 1889. This church was an old store room located on the bank of Coldwater River, now known as Riverfront. Its founders were some twenty-five citizens who sat on bales of hay to worship, and during a period of ten years, services were conducted monthly by Rev. R. H. B. Gladney of Jones-town, Coahoma County, making his way on horseback, with many difficulties confronting him. At this date no distinctly personal sketch is available, other than his influence and tireless efforts, with scarcely any funds to work with. Later, as the increasing membership kept pace with the growth of the city, a new church became necessary. Steps were taken to build a new one on Riverfront, which was torn down and the lot sold. A few years later the missionary society raised sufficient money through suppers and other entertainments, to build a small frame structure in which the Methodist people continued to worship until 1934, when they bought the Riverside Baptist Church, at which time they remodeled the old frame church, making a parsonage, which is comfortable and attractive. (3)

- (1) Presbyterian Church Records, Belen, Miss.
- (2) Church Records of Christian Church, Lambert, Miss.
- (3) Methodist Church Records, Marks, Miss.



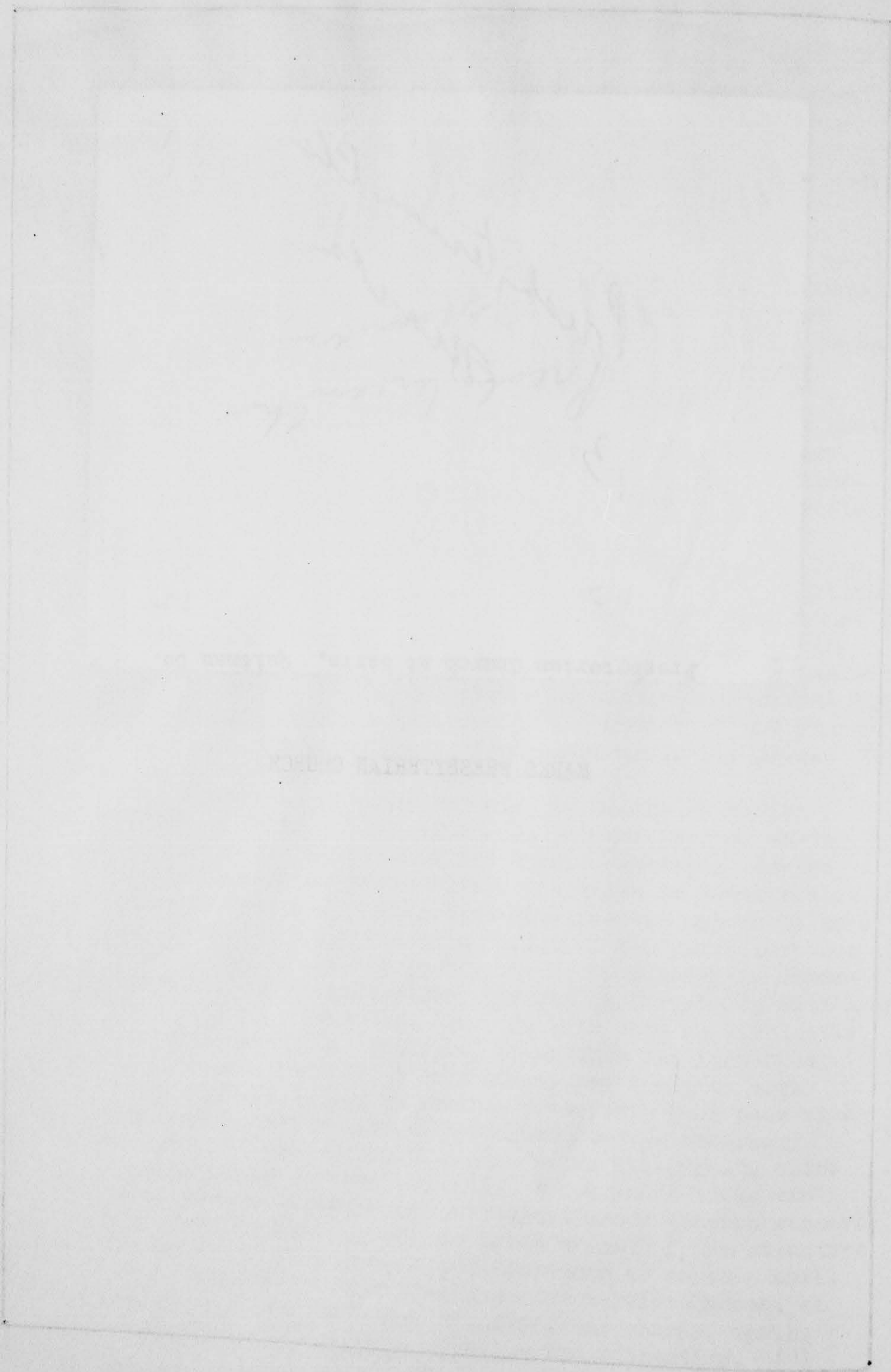






MARKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH







Darling Methodist Church, organized in 1914 by quarterly Conference and Rev. Gouldlock, used the school building until the church was built about 1920. A custom of this church is that of having roll call day, when there is a change of ministers, and all members are expected to be present and answer to roll call. (1)

Belen Methodist Church was organized in 1890. The congregation worshiped with the Baptists and in various homes for a few years, until permission was given them to worship in the courthouse. In the year 1900, a small frame building was erected on the banks of the bayou. (2)

Sledge Methodist Church was organized in 1910 by the people of that community, but lapsed into a lethargic state for some years. However, in 1919, it was reorganized and a place of worship was built. The Baptists worshiped with the Methodists until 1926, when they built their own church. During the period of preparation and adjustment there were Union Epworth Leagues, missionary societies and Sunday school.

Dickerson Chapel, in Birdie, is one of the oldest churches in the county, having been built in 1894. About two-thirds of the lumber was given by Mr. Steadman and his father, and it was built to be used as a union meeting place; but when it was dedicated, the man who gave the land dedicated it to the Methodists. The church has not had any repairs except a new roof since it was built. Services are now (1936) held twice each month in the afternoon; preaching is done by Rev. McKenzie (Baptist), of Lula, and Rev. Avery (Methodist), of Jones-town. (3)

#### Modern Churches and Local Leaders

Quitman County, with its modern churches, has many outstanding workers cooperating with each other to a degree that is astonishing. For the past few years in nearly every town in the county where there are two or more churches, these unite in a fifth Sunday meeting, as signified by the calendar. Talented people of the community furnish the programs, and there is always a noted speaker from other parts. Collections taken at these meetings are used for the upkeep of the cemeteries in the various communities; midweek prayer meetings are largely interdenominational, and pastors of these towns have charge of services. Truly, the church people in Quitman County are doing all in their power to advance God's Kingdom on Earth. (4)

- 
- (1) Darling Methodist Church Records
  - (2) Methodist Church Records, Belen, Miss.
  - (3) Records of Dickerson Chapel.
  - (4) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.



Marks Baptist Church, built in 1925 at a cost of \$40,000, is the outstanding church building in Quitman County and second in membership, having 165 enrolled. The building is of brick, three stories, with large white columns across the front. It is a beautiful structure with wide, curving steps leading up from each side of the church. An interesting and novel way of entertaining was instituted by the people in preparing for the building of the new church, the old one having burned. Brick cleaning days were started, attended by members of all denominations, who came to the scene of the old church, gathering and cleaning the old bricks left from the fire. This was not a benefit to the church project, but the people enjoyed meeting their friends here for a few hours of visiting together. This church installed a Pilcher pipe organ, and Mrs. Blanche Denton served as organist until her departure for Oxford, when the place was filled by Mrs. P. M. B. Self. The pastor's home, not being needed for such at present, (1936) is being rented to one of the deacons. Not only do these people have regular services every Sunday but they also have a graded Sunday school, a missionary society, Young Women's Christian Association, Girls' Auxiliary, Royal Ambassadors, and Baptist Training Union. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. B. Self, Mrs. W. W. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Touchstone, Jesse Eavenson and family, the Wooleys, Causeys, Boones, Nobles, and others are among the outstanding members. (1)

Another brick edifice of one story is the Lambert Baptist Church, which is valued at \$20,000. The large white columns that extend from the porch to the roof make it very attractive, and the many shrubs around the exterior give it a beautiful setting. The church does not have a pastorium, and at present does not have a pastor, but disregarding these handicaps, they are carrying on God's work in the various organizations of the church, which are: A graded Sunday school, Missionary society, and Baptist Training Union. Some of the earnest workers are Volney Carothers, Mrs. John Black, and Mrs. Dock Stone. (2)

Of the seven Baptist churches in the county, Walnut Hill has the largest membership, with 365 on the roll. This church is located five miles from Vance, and directly across the road from Walnut Hill School. Services are held twice a month, with Rev. F. C. Martin as pastor. Only recently a new building was erected and the usual

- (1) Mrs. W. W. Powell, Marks, Miss.
- (2) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.



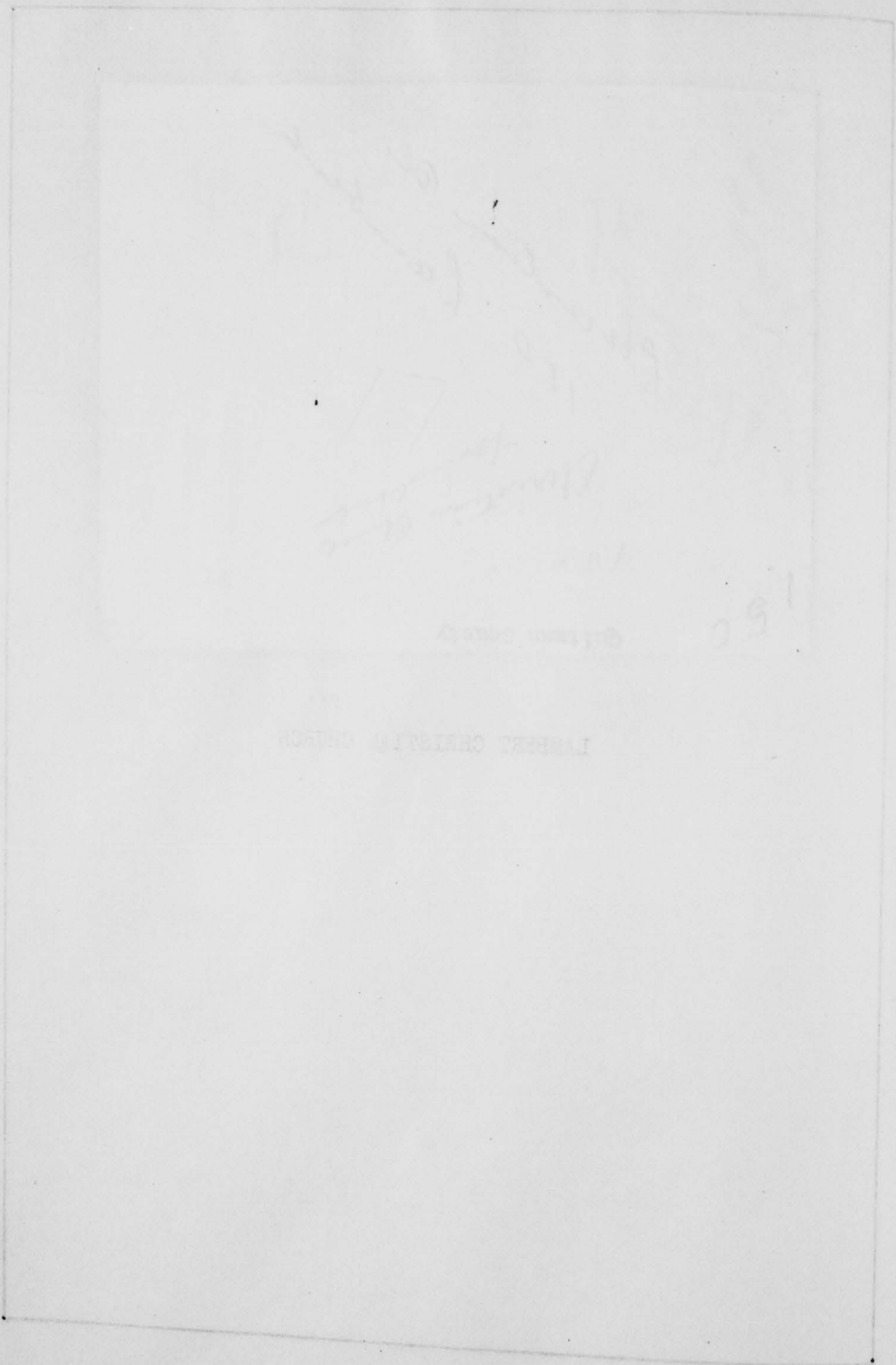






LAMBERT CHRISTIAN CHURCH





LAMBERT CHRISTIAN CHURCH



church organizations are functioning. Among the active members are J. C. Jenkins, O. P. Sarver, L. D. Bishop, and J. H. Manning, former member of the Board of Supervisors. (1)

Crowder Baptist Church, a small frame structure, was remodeled, and some Sunday school rooms were added in 1937; it has now a graded Sunday school, Missionary society, and the Baptist and Methodist young people work together in the young people's organizations. Active Christian workers are, Mrs. W. P. Knight, J. M. Atkinson, Mrs. Walter Elliott, Mrs. W. H. Worthy, and many others. (2)

Darling Baptist Church, a white frame building, was built in 1927. Although members are faithful in attending, they also believe in work; the church record of some few years ago shows that the Missionary society and Sunday school paid all the expenses of Floyd Newsom, a member of the church, so that he might attend a religious school. Only one service each month is held, but much good work is done through the organizations. Prominently connected with this church are Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wilson. (3)

Sledge Baptist Church, a brick structure which cost \$10,000, is very attractive, especially for a community of that size. Preaching is held twice each month, with Rev. W. B. Wallis as pastor. The Woman's Missionary Society and other organizations are active. Some of the members and active workers are: E. L. Dear, W. L. Young, J. A. Holden, Mrs. Fred Stone, and D. A. Wier. (4)

The Belen Baptist Church, a small frame building, the same that was used by the first Baptist people in the county, has undergone some repairs and improvements. Organizations of the church are Sunday school, Baptist Training Union and Missionary society. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Ikerd, Mrs. R. D. McCharen, Mrs. E. W. Bryan, Mrs. Jessie Hayward Covington, and the Turners are among the members.

Of the six Methodist churches in Quitman County, none has a full time minister, due to the fact that the membership is not sufficient to support one. Rev. W. W. Milligan was placed by the Conference in 1935-37, in charge of three churches - Marks, Belen, and Darling. Two Sundays every month are devoted to Marks, where the parsonage is located, and which is the largest of the

(1) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.

(2) Mrs. W. P. Knight, Crowder, Miss.

(3) W. W. Wilson, Darling, Miss.

(4) Mrs. Fred Stone, Sledge, Miss.



the three, having a membership of 203. The building, bought from the Riverside Baptist congregation in 1934, is a stone-block structure with a seating capacity of approximately 300, and is valued at \$9,000. The Methodists took the old frame building that had been used for a church prior to the buying of the present new one, remodeled it and made a pastor's home at a cost of \$2,500. The Woman's Missionary Society, which was organized under the plan of the Women's Missionary Council of Nashville, Tennessee, meets regularly, and the Sunday schools are graded "A," while the Young People's Epworth League is very active. Loyal members are: W. J. Pettyjohn, superintendent of the Sunday School; Mrs. G. C. Jones, who helped to organize the first Sunday school in the Belen Methodist Church; Miss Mattie Sorrels, the Thompsons, Mr. and Mrs. Partee Denton, Mrs. Lucile Lowery, Mrs. Roger Morgan, Lula Mae Jones, and others. (1)

Sledge Methodist Church, in the southeastern part of Sledge, has 125 members, who meet two Sundays of each month, with Rev. E. B. Sharp as pastor. (2)

The Methodist Church of Lambert still stands a frame structure, as when built; however, it was recently remodeled. It is a medium-sized, square building, with a small porch across the center; one of the first things noticed about it is a large tree which stands just in front, and shelters the walk leading to the door. The pastor's home is next to the church and is also a neat frame structure. Religious organizations are, a graded church school, and a Missionary society. One of the main features of the church school is the Baptist Training Union, which has done creditable work. Mrs. Gordon Cooper, Rev. Shipman, and Mr. and Mrs. Jim McVey are active members. (3)

The Methodist Church at Darling, a small brick edifice, is regularly attended by Dr. Mason and family, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Malone, Mrs. W. R. Wofford, and other faithful persons of this community. Rev. W. W. Milligan is pastor, preaching one Sunday in each month. The Missionary society and church school, are its only organizations. (4)

The present Methodist church at Belen is the same that was originally built by a group of Christian workers not so many years after Quitman County was organized. This church may well be called "the little church around the corner," since it is reached from the bridge crossing Moore's Bayou, which runs through the town, by turning

- 
- (1) Mrs. Lucile Lowery, Marks, Miss.
  - (2) Rev. E. B. Sharp, Sledge, Miss.
  - (3) Rev. Shipman, Lambert, Miss.
  - (4) W. W. Milligan, Marks, Miss.







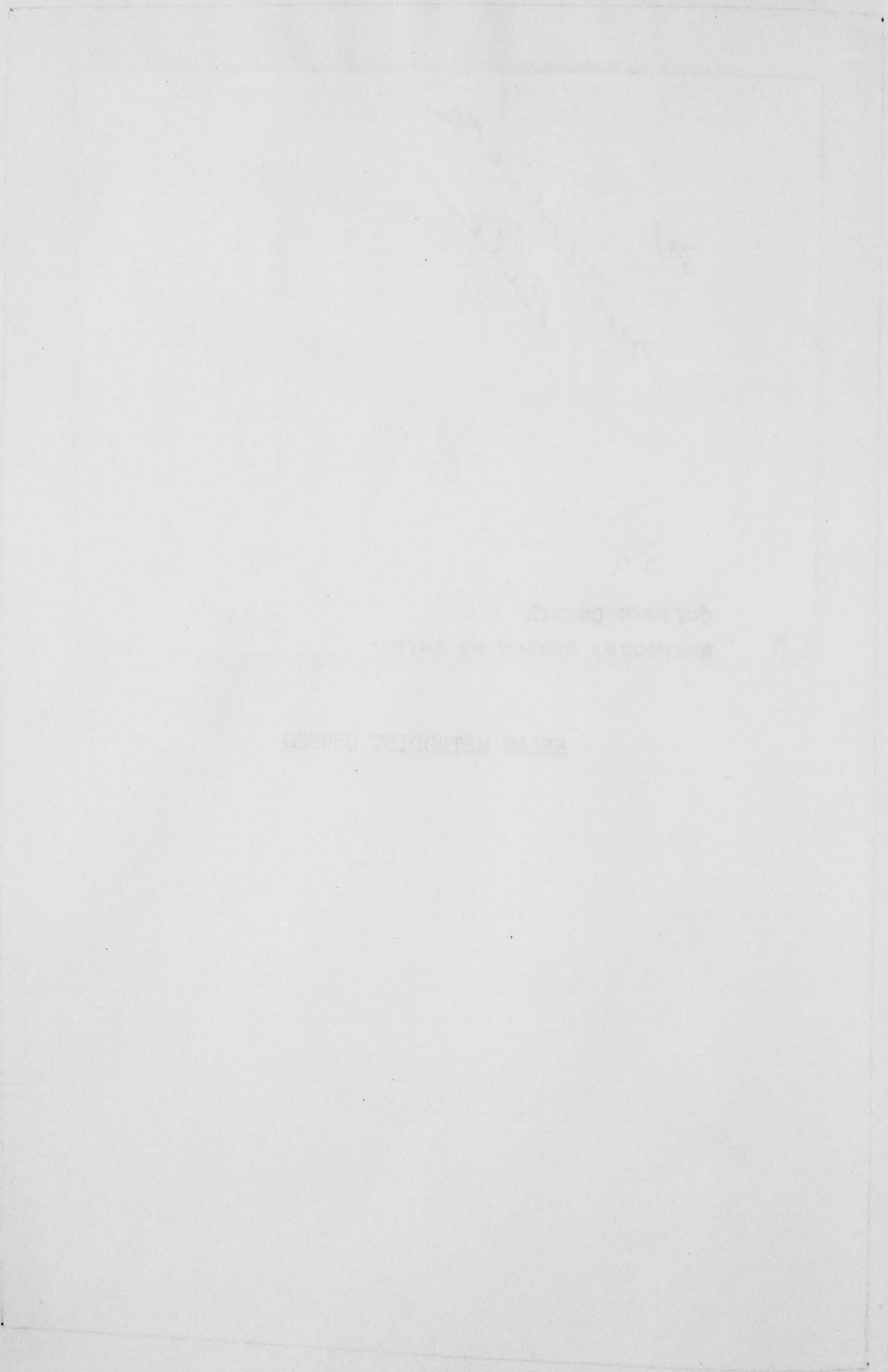






BELEN METHODIST CHURCH







the corner to the right. The parsonage is being rented at present for the reason that the work is combined with that at Marks, and the minister, the Rev. W. W. Milligan, lives in the parsonage there. A church school organization is functioning, and the missionary society is an interdenominational group. The outstanding workers in the church are Mrs. Mary Stone, Mrs. G. O. Denton, the Jones families, and C. C. Miller. (1)

Crowder Methodist Church has been repaired in the last few months; a new roof and paint has added much to the attractiveness of the little white frame structure. The pastor, the Rev. Charles McCormick, resides in Lambert, as the two charges are united; a missionary society and Sunday school are important parts of the church life. The young people of this church work with the Baptist young people. Some of the leading members of the Methodist life here are R. R. Whitten and Gurley Moore. (2)

Marks has the only Presbyterian church in Quitman County. The building, a medium-sized brick structure, stands on the corner of Walnut and Maple streets. It is almost wholly surrounded by shrubs and is one of the most picturesque places in the town of Marks, principally due to the landscaping. Until a few years ago a manse was owned, but it was sold to V. V. Eason, Sr., whose family lives there now. Rev. Paul Watson, Clarksdale, preaches there two Sundays of each month. Sunday school and a Christian Endeavor are maintained, but the latter organization disbands for the summer months. Some of the workers in this church are: Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Furr, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Graeber, the Carrs, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Smith, the Gibsons, and Furrs, of Belen. (3)

The Christian Church at Lambert draws its membership from all parts of the county, having a total of 150 members. Rev. James L. Sandlin, who is the minister, holds services on the second Sunday of every month in the new church, which is a brick veneer structure with shrubs around it, with water-colored windows adding to its beauty. A lot upon which a minister's home will be erected at some later date has been set aside by the members. The missionary society and Sunday school are active, helping the church to pay the expense for Moncie Whitwell to go to a religious training school; now a minister in Oklahoma. Among the Christian workers and members here are Walter Dreaden, M. J. Claussen, and others. (4)

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- (1) Mrs. Mary Stone, Belen, Miss.
  - (2) Gurley Moore, Crowder, Miss.
  - (3) Rev. Paul Watson, Clarksdale, Miss.
  - (4) Rev. James L. Sandlin, Lambert, Miss.



Birdie Union Church, located about one mile east of Birdie, in a big grove, has thirty-eight members who worship twice a month. This is really a Methodist Church, but due to the fact that the Baptist Church is too dilapidated to be used, they are having union meetings. One Sunday, Rev. Kinsey, the Baptist minister, comes from Lula to worship with them and has charge of the services; the other Sunday in the month, Rev. Avery, Methodist minister from Jonestown, has charge of services. (1)

The Union Church of Vance, also has two pastors - Baptist, Rev. C. L. Treadway; Methodist, Rev. C. T. Hollingsworth. Services are held two Sundays a month. The total membership of this church is approximately fifty.

A small band of Catholics, prominent among whom are the Lewis family, Mrs. M. Jammison and daughter, Catherine, have grouped themselves together in order to worship. There are, perhaps, twenty in this group, and they meet in their different homes to worship. Father Cary, Priest from Clarksdale Catholic Church, comes over once a month to hold mass. There has been an allotment for a chapel to be placed at Marks, but so far the lot in the town has not been selected. (2)

#### NEGRO CHURCHES

##### Baptist

Negro Baptist churches in Quitman County belong to either the District Association or the Swan Lake Association.

The new Bethel Baptist Church of Crowder was organized in 1924, but a building was not erected at that time; the Methodists offered to lend them their house one Sunday every month for holding services. In 1929, however, the Baptists had raised enough money by taxing the thirty members to build a church, and a frame oblong structure was erected; it remained unpainted until 1936, but at that time it was painted and screened. The pastor, F. C. Curry, meets with the members once a month and has charge of preaching; on other Sundays, the Sunday school or Missionary society conducts services. Every fifth Sunday they have rallies or "Sings," as they are often called, and spread dinner on the ground. Sarah Pains, Harry Dunson, and Janey Cobler are active workers. (3)

- (1) Mrs. M. E. Denton, Jackson, Miss.
- (2) Ibid.
- (3) F. C. Curry, Crowder, Miss.









CEMETERY AT MARKS







Belmont Baptist Church is one of the oldest negro churches in the county; in fact, it is much older, as far as the records show, than the white churches of the county. Long before there was a Quitman County, and when it was still a part of Tunica, Panola, Tallahatchie, and Coahoma counties, Belmont Church was in existence. It was in 1867 that a group of negroes living in the wilderness, which is now Marks, organized and built this church, about half a mile from the neck of the bayou; however, this was only an old shed. The church had a membership of 300, due to the fact that there was only one other church in the vicinity. George Priest, the pastor during its early period of growth, was the instigator, but it was blown down by a storm in 1898. When it was decided to rebuild, a small piece of land about two and one-half miles west of the old church, and on the bayou, was purchased for a site, and rebuilt. Being rebuilt twice since that date, the first time in 1917 and again in 1930, it now stands a commendable white frame building. The membership stands around 300, although at times it has been much larger. Every summer a baptising is held in the bayou, about a half mile away; singing, shouting, and prayers characterize this event, and an interesting sight it is to behold. The choir stands on the bank of the river singing, with the congregation circled around them and the converts in their robes of white with white caps to match, marching down into the water. The church has a host of workers, led by John McCullar, Robert Beasley, and Amos Hill, deacons and important members. (1)

Silent Grove Baptist Church of Marks, was at one time a part of the Belmont Baptist Church; a few years before Marks became an incorporated town, in 1900, a few of the members who lived in and around Marks decided to form a new church closer to their homes. They organized in a tenant house on the banks of the Coldwater River and worshiped there in a school building. In 1907, the year Marks was incorporated as a town, they built a church, financing and buying the land with taxation. In 1919, a group of members pulled out and organized the Valley Queen negro church, their place of worship being blown down in 1933. Fortunately an insurance policy of \$1,000 was collected, to which was added \$300, raised by members, and the church was rebuilt. Three pastors have gone from this congregation - Rolly Lee, Will Evans, who died a few years ago, and I. C. Bradley. Will Lewis and his wife are two of the oldest and best workers in the church, as is also Walter Pinkins; L. S. Sorrels, the pastor, has charge of services twice a month and the Missionary

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(1) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.



society, and Sunday school have charge of the other two Sundays; On fifth Sundays, rallies are held; The church has a membership of 120. (1)

Organization of Shady Grove Church dates back, as near as can be determined, to 1865, when a building was erected about two miles from Marks on the old River Road; but a small piece of land, about one-fourth mile from this location, was bought in 1923, and the old church building was moved here. However, for some reason, they decided to tear it down and build another; in 1933, a cyclone blew this slightly off balance, but by propping it up with logs, it was used until 1935, when they put up a plain, unpainted frame building. A. M. Metcalf is the minister, and preaches to 154 members twice a month; a large and active missionary society is an important factor in promoting advantageous things. Active workers in the church are Henry Hill, Aaron Wilkes, and Sarah Benson. (2)

The first negro Baptist Church of Lambert is located in the western part of the town. G. W. Strong is the pastor, conducting services once a month to about a hundred people who make up the congregation, and built the house of worship in 1905. In 1923, the building was torn down and replaced by a newer one; and again, in 1932, this was torn down, and rebuilt. Harry Benton was a member of this congregation until he was ordained as a minister and given a church. Some of the active workers are Fannie Mae Lloyd, Victoria Love, Mark Love, and Lula Mae Kimble. (3)

In 1910, a group of interested negro Baptists of Darling, banded together, forming Little Zion Church. An old shop was used as a place of worship, and in 1928 they built a new church and turned the other into a school building, which is used for suppers and other socials. All members threw in and made up the first payment, and paid the balance in installments. "Some white folks, Mr. Blain and Mr. Jones gave us a little help," said Sam Lusk, when questioned about how they built their church. But it seems that another and more interesting plan to make money to supplement that raised, from the above name sources was adopted later. The church was divided into four tribes and each tribe made as much money as they could by having different forms of entertainment. On fifth Sundays they had what they called "Rally Days." Quite often three or four different preachers

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- (1) L. S. Sorrels, Marks, Miss.
  - (2) A. M. Metcalf, Shady Grove, Miss.
  - (3) G. W. Strong, Lambert, Miss.



came there, and each one preached a sermon. Between sermons the people sang. T. W. Laundrew, pastor of this church, preaches one Sunday each month, and on one other Sunday in the month the Missionary society has charge of the services. Tobert Pigum was sent from this congregation as a trained pastor and Lee Lawshe, Sam Lusk, and Jim Beth are among the main workers. (1)

Neil's Chapel, about one mile east of Sledge, is a modern and comfortable white frame building. Though erected in 1930 through donations, it was torn down and replaced by a newer church in 1931, part of the money to build it being raised by rallies. On rally days they had two or three preachers to deliver messages, and each time they had service, they took up collection. Rev. J. G. Mitchell is the pastor of this church, working with 215 faithful members. Once a month he conducts a service, and on the other Sundays, Sunday school, Baptist Young People's Union or Missionary society has charge of the services. Gertrude Thomas, Ed Beck, and Monroe Banks are active leaders. (2)

Oak Grove Baptist Church was organized in 1927 and two years later a small frame building was put up. Percy Jackson is pastor, and Liza and Waddell McAlrain are good church workers. (3)

Mount Olive Baptist Church, located in Sledge, has services on fourth Sundays, conducted by Rev. G. W. Mitchell, with a membership of two hundred. This church was organized in 1918 by a few negroes, and with the help of their white friends, erected a small frame building, where they still worship. Sunday school is held every Sunday and Missionary Union on Mondays.

Holly Grove Baptist Church, located on Coldwater River, about five miles from Sledge, is a white frame building, built in 1931; services are conducted by A. Sanders on the third Sundays. (4)

St. Phillip's Baptist Church, in Sledge, with Rev. A. Sanders as pastor, has a membership of one hundred and services are held every first Sunday. The frame building was erected in 1917 largely through help from the white people. Good members of this church are George Martin and Deacon Shegog. (5)

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- (1) Rev. T. W. Laundrew, Darling, Miss.
  - (2) Rev. J. G. Mitchell, Sledge, Miss.
  - (3) Rev. Perry Jackson, Oak Grove, Miss.
  - (4) Rev. G. W. Mitchell, Sledge, Miss.
  - (5) Rev. A. Sanders, Sledge, Miss.



Macedonia Baptist Church, in Essex, was organized in 1900. For some years they met in a frame building on P. M. B. Self's plantation, but on November 4, 1916, their church was finished. Mr. McPherson gave them the land on which to build, but the church has had quite a bit of repair work done all along to keep it in fair condition. Seventy-five members are on the roll, and A. Sanders preaches on the second Sunday; Sunday school and Baptist Young People's Union meets every Sunday. The outstanding workers are Andrew Radd, Deacon Wright, and West Hoskin. (1)

Denton's Chapel is a small negro Baptist edifice about one mile west of the village of Denton. Judge M. E. Denton gave the negroes an acre of land for a site, hence the name. T. W. Laundrew has charge of the services once a month, and preaches to about ninety members. This church was organized in 1913 by Charles H. Kelly, and the white people in and around this community donated the lumber for the building. However, since it was very small, the membership soon filled the pews, making it necessary to build a larger church. Therefore, in 1918, the old building was torn down and the lumber given to the school to be used as they saw fit. Then, by assessing each family as they could afford to pay, the money was raised to rebuild the church. Every fourth Sunday a rally is held, and often, the members spend the day cleaning-up the little community cemetery. On the third Sunday of each month they observe roll call day. (2)

Wallace Chapel, at one time was one of the most important negro churches in Quitman County, but at present it is badly in need of repair. Services are held every three months with W. L. Morgan as pastor.

In 1913 a group of interested people banded together to form a church in the northern part of Hinchcliff community; meeting in an old frame building and completing the church organization, they named it Wallace Chapel. They worshiped in this old building until 1917, when they started a movement for a new house. Kate Carnegy, West Wells, and Edd Bennett have been faithful workers. (3)

Belleview Baptist Church, located at Hinchcliff, has a membership of forty-seven; Lewis Hill, the pastor, preaches twice a month, on the second and fourth Sundays.

(1) Andrew Radd, Sledge, Miss.

(2) Mrs. M. E. Denton, Jackson, Miss.

(3) Kate Carnegy, Hinchcliff, Miss.









SILENT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
(NEGRO)



Wm. H. ...  
...

AT ...  
...

...



The church was organized and the foundation laid for the building in 1910. Members made donations to help build the church; white people living in the community also contributed. Two outstanding workers in this church are Minnie Palmer and Angella Burrel. (1)

Though New Mount Zion Church, in Lambert, was first organized in 1917 or 1918, it took on new life in 1923, when a small piece of land was bought and a new church built through donations made by members of the church. W. L. Morgan is the only pastor that has ever served here. (2)

St. Mark's Baptist Church, located a little way out from Vance, on Mr. Lipé's plantation, was organized about twenty years ago and a church was built a short time afterward, which is still being used. It has three hundred members, and W. M. Smith has charge of services once a month. (3)

A new church, built by the New Hope congregation in the Vance neighborhood, is a plain, square building and is used for a school also. It is located on the lot where the old church was; W. M. Smith is the pastor, and there are 144 members. This church sent E. L. Slay out as a preacher in 1928; its active members are James Lloyd, L. C. Clay, and Ora Mae Lloyd. (4)

Galilee Baptist Church, which had been on the plantation road about two miles west of its present site, is located now in a large grove of trees about one-fourth mile from the same road on Mr. Sturdivant's place. The church was organized in 1917 and a building was put up in the old grove; it has a membership of one hundred, and E. D. Russell, pastor, holds services twice a month. (5)

Macedonia Baptist Church No. 2 has 150 members, with Rolly Lee as pastor; services are held once a month. The building is about thirty years old, but it has been repaired in the last two years. Every fifth Sunday the church has a rally. Two brothers, Leslie and Eck Pry, are preachers; John Pegree, Henry Winfield, and Laston Sykes are the main workers. (6)

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- (1) Angella Burrel, Hinchcliff, Miss.
  - (2) Rev. W. L. Morgan, Lambert, Miss.
  - (3) W. M. Smith, Vance, Miss
  - (4) Ibid.
  - (5) E. D. Russell, Pastor Galilee Baptist Church.
  - (6) Rolly Lee, Macedonia Baptist Church.



Sturdivant's Chapel, organized in 1917, is located on the Mike Sturdivant plantation. The first church was built in 1917, but was replaced by another frame building in 1929. George Orange, pastor, has charge of services once a month; every fifth Sunday a rally is held. Leona Hinton, Lula Martin, and Anne Clark are active members.

Willie Barnes is pastor of the Greenhill Baptist Church, located about three miles from Belen. Richard Arnold, Alex and O. B. Gates are its prominent workers.

Daniel Chapel, built on Whitening Lake in 1912, was moved back in 1927 because each year the water from the lake would rise and fill the church. Being repaired in 1934, it is in good condition now. Seventy-five members are on the roll and services are held on the second Sunday of each month by W. M. Miller. James Brown, Willie Mack, and Rance James are the important workers.

Miles Chapel, a new Baptist church built in 1927, is located about four miles from Crowder, on the Miles Plantation, from which it gets its name. Preaching service is held on the third Sunday of each month by Mitchell Cox, and outstanding workers are Joe Moore, Cora Hopson, and Parthena Moore.

Oak Grove Chapel, in Crowder, has four hundred members, who take great pride in their church work. Preaching services are held on the fourth Sunday of each month; church suppers are held often, and sometimes ice cream is sold on the streets of the town to raise funds to carry on the work. Among the outstanding workers are, Si Miles, Franklin Jones, Emma Coleman, and Lee Roundtree, the latter being a missionary. (1)

Zion Church, located about one-half mile from Belen, on the old road to Clarksdale, was organized in 1895. The money to raise it was obtained by taxing, and by donations from white friends. Their pastor is S. G. Gaston, of Clarksdale, and services are held on the fourth Sunday. Picnics are held very often on church days, when all the members bring their lunch in a basket, and once a year there is Children's Day. The most important members of this church are, Barge Phipps, Jane Hinton, and Ola Greenwood. Edgar Jude, now a minister, and pastoring a church of his own, was once a member here. (2)

(1) Franklin Jones, Crowder, Miss.

(2) Rev. S. G. Gaston, Clarksdale, Miss.



### Methodist

There are eight Methodist churches in the county, belonging to three associations - A. M. E., C. M. E., and A. M. E. Zion.

Love's Chapel, organized in 1915, is located in Darling. A small church was first built under the Bayou Bluff, but for some reason it had to be moved, so these people bought a small piece of land in the town of Darling and built a new church in 1922. D. L. Jackson is the pastor and Lucenia Trent, Zula Wilkins, and Hilary Robinson are main workers.

Hinchcliff Methodist Chapel has been organized since 1913, and the church was built the same year. H. M. Farmer was the first pastor when the church had fifteen members; George Humphreys is pastor now and the membership has increased to fifty-six. When the church was new, all-day singings were held and picnic lunch was served. Some of the outstanding workers are, Lena Swanagan, who is the head of Missions, and Alex Harris.

Located southwest of the railroad in Marks, is the African Methodist Episcopal Church which was organized in 1912, and a building was made possible by donations from its members. Regular services are held twice a month, with L. Hooper as pastor, and occasionally, all-day meetings are held. The members, numbering fifty-four, serve dinner at the church during Annual Conference.

Originally, the Mother Methodist Church was located about a mile south of Lambert. The workers in this church were very devout and entered into everything good; three Methodist conferences have been held in this church. The building was destroyed by a storm in 1934, and as the members were unable to rebuild, they merged with the A. M. E. Zion Church, a newly organized one in Lambert.

M. E. Brooks' Chapel was organized in 1917 when George Brooks, of Crowder, decided to build a Methodist church. M. C. Harper preaches on the third Sunday; outstanding workers are George Brooks, Jake Merse, and Lewis Motley.

The A. M. E. Zion was the first negro church founded in the town of Marks; Henry Marks donated the land and lumber for the building, which was located at the old Robert Marks homesite - present site of R. P. Morgan's home. When it was decided to change the location of the



church, the old lumber was used in rebuilding. This church was demolished by a cyclone; then in later years, present church was built, and W. J. Ellis is pastor.

Membership of the A. M. E. Methodist Church at Marks, was with about fifteen members, who built a church in the same year. This church is still standing, but has become very dilapidated. Its membership has increased to seventy. Every fifth Sunday is Rally Day, and Sarah Paine says of these meetings: "We goes in the mornin' at sun up and quits at sun down, in jess 'nuf time fer me to milk the cows; we takes our lunch, so we don' have ter go nowhere, but stays right there at the church." "What do we do?" "Oh, we sings mostly."

Carpenter's Chapel, located on Sturdivant's plantation about two miles from Vance has sixty members with H. H. Holmes as pastor, holding services once a month. (1)

Lawshe's Chapel, located at Longstreet, is a Union Church where services are held twice a month. One of the Sundays, Rev. Jones, the Baptist preacher, conducts the services, and on the other Sunday, the Methodist pastor has charge. The total membership of this church is sixty-five, with fifteen Methodists and fifty Baptists. In 1917 B. J. Sykes helped to organize this church, and a plantation house was used for worship until 1920, when Mr. Lawshe gave a piece of land on the side of the highway upon which to build a church, and out of gratitude, the church was named for him. Some Christian workers are: James Harris, Amizi Walker, Jessie Prior, and Mac Keeler. (2)

#### Church of God In Christ

In 1907, those interested in the Church of God in Christ, attended a meeting in Memphis for the purpose of organizing churches of this denomination in the Tri-States. Subsequently, the Church of God in Christ was organized in the town of Marks, and at present it has a membership of twelve, with Murray Valentine as pastor. Morning and evening services are held every Sunday and the church is financed by donations from its members. There are four other churches of this denomination in the county, located at Dooley Woods, Lambert, Squirrel Lake, and Belen. These have a joint cemetery at Tutwiler, in Tal-lahatchie County. (3)

The Belen Church of Christ, commonly called "The Do Right Church," is located about a mile west of Belen, and

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- (1) J. H. Holmes, Vance, Miss.
  - (2) James Harris, Longstreet, Miss.
  - (3) Rev. Murray Valentine, Marks, Miss.



has fifty members on the roll. It was built in 1917, and later, when the State Highway opened the curve in the road where it stood, it was moved across the road. Leading members are Jim Gardner, George Brown, and Frank Braxter.

The Church of God in Christ, on Squirrel Lake, is a frame building, built in 1907. Edward Williams is the pastor and "Mother Mim," as she is often called by the members, is one of the outstanding workers.

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Avery, Rev.	Jonestown, Miss.
Burrell, Angella	Hinchcliff, Miss.
Carnegy, Kate	Hinchcliff, Miss.
Curry, F. C.	Crowder, Miss.
Denton, Mrs. M. E.	Jackson, Miss.
Gaston, Rev. S. G.	Clarksdale, Miss.
Gay, Rev. G. H.	Marks, Miss.
Holmes, J. H.	Vance, Miss.
Harris, James	Longstreet, Miss.
Jackson, Rev. Perry	Oak Grove, Miss.
Jones, Franklin	Crowder, Miss.
Knight, Mrs. W. P.	Crowder, Miss.
Laundrew, Rev. T. W.	Darling, Miss.
Lee, Rollie	Macedonia Baptist Church
Lowery, Mrs. Lucile	Marks, Miss.
McCormick, Rev. Chas.	Lambert, Miss.
Milligan, Rev. W. W.	Marks, Miss.
Metcalf, Rev. A. M.	Shady Grove, Miss.
Mitchell, Rev. J. G.	Sledge, Miss.
Moore, Gurley	Crowder, Miss.
Morgan, Rev. W. L.	Lambert, Miss.
Powell, Mrs. W. W.	Marks, Miss.
Radd, Andrew	Essex, Miss.
Rivers, Margaret, Historian	
Historical Research Project	Marks, Miss.
Russell, E. D.	Galilee Baptist Church
Sandlin, Rev. James L.	Lambert, Miss.
Sanders, Rev. A.	Sledge, Miss.
Sharp, Rev. E. B.	Sledge, Miss.
Shipman, Rev.	Lambert, Miss.
Smith, W. M.	Vance, Miss.
Sorrels, Rev. L. S.	Marks, Miss.
Stone, Mrs. Fred	Belen, Miss.
Stone, Mrs. Mary	Belen, Miss.



Strong, Rev. G. W.	Lambert, Miss.
Watson, Rev. Paul	Clarksdale, Miss.
Wilson, W. W.	Darling, Miss.
Valentine, Rev. Murray	Marks, Miss.

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Miss., Dickerson Chapel

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BELEN HIGH SCHOOL



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## Chapter XII

## EDUCATION

First School Taught in Log Cabin

The first school in Quitman County was taught on the banks of Coldwater River in a log cabin, the home of the teacher, Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Phillips. The teacher, a young widow with three children, came from Sardis to engage in teaching here as a means of support for herself and children. She would get up very early and prepare her dinner, then meet the children in the "front room" at eight o'clock for readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic! She was also a good seamstress and "took in" sewing, which she did while the children studied their lessons. Hours for school were from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon during which time there was a recess period at ten o'clock. Sam and Henry, older children of L. Marks, a notable in Quitman County's history, went to this log cabin school, and it might be added that it was entirely through the efforts of Mr. Marks that this school was founded. In progress during the overflows of 1882 and 1883, it was thought expedient to domicile the school in the basement of Tom Hill's house. There was no system about the location of these early schools; wherever a few children could be assembled, and a person with a teacher's license could be found, these two elements were brought together for the mutual benefit of themselves and the community. (1)

Later, the teacher was married to Joe Blackmon, second sheriff of the county, and their abode was taken up at New Belen, the county seat.

Belen School

We refer to this school as Belen School, No. 1, because of the first one here was taught in a little shanty in the Partee Grove, just across Cassidy Bayou from the courthouse. A bridge made it accessible to children on the opposite side. Among the first teachers were Miss

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(1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.



Carrie Hood and Miss Allie Barnes. During this time, about 1885-86, F. M. Hamblet, a young lawyer, was elected as county superintendent of education. Miss Hood later married Dr. McCurdy from Georgia, and Miss Barnes married Oscar Carr, a prominent citizen of Coahoma County. Miss Barnes was a close relative of Governor Alcorn, whose residence was "Eagle's Nest," near the border line between Quitman and Coahoma counties. Miss Hood was a sister-in-law of Captain G. W. Partee, veteran of the War between the States, and wealthy land owner of Quitman County. (1)

Miss Jennie Simpson taught the first school on Shine Turner's Place, conducting classes in the shade of a large catalpa tree on the banks of the Coldwater River. It would have been a good setting for a study of entomology, for there were worms and bugs crawling up and down the old tree constantly. When it got cold, "Miss Jennie," as she had been affectionately called by old settlers, moved her work into the double log house which was the home of her father, Captain Simpson. Her fair-haired, attractive young sister was married later to Dr. F. M. Brougher, faithful friend to the people of this county; Miss Jennie was afterward married to the owner of the place. After many years of usefulness in a civic and religious way to the county, she died in the mountains of Kentucky, where she had gone as a Presbyterian missionary. She contracted pneumonia, which her strength was not sufficient to combat. "Mr. Shine," a member of the beloved Turner family, is survived by a daughter, Mrs. John Allen, Sr., of Lambert, and a son, George Turner, a prominent citizen of Tallahatchie County. The school is extinct now, as the children in this part of the county go to Crowder and Lambert. (2)

In 1889, when Billy Turner brought his young bride, formerly Lelia Cox, of Enid, Tallahatchie County, to Quitman County, they lived on the bank of Cassidy Bayou, halfway between the two settlements known as Riverside and New Belen. Mrs. Turner graduated from the old Union Female College at Oxford, but she did not give up her chosen profession, that of teaching, because of her marriage. When she had an opportunity to confer with the young superintendent of education, F. M. Hamblet, she was given permission to teach two children, Ada and Walter Sharp, tenants on the Turner farm, at a salary of \$40 per month; afterwards the school grew to have ten or fifteen pupils, but held its original location through 1896, when it was taught by a girl of seventeen, Blanche Phillips, just

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- (1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. John Allen, Lambert, Miss.







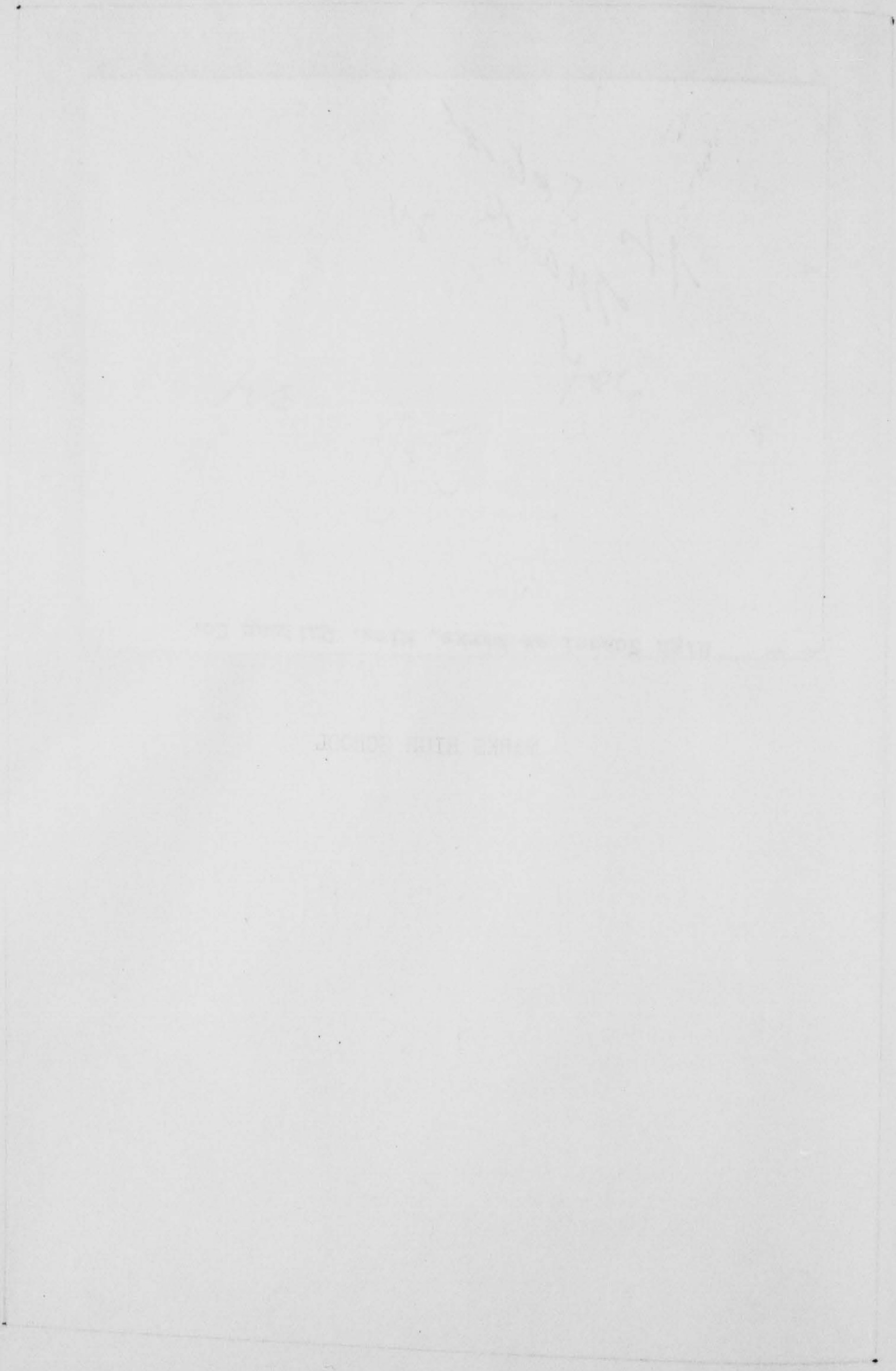






MARKS HIGH SCHOOL







home from Union Female College at Oxford. She, afterwards, married M. E. Denton, brilliant young lawyer and graduate of the University of Mississippi. (1)

#### First School in Lambert

In a little one-room shack, which now stands in Miss Abby Jane Little's back yard, Miss Kate Orr taught the first school with seven pupils. In a year or so, the Quitman County Development Company was formed, and one of the first things done by the company was to build the old Christian Church that burned a few years ago. A room in the back of the church was used for a school-room, and Miss Puryear from Lauderdale County, Tennessee, was appointed as teacher. In the meantime, several families had moved in, and from these, there were about fifteen or twenty pupils. During this time the Development Company built the first real school-house back of where the Baptist Church now stands, and Rev. J. L. Smart was the first teacher there.

Soon, the community out-grew the little one-room school, and started plans for a better location on which to erect a brick building. Upon completion, Rev. Smart and four other teachers, including the music instructor, were retained. This was in 1922. (2)

#### Marks High School

It seems that the intervening years between the old and present day schools were few; in fact, the two periods are so closely interwoven that it is hard to separate the systems into a definite class of this or that kind. Suffice it to say, the present day schools are out-growths of the early ones, and are monumental to those of the:

"Writin', readin', and 'righmetic  
Taught to the tune of a hickory stick"

type, and exemplification of the adage, "Big Oaks from little acorns grow."

For instance, from the small beginning of being taught in the humble home of the teacher on the banks of Coldwater River, the Marks High School is now a two-story brick building, which cost \$70,000, with equipment valued at \$2,800, and with transportation facilities consisting of one \$1,500 county bus, two privately owned buses, and one privately owned car.

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(1) Mrs. Lelia Turner, Marks, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Philey McArthur, Marks, Miss.



Grades taught are elementary, junior high, and senior high. Special courses offered are, home science, commercial course, music, and expression; extra-curricular activities consist of the pep squad, Generalistic Club, senior and junior Girl Reserves, Glee Club, Music Club, Boy Scout, girls and boys 4-H club, Dramatic Club, junior Red Cross, and a good band. Twelve well qualified and well paid teachers are employed, and many extra-curricular subjects aforementioned are encouraged and coached. Five hundred and eighty pupils attend.

The effect of this school, beginning in its infancy and coming up to the present day, can hardly be estimated, but from its walls have gone several outstanding people in different fields of endeavor: Harry Downs, who received an appointment to Annapolis and came out with brilliant record, is now (1937) a meteorologist with the Government, stationed in Iowa. Fern Dorris Cox, bacteriologist in the Baptist Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee, had her first lessons in the Marks school. Lomax Lamb who won a scholarship to Yale, started to school in Marks; he is a member of the Yale Debating Club, and the Yale Band, and was recipient of the coveted award as staff editor of the daily paper there.

Kathryn Jamison, who has attained significant honors at Delta State Teachers College, Cleveland, started to school in Marks, also, and is the daughter of Mrs. Kathryne Reedy Jamison, former teacher in the Marks school.

Virginia Denton, daughter of Judge and Mrs. M. E. Denton has achieved success in the Social Welfare field. An A. B. degree from the University of Mississippi, and M. A. degree from the University of North Carolina, with work toward a Doctorate and a course in the New York School of Social work, have fitted her to hold her present (1937) responsible position, that of Assistant Director for Child Welfare Services, State Board of Charities and Public Welfare in the State of North Carolina.

During the time between the "cabin" period of the school and 1908, when a brick building was erected, the Methodist Church was used for a school; at this time Miss Annie Abernathy was the teacher, followed by F. M. Bizzell, 1909-10. In 1910-11-12, a Mr. Tomlinson was superintendent, and Joseph Johnson, in 1912-13. Each of the last two mentioned teachers was assisted ably by his wife. (1)

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(1) Mrs. Mary Blackmon, Marks, Miss.







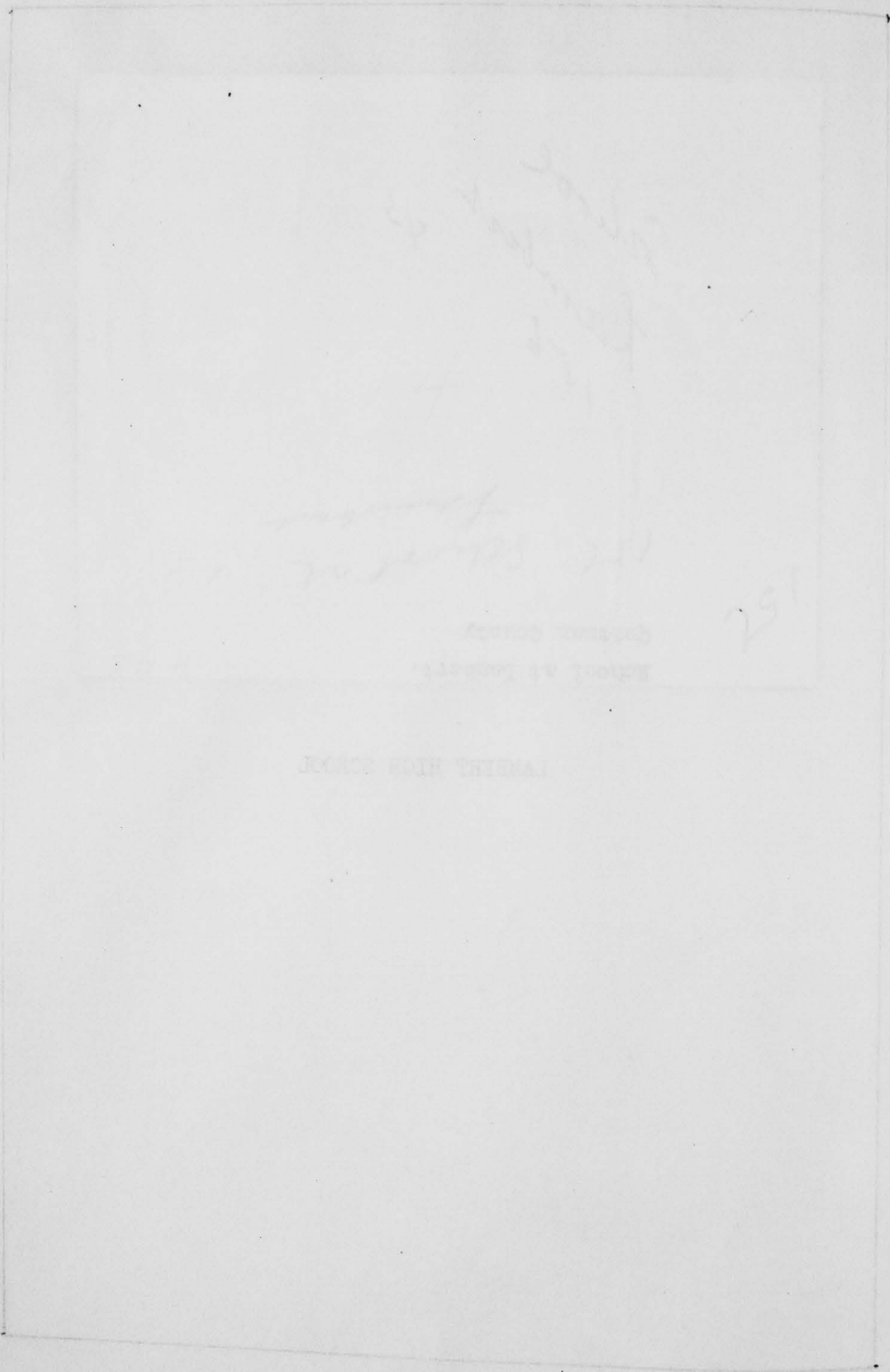






LAMBERT HIGH SCHOOL





JOHN B. HIGGINS



T. N. Gore, of Marks, lawyer and member of the State Legislature, held the place of Superintendent of the Marks School for two terms, 1914-16; J. S. Everett succeeded him for a two-term period, ending in 1918, and H. B. Walker, superintendent in 1918-19, was succeeded by C. P. Smith, who held the place for the next five terms. Beginning in 1925, Joe P. McCain taught for three terms; Superintendent T. N. Touchstone succeeded McCain, since which time he has served in this capacity.

Great improvements have been made on the building, which is of brick and large enough to accommodate over 500 students. (1) Through the WPA, a field house is being built on the football field; it will provide for two dressing rooms, forty by fourteen - one for the local team and one for the visiting team. The bleachers and fence will have two coats of green paint; there will also be shower facilities for both teams. The project will amount to about \$1,400, with the local school paying from three to four hundred dollars.

#### Lambert High School

Taking up the partly-told of Lambert High School in the early part of this chapter: The town grew, and soon there was need for a larger building; subsequently, bonds were sold, and a building was erected which is the pride of Lambert. Mr. Smart, beloved teacher of the previous order, held over for a time in the new quarters; the building that stands now is the old one remodeled and valued at \$60,000, with equipment and library worth \$2,525 and \$750, respectively. Four county buses and one privately owned car transport the children to and from school.

Special courses in home economics, public school music, expression, shorthand, typing, and bookkeeping are taught here; extra-curricular activities consist of a Dramatic Club, 4-H Clubs, Pep Squad, and playground activities; football, baseball, and basketball being prominent among these. The Lambert Parent Teacher's Association holds meetings once a month, and faculty meetings are held twice monthly, or on special call. (2)

#### County Superintendents

Superintendents of the early regime were: F. M. Hamblet, probably the first; Captain T. W. Williams, Dr. J. B. Stone, while J. U. Abernathy, Frank M. Bizzell, Joe

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- (1) County Superintendent's Office.
  - (2) Mrs. Lula Mae Jones, Marks, Miss.



A. Burris, Mrs. Lulu O. Prater, and Mrs. Lula Mae Jones have served as county superintendents since the public schools were organized in 1908. Dr. J. U. Abernathy served one term and received a salary of \$100 per annum; he was instrumental in establishing the first public schools of the county, which were twenty-two in number. He assisted in raising the salaries of the teachers from twenty and forty dollars, to fifty and one hundred dollars per month; he also placed better equipment in the schools. During the latter part of Bizzell's term of office-about the year 1922 - the patrons of Sabino and Whitening school districts asked that the territory thus embraced be consolidated with Belen. The request was granted by the Board, and the old courthouse at Belen was used for a school building. Most of the school buildings were equipped with libraries, music rooms, and sanitation during the administration of Mr. Bizzell, who served as superintendent of education for three terms - 1912 to 1924 - the longest term held by any superintendent before or since his time, at a salary of \$1,964 per annum. In 1918, during his term, the Marks School was declared a separate school district.

Joe A. Burris served as county superintendent of education, during the years 1924-28, receiving \$1,964 per annum; Mrs. Lulu O. Prater, was county superintendent during the years 1928-36, received a salary of \$2,400 per annum. Elsewhere in this history is an account of a gesture of appreciation of Mrs. Prater by the negroes of the county.

Mrs. Lula Mae Jones, present superintendent of education, has been in office twelve months (1937). Prior to this time, she taught in the county schools for seven years - three in Marks and four in Crowder. The last year at Crowder she was appointed as superintendent of the school. (1)

In spite of the fact that the schools of Mississippi have passed through a wavering crisis, due to the lack of funds, the schools of Quitman County run their full terms of eight and nine months. There has been no decrease in teachers' salaries, which average from eighty-five to ninety-seven dollars and fifty cents per month to regular teachers, and from \$200 to \$300 to superintendents; according to place, size of school, separate school district, sixteenth section, etc.

(1) Records of County Superintendent of Education. (1)







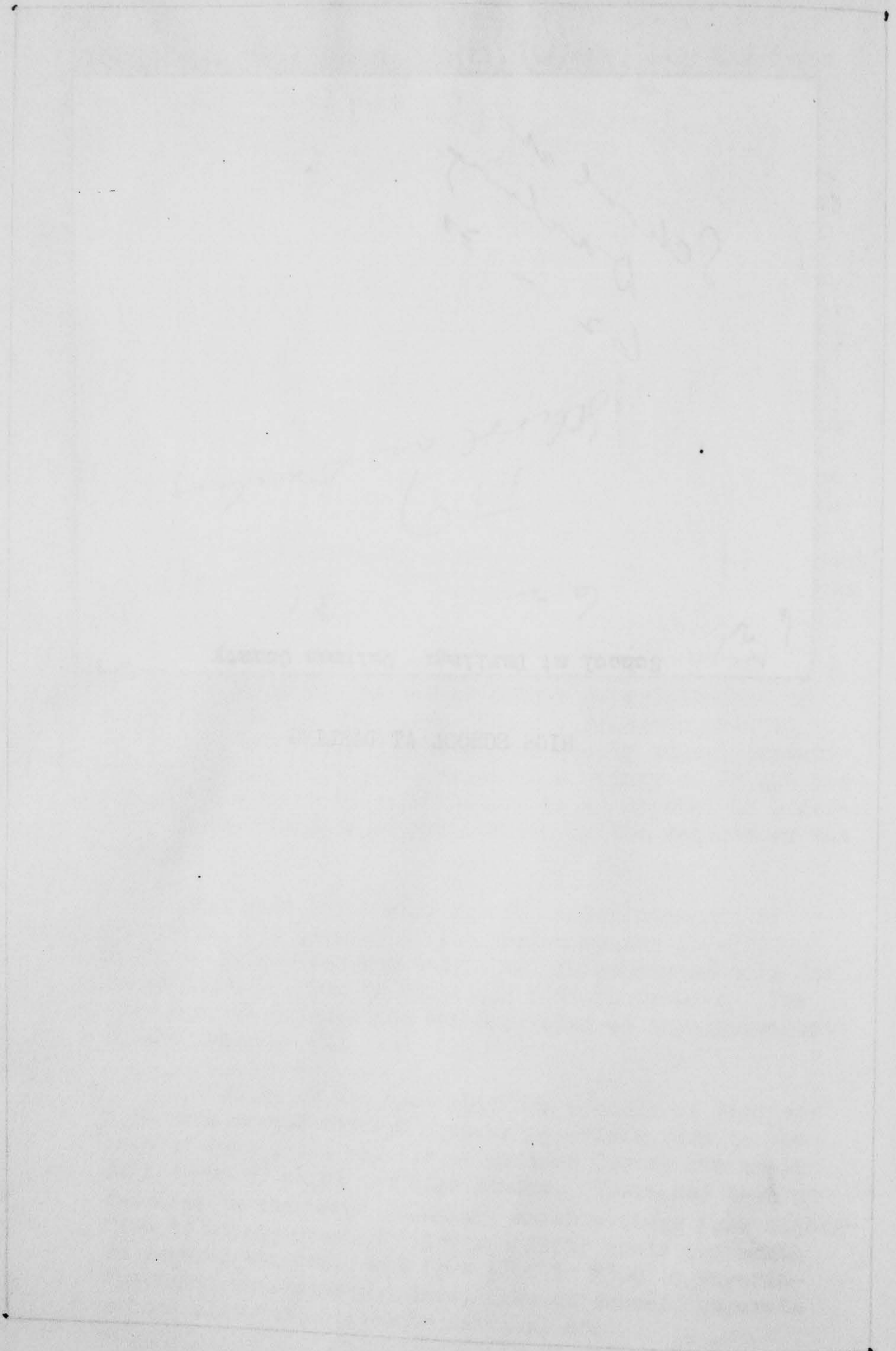






HIGH SCHOOL AT DARLING







### How Schools Are Financed

The superintendent's records of 1935-36 show that the common schools are financed from the following sources: State Treasury Equalizing Fund - \$35,732.32; Per Capita Fund - \$34,569.11; Chickasaw School Fund - \$550.52; County Poll Tax - \$3,160.65; County Tax Levy - \$23,032.10; paid on superintendent's salary - \$288.42; Institute - \$82.50; lumber sold - \$12.96; back tax - \$1,353.96; transfer - \$24,410.97; refund - \$301; which makes a total of \$123,494.50.

District schools are financed as follows: Balance brought forward from maintenance - \$12,413.82; total from district maintenance tax levies - \$19,595.09; income from sixteenth section lands - \$6,983.45; back tax - \$732.12; vocational funds - \$1,200.83; refunds - \$128.01; tuition - \$1,609.13; house rent - \$65; lumber sold - \$512.50; which makes a total of \$43,239.95. The non-revenue receipts show: Borrowed money - \$1,714.50, and interests accounts in school district is \$6,630.27. The amount collected on bond and interest tax levies in school district is \$18,728.26; transfer - \$111.58; refund - \$12.50; back tax - \$708.73; sale of building - \$1,500.00; interest on loan - \$436.32. (1)

### Belen Consolidated School

Belen Consolidated School building, valued at \$10,000, and replacing the old county courthouse that was destroyed by a storm, has only been in use three and one-half years. Most of the material from the courthouse was used in constructing the present building, therefore, only a small amount of money was necessarily taken from the common school funds for that purpose, the labor being furnished through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The school equipment and library is valued at about \$700. Two privately owned cars and one county bus are necessary for the transportation of the children to and from this school; extra curricula activities consist of 4-H clubs, WPA dramatics, and playground activities, basketball, and tennis. The work is elementary, and three teachers are employed, with C. H. Lewis as principal.

In 1906 the Belen school was taught first by Miss Ethel Drane, niece of Mrs. Jessie Covington. This was when the present quiet village of Belen was in its hey-day and when the county court, with all its appending activities

(1) Records of County Superintendents of Education's Office



was carried on here. After the county seat was transferred to Marks in 1911, the old courthouse was used for Belen school; four teachers, including the principal, were employed. School continued here until the spring of 1933, when a storm demolished the building and, in its stead, a brick school-house was built. (1)

#### The First School Board

Since the first School Board of Quitman County, consisting of T. J. Williams, Beat 1; W. T. Downs, Beat 2; J. T. Turner, Beat 3; S. R. Miller, Beat 4; J. A. Shields, Beat 5; was formed, there has been a steady process of organizing, locating and merging of schools, bespeaking advancement in a big way.

On May 9, 1908, they met in the Belen courthouse for the definite purpose of establishing public schools in the county. Twenty-two whites were organized on June 1, 1908, and located at Sledge, Darling Belen, Hinchcliff, Marks, Vance, Lambert, Crowder, Birdie, Castleberry, Parnell, River Bridge, Lost Lake, Ox-Bow, McArthur, Turner, Water Oak, Barmer, Adams, Chancy, and Jennings. Pittman, Hibler, and Crossland schools were combined in 1911; Miller and Shotwell were consolidated and given the name of "Whitening." In 1921, Whitening school was consolidated with Belen; in 1916 Hibbler and Parnell were consolidated, and named Griffin School. F. M. Bizzell was superintendent at that time, and all the white schools opened for fall term on October 1st.

In 1909, the Ox-Bow School was discontinued, and Jones School was organized; it consolidated with Belen School in 1916; in 1913 a portion of the pupils from Pittman School were transferred to Belen, and through a petition of the patrons in 1915, the school was consolidated with Belen. By request of the patrons in the vicinity, Lost Lake School was changed to Sabino Public School about 1913; Miss Sallie Ingram was the first teacher in Lost Lake School; Miss Annie Abernathy taught at the Sabino School in its early beginning. Like most of the first school buildings, it was a one-room frame construction, but now it is a two-story frame building, with six rooms and a large upstairs auditorium. It is valued at \$1,000, while a fair estimate of the library and other equipment would be \$500. Two teachers are employed, the work being elementary; special courses in music, physical culture are offered, and there are lively 4-H and Junior Red Cross clubs. (2)

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- (1) Mrs. Jessie Covington, Belen, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.



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SLEDGE SCHOOL AND GROUNDS



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County of ...  
State of ...

CLERK OF THE COURT



### Crowder School

The County school boards of Quitman and Panola counties organized a school on the line at Crowder in 1919. The following have been superintendents of it: Gertrude Anderson, 1919-20; Mrs. R. R. Whitten, 1921-22; R. E. L. McNair, 1922-23; G. M. Anderson, 1923-24; Mary Mack, 1924-25; M. O. Burford, 1925-26; D. L. Rice, 1927-28-29-30; J. W. Whitwell, 1930-31-32; J. E. Cox, 1933-34; Mrs. Lula Mae Jones, 1934-35; Mrs. M. D. Wall, 1935-36; E. E. Dodd, 1936-37.

The school is a one-story brick building, with office, auditorium, class rooms, home science room, and gymnasium. At the beginning of the school there were only forty-five pupils; at the present time there is an enrollment of 242. (1)

### Hinchcliff and Turner Schools

Mrs. Virgil Cooper Sims, daughter of John and Mary Cooper, taught the first school in Hinchcliff and was also the first postmaster. She and her husband, A. B. Sims, were the first settlers of Hinchcliff. Mrs. Sims is now dead and Mr. Sims is living in the state of Arkansas.

Though A. J. Smith taught a school in the Hinchcliff vicinity in 1907-08, the present school was located in 1908 in the southwest quarter of section 11, township 28, range 1, west; Mrs. Bessie Abernathy taught in 1908-09; for the last three years Mrs. Minnie E. Turner has taught the Hinchcliff school; at present it is a small two-room frame building. In 1906, Miss Annie E. Byran taught the Turner School with six pupils attending; in 1907 it was taught by Miss Minnie B. Jackson, but was subsequently discontinued. In 1913, a petition requesting that the Turner School be re-established was not granted; however, transportation facilities were provided by the county to send the pupils to Marks School. (2)

### Other Schools in the County

McNiel School, organized in 1923, was combined in 1933 with the territory comprising the Sledge Consolidated School, Tibbs Common School, and Holly Grove School, to form a consolidated school district. Both the Sledge and Darling school buildings are brick constructions, each having about eleven rooms and a large auditorium. Recently, the school at Sledge has rented a house across the

- 
- (1) Record in Office of Superintendent of Education.  
 (2) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.



street, to accommodate the primary grades; each school has eight teachers and a superintendent. The present superintendents are: Dan T. Keel of Darling, and R. H. Posey of Sledge; Darling School has 192 pupils, and Sledge has 300. Sledge School consists of a brick building valued at \$35,000, and an additional building of two large rooms, valued at \$2,000, the latter accommodating the first and second grades. The equipment consists of a janitor's house, valued at \$500; garage, lunch room, and dressing room, valued at \$2,000. Three county buses, valued at \$1,500 each, and a privately owned car transport the children to and from school. Special courses are: music, physical culture, and typing; extra curricula activities are: home-room clubs, Hi-Y, dramatic, scout, and 4-H clubs. Related activities include faculty meetings, a Parent Teacher's Association, and cafeteria. (1)

In 1919, Quitman and Tallahatchie counties organized the Vance Line School, a grammar school with two teachers - Mrs. S. S. Gore and Miss Sallie Gore. The frame building is located in Tallahatchie County, but the teachers are paid in Quitman County. This still remains a grammar school.

In 1920, the county school board and the county superintendent of education met at the courthouse for the purpose of consolidating Boisclair, Rowan, Miller, and Bellevue (one-teacher schools). This school was given the name "Walnut Consolidated High School," and a new frame building was erected. Eight class rooms, music rooms, home economic room, library, auditorium, and gymnasium are included in the plan. (This is the only school in the county with a Smith-Hughes teacher). The first teachers were Mr. and Mrs. R. E. L. McNair and Miss Catherine Rowan. Outstanding pupils who began their education in the primary grades at Walnut are: Alma Weeks, graduate at Delta State Teacher's College; Charles Weeks, graduate of Mississippi State College, and now coach in Prentiss High School. Oliver Manning, talented son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Manning, received his early and High School education in the Walnut School. Graduating in 1937, he was awarded a scholarship in the Music School of Louisiana State University, where he is making a name for himself in his chosen field - professional musician.

On April 26, 1920, the board consolidated Sledge and Castleberry into one school district, and became known as Sledge Consolidated School District; Falcon School was consolidated with Darling; in 1923, Birdie was consolidated with Darling.

(1) Mr. Ruffin Fyfe, Sledge, Miss.









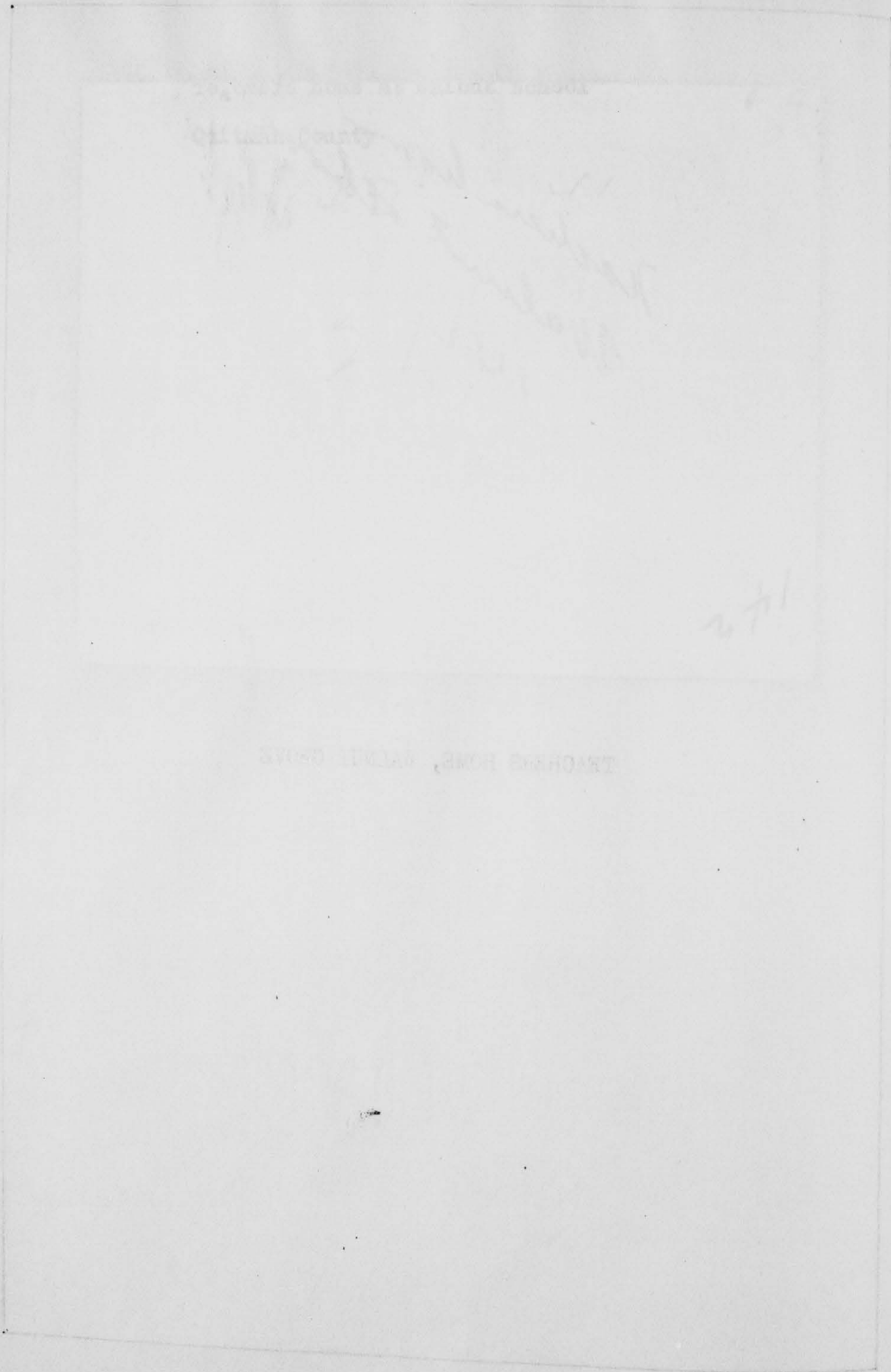




TEACHERS HOME, WALNUT GROVE

- (1) Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, Secretary, 1888.
- (2) Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, Treasurer, 1889.
- (3) Mrs. Joseph Jones, 1890, 1891.







Consolidated schools have become popular over the county because the largest number of white school children live in the country, and because the money allotment can be spent to better advantage in equipment and in securing better-trained teachers; children are transported to and from school in buses, which is a great convenience and a protection from cold rainy weather. Pupils attending Lambert and Walnut Consolidated High Schools have had the advantages of courses in vocational education under Smith-Hughes teachers. Through the study of Home Economics in Lambert, Walnut, Darling, and Marks High Schools, the girls learn to make simple clothing, and to plan, cook, and serve well-balanced meals. (1)

#### Private Schools, Kindergartens

In 1914, friends of Mrs. P. H. Lowrey persuaded her to start a kindergarten that their children might, early, have the advantage of her training; among the pupils were Virginia, Dorothy, and Ruth Denton; Nathan House, Pauline and Julius Marks; Dixie Fay and Lane Cox. Later, Lucile Talbert, of Winona, and Catherine Reedy, of Hattiesburg, experts in this respective work, were engaged to teach kindergarten and kindred subjects in the Marks High School; the work has been continued since. Mrs. Lucile Lowrey, nee Tolbert, now (1937) conducts a kindergarten in her home in Marks, and Miss Freida Claussen, graduate of D. S. T. C., taught kindergarten in her home in 1932-33, and pupils were enrolled from Lambert and Marks. Mrs. Ross Ingram, E. R. A. Recreation Leader at Lambert, organized a kindergarten class in her home in 1934. (2)

#### Adult Education

The WPA is now supporting adult schools for both the white and colored people. Mrs. Lucile Lowrey, of Marks, county supervisor of the WPA Adult Education classes, is assisted by Mrs. Vera Hays, Edna Stephenson, Linna Rivers, all of Marks; Venus Gregg, Lyon, Rural Route; Ida Mason, of Darling; and Ruth Terry. There are 457 white people in the county learning budgeting, gardening, care of children, and other domestic courses from these teachers, who receive a salary of \$42 a month, each. (3)

Teacher as Related to the Community Education is  
A new era, and never before has so much attention

- (1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.
- (3) Mrs. Lucile Lowrey, Marks, Miss.



been given to its needs. No longer do we employ teachers with only a high school education, but they must have college degrees, and must also attend summer schools.

Teachers now have two sets of duties, that of the class-room and, second, that of a citizen, in which capacity he or she is called upon to co-operate in community development. Nothing pertaining to the child's welfare is foreign to the teacher, and it is almost true that the problem of the home-life is placed on the teacher; living conditions of our teachers have changed also. We find in the larger towns what is known as Teachers' Homes or pleasant boarding places, while several years ago they were compelled to live in very unsatisfactory places, and were expected to help with the home work. (1)

#### Early Schools for Negroes

Good public schools for negroes are now in operation all over the county. In general, the negroes have taken advantage of the opportunities afforded them to better themselves by education, and there is a sincere desire for self-improvement among them; early schools for negroes were organized without any law, other than local ordinances, and were rightly named common schools, which meant the bringing together of all ages and grades under one teacher.

From the scholastic term, beginning with 1906 through 1911, the number of negro teachers in this county ranged from about fifteen to twenty-one, and the schools had an average attendance of about forty-five. From 1912 to 1915, there were about twenty-two colored schools organized in the county; in 1916, Darling School for negroes was established; in 1917, by petition, a school was located at Shady Grove Church, on the LeFlore plantation; in 1919, Crowder Line Public School, Birdie School, and Holly Grove School for negroes were established. During this time the Marks, Buck Bayou, and Wallace Schools were recorded as separate districts.

Between 1920 and 1922, the following negro schools were established: Burrel Bayou, Posey Mound, Pate, Chancey, Shady Grove, Cedar Grove, Whitening, Bear Lake, Hinchcliff, Pleasant Ridge, and St. James. From 1919 to 1928, the number of schools ranged from thirty seven to fifty-two; number of teachers being from thirty-seven

(1) County Historian, Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.



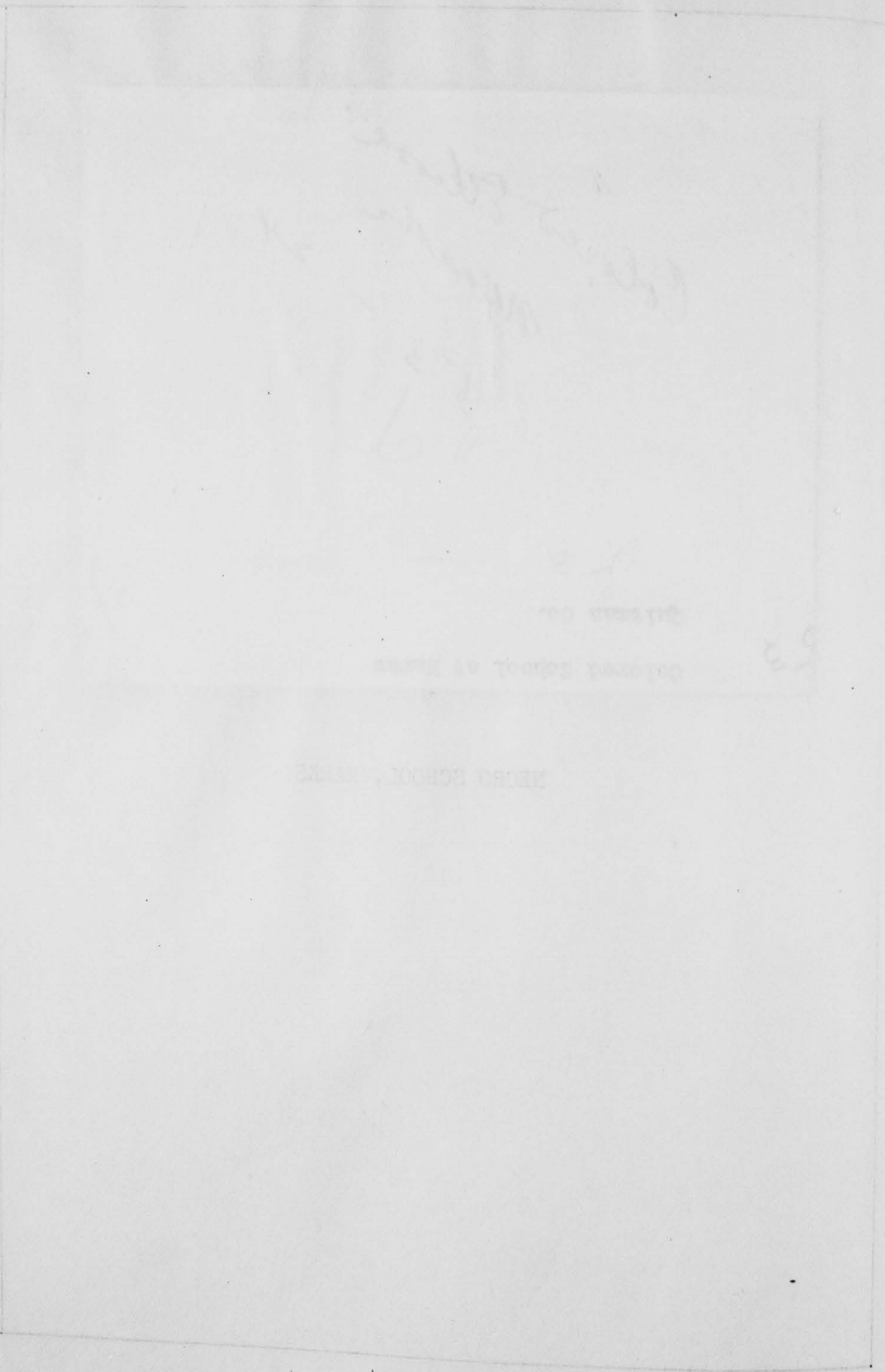






NEGRO SCHOOL, MARKS





HERO SCHOOL, WASH.

Colored School at Home

Gifts to



to seventy-three; average attendance of pupils was sixty.

### Negro Schools of Today

There are now seven town colored schools and forty-one rural schools, namely: Squirrel Lake, Shady Grove No. 1, Red Lake, Arkadelphia, Avant, Bellevue, Butler, Cooke, Crofford, Denton, Elliott, Friendship, Gleason Grove, Hawkins, Pleasant Ridge, Thomas, Yandell, Woodland, Whitening, Weeks, Union Grove, Turner, St. James, Shady Grove No. 2, Scott, Holly Grove, Jennings, Kelly, Lips, Lombardy, Macedonia, McPherson, McNeil, Miller, Neal's Chapel, O'Possum, Pingle, and Posey Mound.

In present day schools which number from forty-nine to fifty-one, there are sixty to seventy-eight teachers, and an average attendance of about seventy-five to each school. Only one of these schools, which is located in Marks, teaches through the ninth grade. However, the school at Lambert plans to add one year of high school work there.

Some of the colored principals of the schools in the county at present are: Marks, Sam Tate; Lambert, Jessie Edison Hill; Vance, Solomon Benson; Woodland, Waddell Thompson; Posey Mound, D. M. Gates; Crofford, William Fair; Falcon, Richard Cofer; Elliot, Phil Coleman.

The early course of study was enriched by the addition of grammar, geography, health, music, and art, also histories of the state. Nearly all the school buildings are of frame-work; the only one constructed of brick is in Marks. Negro schools have been improved, partly from public funds and partly with money furnished from outside sources, such as the fund established by Julius Rosenwald, a wealthy Chicago merchant.

### Jeannes Supervisor of Public-Schools

The main support of these schools now is derived from a regular and intermittent revenue, derived from state and local taxation.

For the first time in this county a Jeannes Supervisor of colored schools has been appointed, and the negro teachers are required to keep registers and monthly reports. The aim of this Jeannes worker is to stress sanitation in the schools; all negro schools are equipped with sanitary conveniences, as are the one and two-teacher white schools.



Three negro teachers, Lona Ewing, Marks; Warner Benson, Marks; and Fannie Mae Lloyd, Compress and Lambert, conduct classes with an enrollment of two hundred. The negro school at Marks, taught in a one-story brick building, is equipped with charts, maps, electric gong system, bulletin board, scenic roller curtain, and reference material; patrons have made donations to the library fund, and plans have been made to raise money to begin a library.

Work from the first to the tenth grade is given, with music, art, public speaking, and handicraft as special courses; extra activities are dramatics, glee, and honor clubs; playground activities include basket and soft ball; related activities consist of faculty meetings and Parent-Teacher Association.

A one-thousand dollar project, that of reinforcing the foundation and roof of the building and the construction of a coal house, has just been completed by the WPA.

The negro Junior High School at Lambert is a frame building, which cost about \$10,000, the money being supplied by the Rosenwald Foundation. The school is equipped with black-boards, heaters, and desks; the study course ranges from grammar to junior high, with physical culture and voice as special courses. Extra curricular activities are: first aid, disciplinary control, debating and dramatic clubs; faculty and Parent-Teacher meetings are held weekly. (1)

Negro teachers of Quitman County, in their regular monthly meeting on December 21, 1936, in the Courthouse at Marks, presented Mrs. Lula O. Prater, county superintendent of education, with a chest of sterling silver consisting of six knives, six forks, and six spoons; a beautiful meat platter accompanied the silver service.

The gift was presented by Professor R. W. Thompson, with the following remarks:

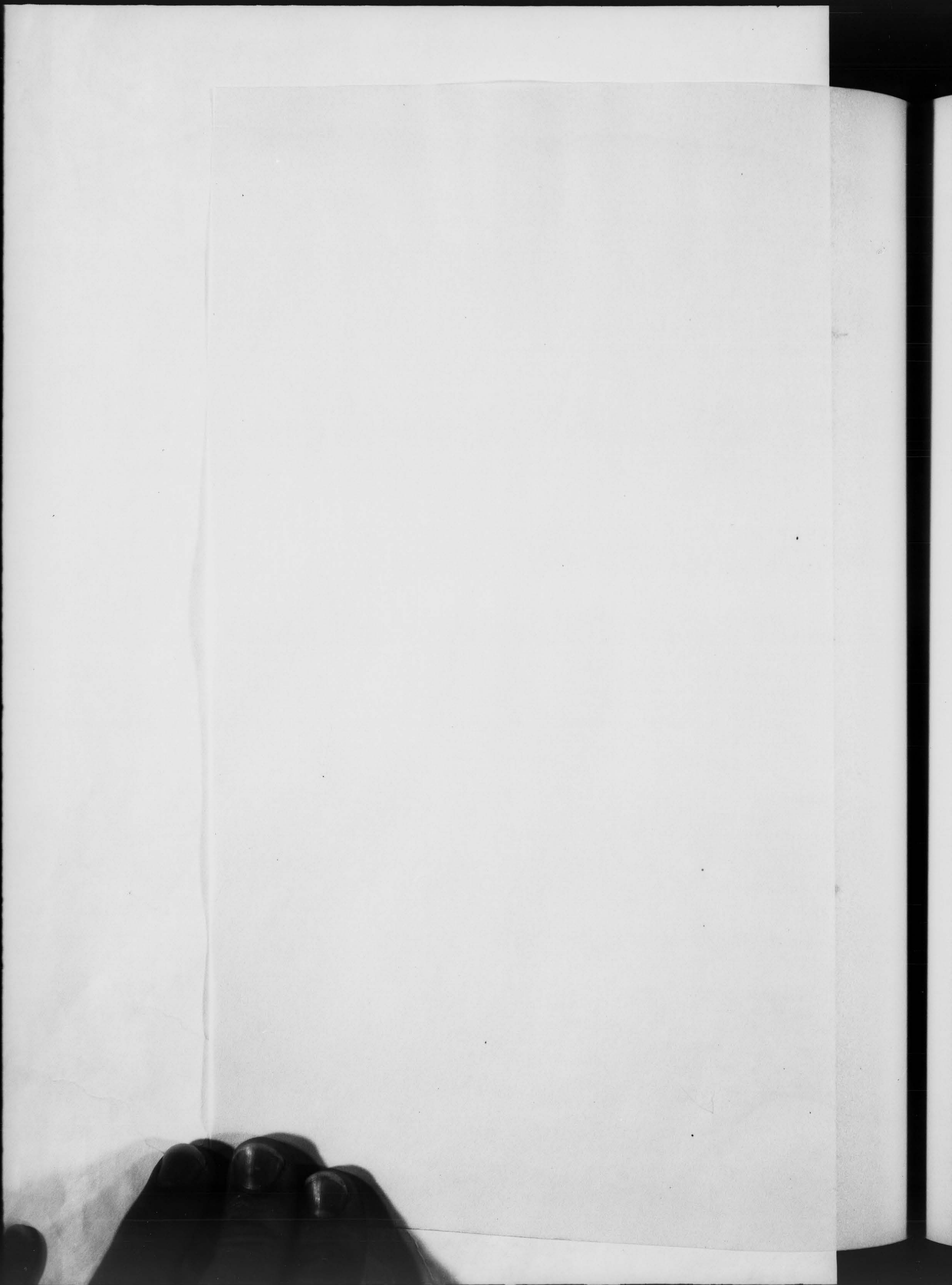
"I am pleased beyond the power of my expression for this very signal honor you have conferred upon me to act as spokesman for the negro teachers of Quitman County in presenting this Trophy to this, our worthy, congenial and efficient superintendent."

(1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.







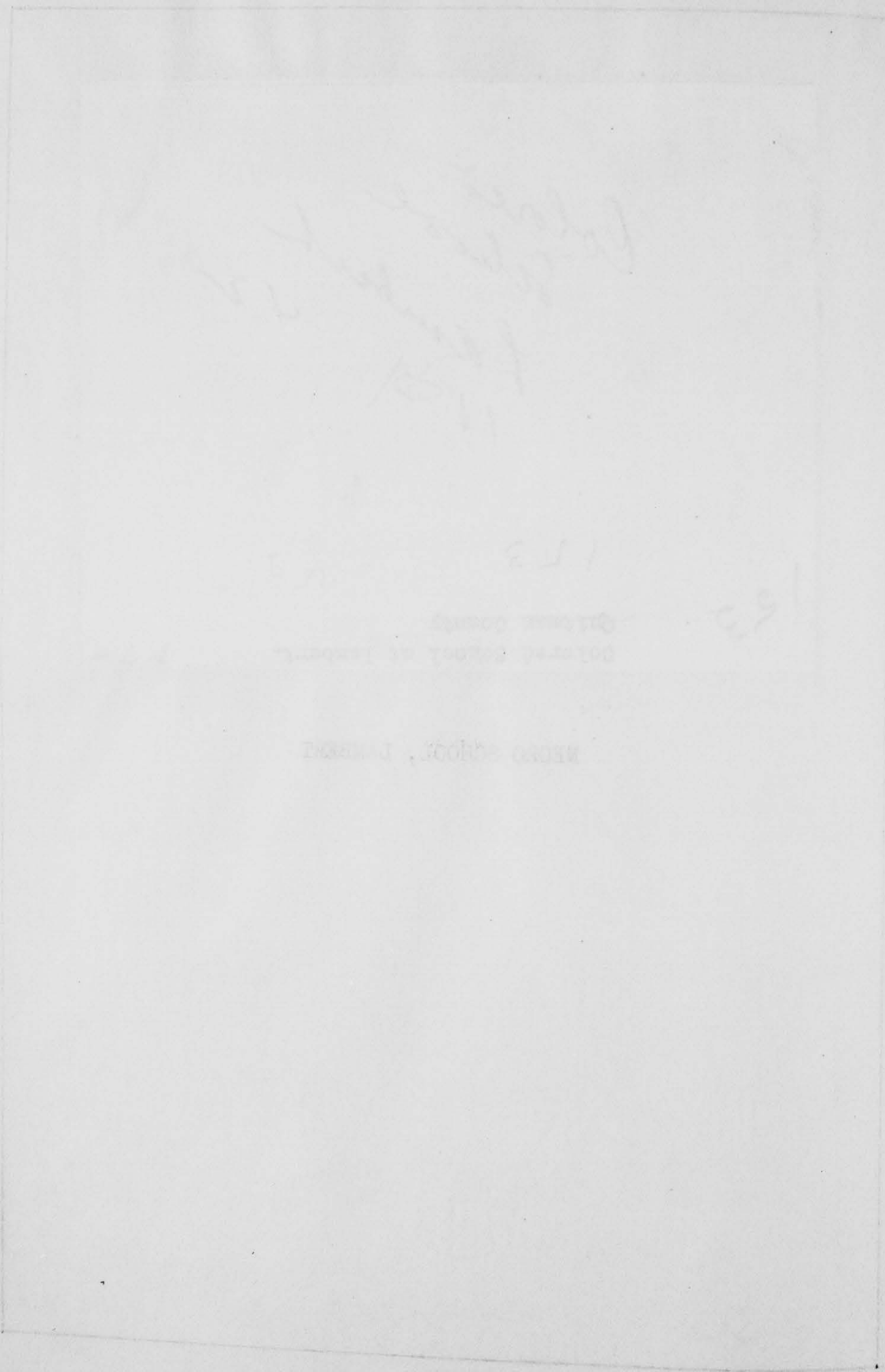






NEGRO SCHOOL, LAMBERT







"I repeat, I am pleased, not because I feel myself so equal to this task, neither because I feel capable of doing justice to this all important occasion.

"I am pleased to represent the constituents of the Colored Teachers' Association of Quitman County upon this occasion, because of the fact that you are exemplifying the Spirit of Christ, according to the teachings of the Holy Writ. He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

"I am pleased to represent this class of our group, whose sense of honor is so acute, and whose regards for high ideals and fair play are so lofty, until there is no place to be found in their ranks for that class who gives vent to the passions of superstition and prejudice.

"I must congratulate you for your lofty and unselfish aims; also, for the success of your united efforts in making this occasion a reality.

"By your candor you have added another page in the Negro History of sublimity.

"This trophy that I am presenting to you is a beautiful thing; but it has a beauty much deeper than that, which appeals to the naked eye alone.

"It is, indeed, a symbol; it is an outward sign of an inward gratitude.

"This trophy I am presenting to you is only a feeble token of evidence of our high esteem for your fair and impartial dealing, as well as for the much appreciated genuine sympathy you not only expressed but demonstrated for a people less fortunate than yourself.

"We, also, present this trophy for the purpose of helping to perpetuate the memory of the eight long, but pleasant and agreeable years we enjoyed under your supervision.

"We hope that you will accept it, not for its intrinsic value alone, but in the same spirit and for the same purpose we are presenting it.

"Our love for your generosity is not to be measured by dollars and cents, but by the amalgamation of our prayers for your happiness and prosperity in whatever field of labor you may hereafter enter.



"Regardless as to what clime or region in which you may hereafter take up your habitation, be it remembered that you have erected a monument to your own memory.

"The most enduring monuments are not chiseled in marble, neither molded in bronze. When a person erects a monument to his own memory, he may live to see the beauty of his own handiwork and share in the glory and joy it gives to others.

"The monument you have erected is in the hearts of the negro teachers of Quitman County and is enduring as Time.

"Because of your fidelity and sterling principles you have demonstrated for right and righteousness, not only will the Negro Teachers, but their posterity will ever sing praises to your name." (1)

#### Law for the Encouragement of Learning

##### Chapter I.

(An Act to incorporate the Mississippi Society for the acquirement and dissemination of useful knowledge - passed November 8, 1903).

WHEREAS, certain persons lately associated themselves in the territory, for the laudable purposes of cultivating harmony, and of acquiring and disseminating useful information in natural science, and primarily agriculture; and, WHEREAS, the members of that society have presented a petition to the Legislature, setting forth the nature and views of this institution, and praying that the same may be incorporated by law: therefore,

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory, and in general Assembly convened, That Issac Briggs, Wm. C. C. Claiborne, Wm. Dunbar, John Henderson, John Girault, Lewis Kerr, Joseph Briggs, David Lattimore, Joseph Macrery, Jesse Greenfield, Ferdinand L. Claiborne, Benjamin Farar, Israel E. Trask, Philander Smith, Adam Tooly, Samuel Briggs, Jr., Hove Browse Trist, John Ellis, and William Connor, members of the said society, and such other persons as shall from time to time hereafter become members of the same, according to the constitution and laws thereof, as the same may have already been, and

(1) Copied from Quitman County Democrat. December, 1936.



shall hereafter be ordained or enacted, shall be, and are hereby constituted and declared to be one body corporate and politic, in fact and name, by the title of "the Mississippi Society for the acquirement and dissemination of useful knowledge," and by that name, they and their successors, aforesaid, shall have perpetual succession. They shall have a common seal, which they may change and alter at their pleasure. That by the same name, they and their successors aforesaid shall be persons capable in law, to purchase, take, receive, hold, and enjoy to the use of them and their successors all manner of real estate, fee simple, or lesser interest in real estate; and the same to lease, release, sell, lien, and convey, at their pleasure; and all manner of goods, chattels, and personal estate, in like manner, to purchase, receive, and enjoy; and at their pleasure, sell, or otherwise dispose of. That by the same name, they and their successors aforesaid, shall be persons capable and liable in law of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, and in all manner of actions, suits and controversies in law, equity or otherwise; as far as corporations, from their nature may be so capable and liable, according to the usual course of law.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said society shall be in all things governed by such constitutions, by-laws, rules and resolutions as may have already been and shall have hereafter be ordained, enacted, made, or passed for that purpose, in and by the said society. Provided, that such constitution, by-laws, rules, and resolutions be not repugnant to the constitution of the United States, or the ordinance of laws of this territory, or of such state as may hereafter be erected; wherein the said society shall be.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That this shall be, and be deemed, public act; and notice shall be taken thereof as such, in all courts of justice and elsewhere; and it shall and may be given in evidence on trial of any issue, or otherwise, in any cause, without being specially pleaded. (1)

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(1) Mississippi Statutes, 1807.



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Blackmon, Mrs. Mary	Marks, Miss.
Covington, Mrs. Josie	Belen, Miss.
Denton, Mrs. Blanche	Jackson, Miss.
Fyfe, Mrs. Ruffin	Sledge, Miss.
Ingram, Mrs. Blanchard	Lambert, Miss.
Jones, Mrs. Lula Mae	Marks, Miss.
Lowrey, Mrs. Lucile	Marks, Miss.
McArthur, Mrs. Philey	Marks, Miss.
Shults, Mrs. Callie	Jackson, Miss.
Turner, Mrs. Lelia	Marks, Miss.

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## Chapter XIII

## AGRICULTURE

"How can he get wisdom that holdeth the plough, that glorieth in the good, that driveth oxen, and is occupied in their labors, and whose talk is of bullocks?"

"The Agricultural College is the nucleus of agricultural education; its chief duty, to which all others should be subordinated, is to prepare men and women for responsible posts in agricultural research, teaching, and extension."

Quitman County has an area of 395 square miles - 252,800 acres - about 112,000 acres are cultivated. The county has 5,336 farms, averaging 32.1 acres each. The average value of farm land per acre in 1935, as shown by U. S. Census, \$37.29; average value per acre in 1930, as shown by same authority, was \$70.33. The total value of farms, land, and buildings in 1935 was \$6,380,344; value of same in 1930 was \$12,127,774.

Acres planted in corn in 1930 was 12,072, and production was 201,897 bushels; in 1934, the corn crop occupied 40,135 acres, and produced 556,458 bushels. The crop of 1934 yielded 10,396 bushels of Irish potatoes, 68,345 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 17,197 tons of hay. In 1935 the county produced 27,656 bales of cotton; in 1936 the total production was 50,622 bales; to December 1, 1937, a total of 59,242 bales had been ginned.

January 1, 1935, Quitman County had 157 horses and 5,953 mules; 7,251 head of cattle, and 13,659 head of hogs. The number of cows milked in 1934 was 2,821, producing 1,116,712 gallons of milk and 324,569 pounds of butter. At the same time the county had 95,235 chickens, and during the year 1934, the egg production was 261,203 dozen. (1)

#### Importance of Agriculture

Since 1900, agriculture has been the most widely extended of all occupations in Quitman County, and it lies at

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(1) Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1935



the foundation of all other industries. Events of recent years emphasize the fact that the Delta is equipped by nature to be the world's best cotton region; the climate, affording a long growing season, permits re-planting if necessary.

The early farms in the county were largely self-sustaining, as the farmer grew a variety of food crops. Practically all the food raised was consumed by the producer's family and his neighbors. Little was sent to market. Today, rural and urban citizens depend upon each other, as their interests are interlaced.

Our present day farms specialize: One or two crops are raised, but even at that, three-fourths of Quitman County's farmland is given mainly to growing cotton. However, every farm has a good acreage in grains for ready cash, and fruit, livestock, and poultry are raised to a certain extent. The surplus of these is sold in the town markets for cash, which is used to buy machinery, clothing, food, and other necessities.

The labor of agriculture has been greatly lightened and its cost curtailed by means of improved implements and machines. The railways, by which the county is now intersected in several directions, have proved of great service to farmers, by conveying their cotton to different markets cheaply and quickly, and by making lime and other manures available to the occupiers of many districts.

#### Means of Building Soils

Today, our farms and little towns are interdependent; i.e., they depend upon each other - the farmer raising the necessities of life, and the towns-people buying the product. The success of the farm does not depend alone upon skilled farmers and modern machinery; the land must be kept fertile. The most common method of preparing the land is plowing into it barnyard manures early in the autumn. In addition to animal manure, various mineral substances are used for enriching the soil, the most important and extensively used of these being lime.

The purpose of all rotation is to keep the soil productive; and nearly every farmer in this county uses this method in planting, so that at least once every two or three years a crop of legumes is raised that adds to the fruitfulness of his fields. These crops send multitude of roots deep into the ground, which loosen and pulverize the soil, then decay at the end of the growing season,



leaving much humus in the soil. Alfalfa, clovers, cowpeas, vetches, and soy beans are favorite and useful legumes.

To carry on necessary work in the fields, nearly ninety-eight per cent of the people in Quitman County are employed on the farms; consequently, all of the people enjoy wholesome food, good health, and happiness.

#### Adaptable Crops

The beautiful, long-staple, silky-wool cotton is grown extensively here, the saline ingredients of the soil and atmosphere being indispensable elements of the growth. All the available hands of the plantation, young and old, are called into full employment during harvesting of this crop.

Alfalfa is primarily a hay crop, and is grown in abundance where the soil is rich, moist, deep, and underlaid by an open subsoil. Alfalfa yields a heavy crop of forage and improves the soil.

Stock are very fond of vetch hay, a valuable legume; and nearly all the farmers grow it, because it increases milk production in dairy animals, and is a fattening food as well. Many poor soils are wonderfully improved by growing vetch on them.

The oat is a useful grain that grows on a wide range, geographically speaking, regaining little attention until harvest time; it is a valuable ration for work animals, dairy cows, and breeding stock. Sandy loam soils are well adapted by this crop. (1)

#### Early History of Agriculture

Before the white man came, and before the county was organized, the Choctaws and Chickasaws farmed small patches of land in this territory. Corn, being the staple crop of the Indians, was probably the first crop produced. Since the land was so fertile, fertilizing was not necessary. They merely cleared a piece of ground, planted the seed, worked the plants with their crude bone and wooden implements, and harvested a good crop; but Indians, who were living here many years before the first settlers came, fled south, and there was nothing but peaceful canebrakes and woods to greet the early settlers, who endured many hardships in clearing their land. Cotton and corn were planted by hand and cultivated with hoes and shovel-stock plows. As a rule, each

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(1) D. L. Edson, County Agent, Marks, Miss.



farmer produced just enough corn for the need of his plantation; cotton stalks were burned, and the seeds allowed to go to waste.

In addition to cotton and corn, other products were grown and used for plantation necessities. Expert knowledge and guidance was lacking; therefore, nothing was done about rotating crops, improving the soil, fertilizing, drainage, and growing improved varieties of cotton. (1)

#### Cotton Introduction

The exact date of the introduction of agriculture into Quitman County is not easily determined. It has, no doubt, existed from the time the first canebrakes and woods were cleared in the latter part of the 1800's. Due to the fertile soil, long, warm summers, and mild winters, cotton has been the king of crops from the beginning of the county's life. The markets of the world called for more of this product, and the land-owner, sensing their position of advantage, enlarged their farms and encouraged negro tenants to work for them.

Slavery had been abolished twelve years before the creation of Quitman County; so, the present plantation system of share-cropping was immediately adopted. Today, some small farms are owned by negroes who formerly worked for plantation managers. Originally, most of the labor was done by hand, and the old method still predominates here; but tractors, improved and time-saving plows and planters, and various other types of modern machines are fast being introduced. The truck is fast replacing the mule and wagon, and electric gins are found all over the county.

The cotton produced, going to all world markets, is rarely exported directly from the grower; as a rule it is sold to local buyers, who resell it for export or for American manufacture. When a bale of cotton is ginned, it is either sold immediately by the owner, or it may be compressed and stored in a warehouse until a satisfactory price is secured. A convenience to the Quitman County farmers is the Federal Compress and Warehouse at Marks, with a storage capacity of 22,000 bales. From here the cotton is shipped to the manufacturers, who may have bought directly, or, what is more usual, by special buyers, who know exactly the staple and quality of cotton wanted by the factory. Much of our cotton passes through Memphis or New Orleans firms. (2)

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(1) W. T. Haynes, Lambert, Miss.

(2) Federal Compress, Marks, Miss.



The best seeds are kept for planting the next year's crop; the rest are sent to the mills, where they are ground like grain and made to yield an oil, which is used for cooking and many other purposes. Cotton seed meal is used as a stock-food and as a fertilizer. (1)

#### Corn and Forage Crops

The incentive to grow corn and hay now (1936) in Quitman County is stronger than it has ever been. Every farmer has realized that it is cheaper to raise these products than it is to buy them, and also, that his land is protected by planting forage crops, which are good soil-builders, as well as good feed crops. More, particularly about making hay, a far superior product on their own farms, has been learned than previously was known. In the beginning of the A.A.A., farmers thought of raising only cotton, with enough corn and hay to last a few months; but more land was made available for corn and forage crops through the 1936 Agriculture Conservation Program than ever before. The most desirable variety of hay crop is the one which will afford several harvests from one seeding.

Corn is king of all cereals. Its grains, in some form, furnish food to more people than does any other crop grown in the county, and also feeds the stock and poultry. (2)

#### Insects Harmful to Crops

Destructive insects are here to get a certain portion of the crops raised in Quitman County. The corn borer attacks the ear, and corn and hay crops are greatly diminished by the chinch bug.

The grasshopper and cut worm are also dreaded for their activities in the hay crops, particularly alfalfa and clover, as is also, the plant louse. In times past, the army worm was a pest, and might be now but for the specific effort made for its eradication. It was no uncommon sight to see machines with sprinklers containing arsenic being driven over the fields at night for the purpose of killing the worm. Night was chosen for the best time because the dew retained the arsenic and prevented it from blowing away in its powdered form.

When one prepares the soil to plant a vegetable garden in Quitman County, as elsewhere, there is the thought of various insects which, in time, will appear to get their

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(1) W. T. Haynes, Lambert, Miss.

(2) Ibid.



share of the products. With the peas, beans, and squash, the cut worm is almost sure to do some damage; likewise the beetle gets the Irish potato crop if it is not controlled. Plant lice suck the juice from leafy vegetables, and squash is good to the cut worm.

The cut worm is especially destructive to several varieties of vegetables, and it is not uncommon for one to go into his garden and throw away half of the tomatoes each morning.

Certainly, home gardeners as well as the few who try to raise an over supply for canning or market, have learned through government bulletins, county agents, etc., the importance of preventing attacks on vegetables by these pests and further the riddance of them.

Just as other crops are molested by borers, grasshoppers, etc., the principal menace to cotton is the weevil, closely seconded by the army worm. Thanks to the government, for all sorts of definite instructions to get rid of this pest, as well as appropriations of money for different methods of experiment. The boll weevil is well under control in Quitman County.

Now, the corn borer does his share of damage to the comparative small amount of sugar cane raised here. It finds sustenance in the cane itself, though its preferred field is the ear. There is also a fly with transparent wings called the "earwig," or worm, which feeds on the sugar of the cane.

Besides the forage sown with the corn, approximately 20,000 acres of alfalfa, soy beans, peas, oats, and lespedeza yield an average of 2,400 to 4,000 pounds of dry hay per acre. Soy beans are used on the farm where raised, and the surplus is sold.

#### Truck Farming

A few Quitman Countians raise vegetables and fruits for market. The warm climate, fertile soil, and plentiful rainfall have made truck-farming profitable.

Bill Chrestman, of Marks, plants several acres of watermelons every year. He sells them locally, and makes as much profit as do the melon growers in the hills. In 1936, he successfully planted several acres in tomatoes, using the same original method of irrigation as with the



watermelons, (a can kept full of water at each plant). Due to the drought, few tomatoes were raised in the county other than his, which gave him a monopoly on the market.

Tomatoes, corn, okra, beans, carrots, cabbage, peas, and spinach are the chief vegetables grown here. Many housewives can enough surplus vegetables by steam pressure for winter use; all amounts not conserved in this way are sold or given to the W.P.A. canning project for the school lunch rooms. (1)

### Poultry

On every farm chickens are found, and most of the people in the towns raise a few for home consumption. Many farmers have a few chickens and eggs for sale, and some specialize in this particular enterprise.

The 4-H Clubs have been an inspiration to the poultry industry and have established definite methods of caring for and marketing both chickens and eggs.

In 1926, S. W. Jones opened the "Busy Bee Hatchery" in Belen, and for the succeeding five years, it would open in January and close in June. Two huge incubators, with a capacity of 5,000 eggs each, were used, and people from all North Mississippi brought eggs there, or bought chickens from Mr. Jones. However, in 1931 the place was converted into a store, and in 1935, it burned. (2)

On the old Gibson Place, about two miles from Belen, a chicken farm is operated by Miss Alice Gibson. She has an incubator and hatches white leghorn chickens; when the chicks come out of the incubators, they are moved to a small brooder-house, where they are kept until sorted; some are sent to market and some are kept for laying. When the chickens are fattened, they are sold in Clarksdale, a nearby Coahoma County town, to regular customers; each Thursday the eggs, on an average of 100 dozen per week, are gathered and carried there for sale.

✓ An incubator room, a brooder-house, two small and two large chicken houses constitute the equipment. They are all modern, and the place has everything to make chicken farming modern; the place has everything to make chicken farming profitable. This is the only industry of the kind in the county, but many farmers sell eggs and chickens to the cafes, hotels, and grocerers. (3)

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(1) Bill Chrestman, Marks, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Marks, Miss.

(3) Miss Alice Gibson, Marks, Miss.



### Poultry Pests

Through a co-operative hatchery in Quitman County, citizens raise chickens, turkeys, ducks, etc., only for home use, consequently, lice, live on chickens, feeding on scales and feathers, while mites come from their hiding places in chicken houses at night and feed on the blood of fowls. Spraying infected roosts, boxes, and walls in soapy water will rid them of lice. Lately, different prepared brands of disinfectants and eradicators have been used; Bee Brand is an "old reliable."

### Livestock

Since the value of milk as a food is well understood, hardly a farm is without at least one or two cows; and nearly all the supply is used for household purposes. A cow is no great expense, because practically the year around, she grazes from the pastures and is fed on food-stuff raised on the place.

Mrs. C. C. Miller, of Belen, owns five cows and furnishes milk to customers in Belen and Marks (1936); Mrs. J. T. Turner, of Marks, also sells milk to the townspeople; Joe Koger and Carlisle Stewart, owning five cows, supply milk for the town of Lambert.

Since about 1933, cattle buyers have been busy in Quitman County, buying cows and calves and selling them to the stockyards in Memphis. W. H. Moore, of Belen, is one of those taking a prominent part in this enterprise.

Native beef can always be bought, especially on Saturdays, in almost every town. The farmers supply the meat markets with this product, and some of it is brought into the towns on wagons or trucks and peddled on residential streets. A scale and block are set up as a convenience.

On every farm some hogs are raised, and "hog-killing time" is a very busy season. The 4-H Club boys take great pride in raising hogs, some of which are very fine.

### Livestock Pests

Any number of flies thrive here. From early spring, or plowing time, until very cold weather, mules and horses are the prey of blood-sucking and horse flies.



Screw worm flies lay eggs in wounds of animals. The larvae do great injury to their victims.

In this section Buffalo and black gnats are perhaps the greatest menace to livestock. In the spring they come in droves, and it is not uncommon to see at evening milking time, smokes going up in many barnyards to repel them, in order to get the cows to stand still while being milked. Different brands of fly sprays are used, which help some. As the season gets dry and hot, Buffalo gnats usually disappear.

Cattle ticks suck blood from cattle, horses, sheep, and hogs. Cattle shipped from an infected section are "dipped" in a vat of oil or other fluid to destroy the pest. Ticks cause "dog itch."

#### Rural Home Improvement

In olden times, rural life was hard, as there were no labor-saving devices, such as we have today. The farmer's wife took care of the house, spun, and wove cloth, made clothes for the family, knit stockings, made soap, milked, and churned, cured meat, made sausage, washed on old scrub-boards, ironed with black flat-irons, and did hundreds of other things, with the assistance of her daughters; the sons helped on the farm.

Antiquated methods of cultivating and harvesting crops were used. By means of pumps, water was secured from wells; a family drinking bucket was kept on a shelf on the back porch, and alongside this a wash-pan was placed, where everyone "cleaned up" before each meal. A tin wash-tub was provided for the Saturday night baths, which were taken in the kitchen. Houses were heated by open fire-places, and ice kept only by the wealthy, who built private ice-houses. Screens were unheard of and it was not unusual for one of the children to swish a peach tree branch over the table to "keep the flies off," while the other members of the family enjoyed the meal. Mosquito bars were hung over each bed to keep off the buzz and bite of the mosquito and to insure sleep. Our modern way of preserving fruits and vegetables by putting them into tin or glass was not used then, but they were dried in the sun to preserve for future use. Kerosene lamps furnished lights for the home; children attended one-teacher schools; however, the wealthy class sent their youths to boarding schools in town. (1)

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(1) Mrs. Fannie Allen, Memphis, Tenn.



Roads were not graveled, and in winter months they were almost impassable. Most of the traveling was done on horseback and in wagons drawn by two or four horses; letters and newspapers probably reached the homes once or twice a week by a mail-carrier on horseback. Some of the richer class had carriages and phaetons. The young people and their elders met in the neighborhoods, where they had quiltings, log-rollings, singings, socials, and sometimes danced the Virginia reel, the old quadrille, or square dance. In contrast to the above picture, rural life is now filled with pleasure and ease, this being due to electric lights, refrigerators, fans, irons, sewing machines, washing machines, cream separators, churns, radios, stoves, and many other modern conveniences. A good percentage of the farmers now have telephone and modern heating equipment.

Artesian wells have replaced pumps, wells, and cisterns; many rural residents are piping water into their homes; roads are in fair condition; almost every farmer owns an automobile or truck, while school buses insure every child means of transportation to and from school. The county is easily accessible by train, bus, or automobile.

#### Modern Agricultural Agencies

D. L. Edson is one of the most helpful of modern agricultural agencies in the county. Since 1934, it has been his responsibility, as county agent, to help the farmers through a severe crisis and to take care of the cotton compliance program, plow-up checks, etc. His usual work consists of selecting the best grade of cotton for the soil, analyzing soils, recommending remedies for crops and stock, supervising soil-building and crop rotation, experimenting with and introducing new crops, and keeping a watchful eye on farming costs and profits. The agent is the medium through which farmers work, in solving the problems which they cannot hope to master themselves. (1)

W. R. Meredith, assistant county agent, the efficient instructor of the Boys' 4-H Clubs in both Quitman and Panola counties, has been working in this capacity here since 1935, and up to the present (1936), has enrolled 201 boys, all of whom attend some school in the county. This club consists of boys between the ages of

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(1) D. L. Edson, Marks, Miss.



ten and twenty-one, who receive training in the raising of corn, cotton, legumes, livestock, and poultry; a majority of them choosing cotton and pigs.

Pig Club boys have done much to improve the breeds of hogs produced; many of these hogs are fattened on corn and sold, thus adding a cash income to the farmers.

The main objective of the instructor is to inspire these boys to live at home by teaching these things, also, the conservation of soil. The Plant-To-Prosper movement requires them to keep a record, which shows the advantage of raising their own food and planting crops that build the soil; at the same time getting more returns from it. (1)

#### Wins Swift Prize

"E.C. Black, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Black, and a student at Mississippi State, was announced winner of the annual Swift College Contest today by Dr. E. W. Sheets, head of the Animal Husbandry Department there.

"As a reward for the winning paper, he will be given a trip to Chicago with all expenses paid. At the same time Black is to be in Chicago, winners from other agricultural colleges also will be there to attend the meeting of the American Society of Animal Production. The contest is given to students majoring in husbandry.

"Black plans to also attend the international Livestock Exposition, largest and most important livestock show to be held in this or any other country. The winners will have an opportunity to study detailed methods of marketing, slaughtering, processing, and marketing of meat and meat products.

"Black's winning essay was on 'Utilizing By-Products in the Meat Packing Industry.' The International Livestock Exposition and American Society of Animal Production will be held from November 28 to December 3." (2)

#### Quitman Boy's Good Record

In another issue of a 1937 "Quitman County Democrat," the following was published:

"John Collins, of Sledge, entered in the International Harvester Company's implement mounting contest at the Mid-South Fair, through the Farm Equipment Company, of Tunica. Although Collins did not win either of the prizes, he made

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- (1) W. R. Meredith, assistant county agent, Marks, Miss.  
 (2) Quitman County Democrat, November 25, 1937



unusually good time. His time for mounting a two-row Middle Buster on an F-12 Farmall Tractor was one minute and thirty-four seconds. Collins used the F-12 and F-20 Farmall for all purpose work; especially cultivating several hundred acres, and doing an unusual job with the F-12 this year on Hal Taylor's Place." (1)

#### Home Demonstration Agent

The home demonstration agent, Miss Lucille Hart, majored in home economics, having had her training at State Teachers' College at Hattiesburg, where she received a B.S. degree. Her territory consists of three counties, Tallahatchie, Sunflower, and Quitman, and she keeps well informed regarding all matters that effect the home, and brings the latest scientific information to rural home-makers in such form that they can readily apply it in practical daily life. She serves the rural home alike in times of prosperity and in times of distress, and many home-makers, who cannot attend regular group meetings, are given helpful assistance through visits, press articles, exhibits, public meetings, and the like. This agent takes a leading part in devising sources of income, which will enable the home-maker to purchase those things which will make for efficiency, comfort, and attractiveness.

Eight active women's clubs in the county: at Respass, Whitening, Crowder, Walnut, Lambert, Birdie, Darling, and Marks, these having an aggregate membership of 200. Each club meets once a month in their respective communities, where they are given practical instructions by Miss Hart as to what foods to select and how to prepare them to keep the family in good health. They learn the most effective methods of producing, preserving, and storing vegetables, fruits, and other foods in needed amounts for the year's supply. The agent also gives special supervision to all demonstrations. The women may choose only one of the four projects, Poultry, Raising, Food Preservation, Home Management, or Clothing. (2)

#### Girls 4-H Clubs

Eight active Girls' 4-H Clubs, located at Sledge, Lambert, Darling, Walnut, Marks, Sabino, Crowder, and Belen, have 195 girls enrolled, while there are 874 of club age. From this the observation is made that rural boys are very much more awake to present-day advantages than their sisters.

(1) Quitman County Democrat, 1937

(2) Miss Lucille Hart, Marks, Miss.



The Girls' Club meets twice a month in each community, and they also have a choice of one of the following projects: Poultry Raising, Canning, gardening, and home improvement. The majority of the girls select Home Improvement, Gardening and Canning; all, both women and girls, have a part in the major program, Foods.

4-H Club training is made interesting by camping trips and rallies for both boys and girls. On April 5, 1936, a 4-H Club Rally was held at Marks Courthouse, when all county members of both 4-H Girls and Boys' clubs attended. Later, during the summer, a four-day camping trip was enjoyed by 133 members at Leroy Percy Park, near Hollandale. One day was spent in the National Park at Vicksburg, while the remainder of the time was given to instructions and recreation.

Work of both the home demonstration agent and county agent is done in co-operation with the superintendent of each school and on schedules. (1)

#### Colored Home Demonstration Agent

Cornelia Richards, colored home demonstration agent, superintends the negroes and their activities. She received her education at Tougaloo High School, and had two years of college work at Tuskegee, Alabama. Cornelia came to Quitman County in 1923, and in 1936 she had charge of thirty clubs, composed of both women and girls. Enrolled are 728 4-H Club Girls and 623 members of the Women's Clubs. The program of work includes: Home Improvement, Gardening, Canning, and Poultry, all of which are major projects; cooking and sewing are minor projects.

Cornelia has a record of conserving 6,000 pounds of beef in 1935, besides the pork and chickens; during the summer of 1935, 1,000 jars of fruit and vegetables were canned.

Emphasis is given to the need of dairy cows, home, health, and sanitation; handicraft is stressed to a certain extent; they learn to bottom chairs out of shucks, make mattresses, rugs, quilts, bedspreads, etc. Most of them are rather enthusiastic over the making and renovating of furniture, and their slogan is "Learn to do by doing." (2)

#### Agricultural Schools

The high school at Lambert contained a department of vocational agriculture during the years 1928-1934, which was

(1) Miss Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.

(2) Cornelia Richards, Marks, Miss.



operated to meet the requirements for State and Federal aid under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes Law. S. R. Evans, who is now (1936) principal of the Leland High School, was the agriculture teacher during that time. In 1932 he won a place on the honor roll of Mississippi's Master Agricultural Teachers.

During 1936, Quitman County had one school providing a vocational-agricultural teacher. H. D. Graham, of Walnut, taught the boys winter cover-crops and the varieties of cotton; some of these students got a knowledge of the what and why to do in farming at the school; they get the how to do it on the job and on the home farm.

Agricultural subjects and agricultural enterprises, which are of importance to this community, are given emphasis; whenever possible, each topic in agriculture is taught and studied at the appropriate season of the year, when theory and practice can be carried on concurrently.

Mr. Graham co-operates with other Delta schools in planning camping trips for the boys. During the summer of 1936 a camp was held at Camp Bernard, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, with the Future Farmers of America.

Ordinarily, there is a day set aside sometime during the summer for the farmers of this section of the country to attend a program given at the Delta Experiment Station, located at Greenville. Graham aids the farmers with field problems and makes it possible for the interested ones to attend. (1)

#### Fairs

At the County Fair, which was held at Marks during the week of October 6, to 9, 1936, were marvelous exhibits of farm products, which encouraged the farmers to become Master Farmers. Each year since its organization, the County Fair inspires all citizens to move forward to bigger and better things, promoting development in all fields. (2)

#### Horticulture

The development of horticulture, an important branch of agriculture, has helped our county to obtain satisfactory results in the cultivation of flowers, fruits, and gardens. Many varieties of flowers and shrubs grow well, and around almost every home are arbor vitae, privet, spireas of all kinds, ornamental spruces, firs, junipers,

- (1) H. D. Graham, Walnut, Miss.
- (2) W. D. Harper



hydrangeas, dogwood, crepe myrtle, altheas, redbuds - in fact, practically the whole shrub family. Roses, chrysanthemums, gladioli, and dahlias are easily grown with only a little extra attention. The more common varieties of flowers are: snap dragons, sweet peas, narcissus, tulips, zinnias, cannas, cosmos, marigolds, petunias, pinks, daisies, phlox, poppies, iris, nasturtiums, sweet williams, four-o'clocks, violets, larkspurs, cornflowers, hollyhocks, asters, pansies, etc.

Most of the shrubs are bought from nurseries outside the county; however, some are raised from seed or cuttings by more economical and industrious home-owners. Flowers for cutting are very easily raised in private gardens.

There are no large orchards, but practically every white and negro home is dotted about by peach, apple, and pear trees. The idea is held, but it might be a mistaken one, that our land is too valuable to be converted into orchards. (1)

#### Garden Club Activities

Almost every town in Quitman County has some sort of a garden club; these clubs emphasize keeping the towns beautiful by encouraging individuals to beautify their own premises and by sponsoring local beautification projects and contests. Marks has the most active of these clubs at the present time (1936). It is through this organization that the flower show at the fair was held. Another move of the Marks Club has been to make Marks a "Crepe Myrtle Town." These shrubs have been set out all over the town, and the town will, no doubt, become a beautiful spot.

Each year interested club members from over the county attend the garden pilgrimages at Natchez, Laurel, and Mobile, and return with new ideas for the flower lovers and growers.

In addition to the activities of the Garden Clubs, the Works Progress Administration has helped in local beautification. Trees have been planted on the courthouse lawn in Marks, with the sentimental feature that they are to perpetuate the memory of some of the most prominent people in our county's history. There is a new and attractive park in Marks; also, another very successful project carried out was the beautification of the pool in Lambert, and citizens are constantly being urged to beautify and keep



their premises clean. Contests prove an inspiration in this, as is induced by the Window Garden, Christmas-trees, Spring-time Cleaning, and Backyard Garden yearly events. (1)

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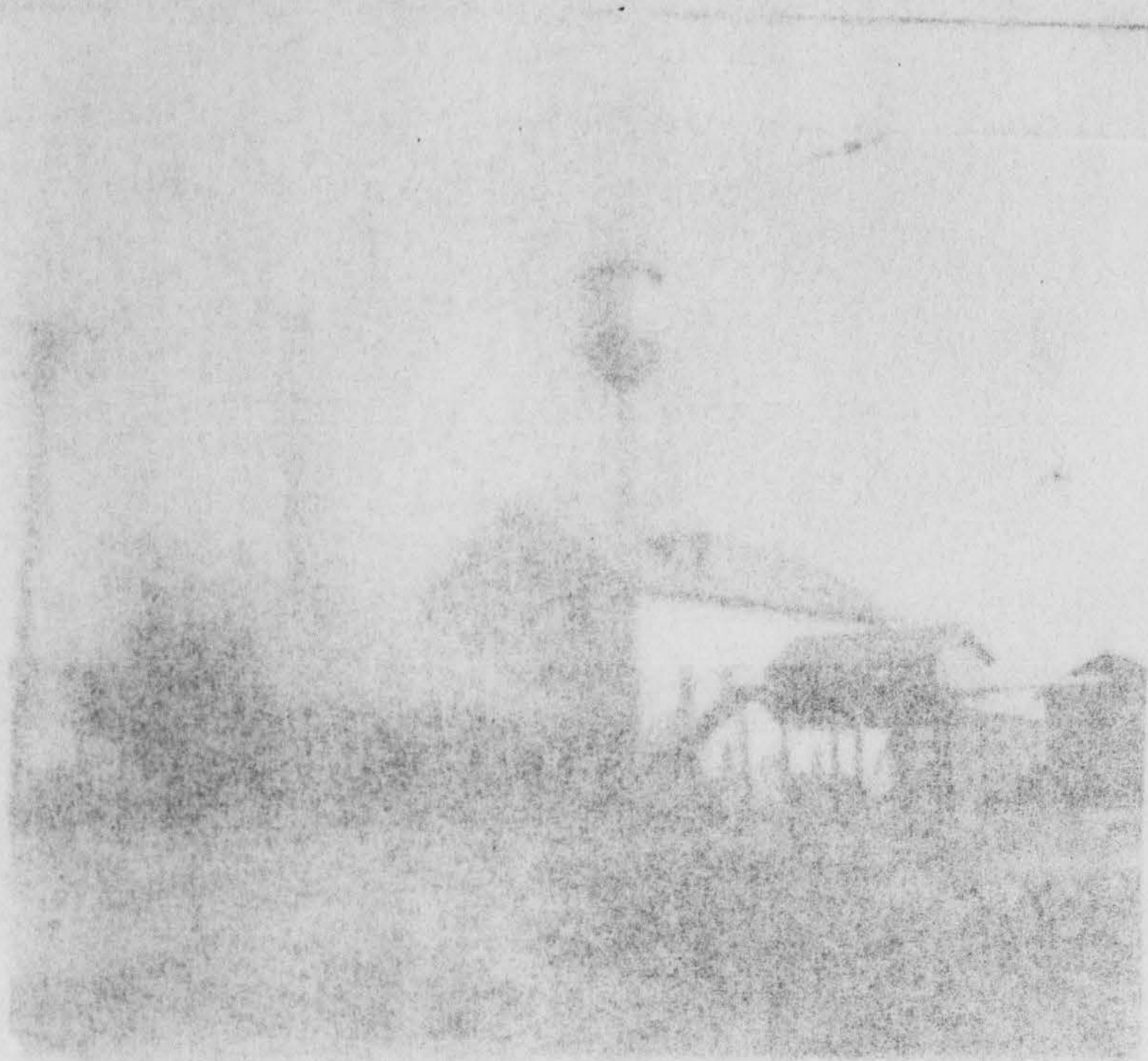
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Bailey, Mrs. Emma	Supv. of Beautification Project, WPA
Chrestman, Bill	Farmer, Miss.
Edson, D. L., county agent	Marks, Miss.
Gibson, Miss Alice	Poultry Raising, Rural Home Improvement
Graham, D. M.	Walnut, Miss.
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Haynes, W. T.	Farmer, Miss.
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THE OLD MANSION IN  
1875



...the ... garden, Christmas-trees, ... (1)

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Memphis, Tenn.  
Supv. of Beautification  
Project, WPA  
Farmer, Miss.  
Marks, Miss.  
Poultry Raising, Rural  
Home Improvement  
Walnut, Miss.

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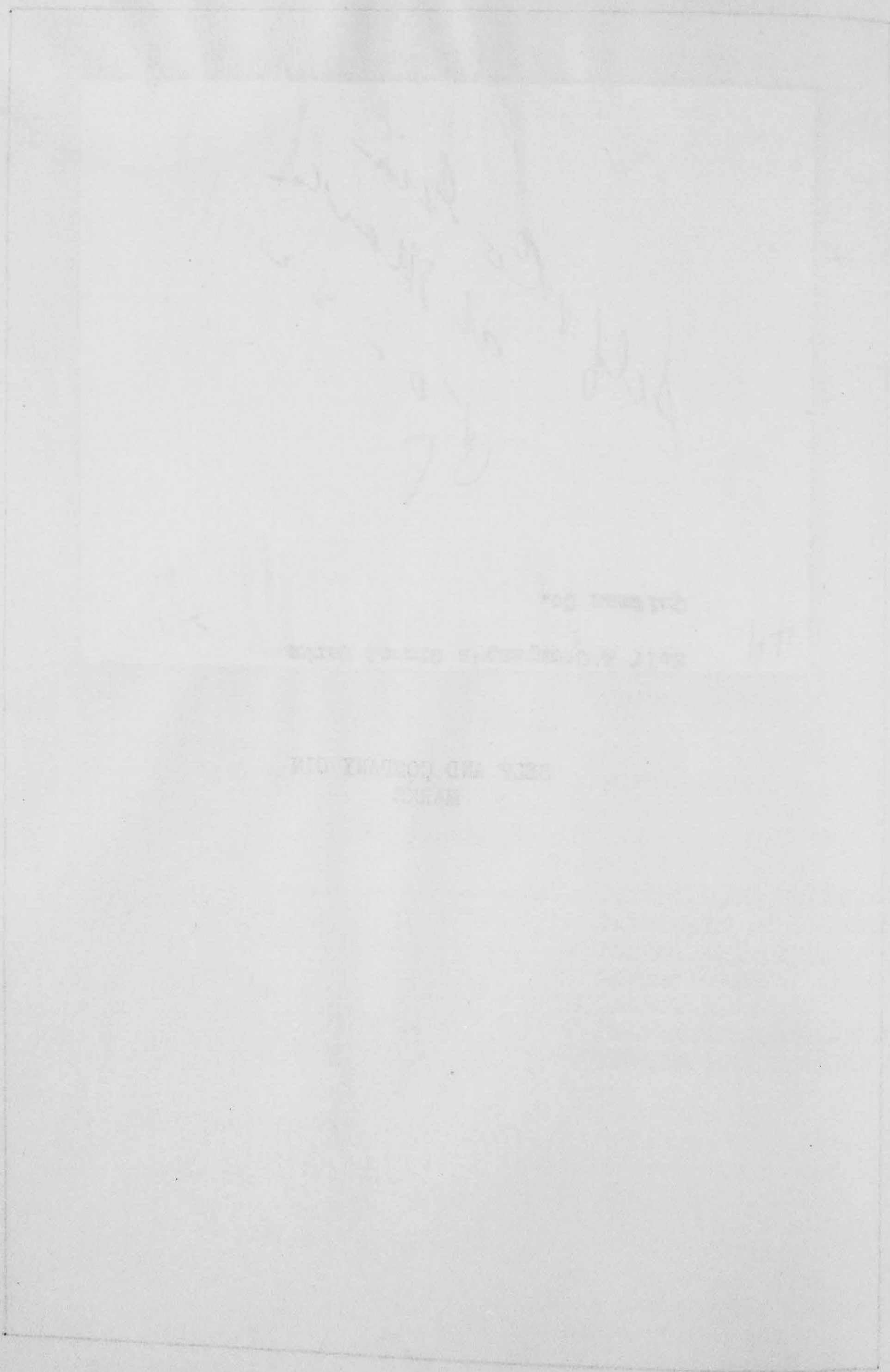
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SELF AND COMPANY GIN  
MARKS







## Chapter XIV

## INDUSTRY

Quitman County's industrial life, with the exception of the cotton and lumber business, is of comparatively recent development.

The economic progress of the county depended mainly upon the increase in the number of inhabitants to work in the field and forest.

Ideal climate, and labor conditions, and late transportation facilities have made possible progress in her industrial life, and the next generation will doubtless see a great advance in industrial production.

The exact date of the introduction of agriculture in Quitman County is not easily determined, but it is evident that it has remained the sole industry of importance save that of the timber or lumber business. Large plantations owned by whites or negroes, with both white and negro tenants, are the main bases of the agricultural system, the chief agricultural product being cotton. Immense quantities of corn, oats, vetch, and other legumes are raised also. Between the seasons of 1935 and 1936, the cotton crop of this county increased from a production of 29,000 bales to approximately 50,500.

Cotton Industries

The cotton warehouse has become a factor, bearing a considerable influence on the local markets. Cotton, when properly protected from the weather, offers great resistance to deterioration. Compared with other farm products, it is by far the least liable to "damage" if given a reasonable amount of protection. Here the advantage of the warehouse cannot be overestimated.

The Federal Compress and Warehouse in this county is located at almost an equal distance between Lambert and Marks, in Beat 5, on Highway 3. It was organized in 1930 by local capital being forty-nine per cent of



the stock, was supplied by P.M.B. Self, L. A. Graeber, Sr., T. W. Hawkins, T. J. Barrow, of Marks, and Van Savage, C. W. McCuller, and John A. Allen, Sr., of Lambert. At this time it was known as the "Quitman County Compress." But after two years the above mentioned stockholders sold out to the Federal Compress of Memphis, who are present owners. (1)

Bankers and business men generally regard cotton, when properly stored and insured and represented by negotiable warehouse receipts, high class collateral. The warehousing and compressing facilities being combined under one management has proved entirely practicable. This warehouse stores approximately 22,000 bales of cotton at a time; since its erection it has been filled to capacity twice. Forty thousand bales were received and cared for this season (1936). Storage charges per bale is twenty-five cents for the first three months; thereafter, being fifteen cents per bale. Forty-four persons are employed during the busiest season, earning from \$600 to \$800 weekly. At other times, from four to five men are required, who receive a salary of \$50 per week. Annual operating expense is about \$11,000.

Since cotton raising is the outstanding means of making a living in Quitman County, cotton gins are a great advantage. In 1890 there were only a few of these here; one of them being operated by horse power, was located at the mouth of Coldwater River and owned by Perkins and Jones of Batesville; the other, a combination gin and grist mill southwest of Belen, was owned by J. J. Burleyson. As the population increased, and the majority of people raised cotton, there was a demand for more and better equipped gins with a greater capacity.

Today, there are twenty-three gins located at different points in the county. Several are operated by oil and steam, while a majority are electric. These gins require about five employees, who are paid eight to nine dollars each per day, and average eighty bales of cotton ginned each day. The gins of the county are now adequate to meet the needs of the people, and make reasonable rates for ginning, giving employment to several persons, and conveniently located at close range to the farms. (2)

- 
- (1) W. V. Turner, Marks, Miss.
  - (2) J. H. Manning







The work was assisted by P.M.B. Self, L. A. Graeber, Sr., J. L. Beckwith, F. J. Harrow, of Marks, and Van Housen, C. L. Schuler, and John A. Allen, Sr., of Lumberton. It was known as the "Quitman County Experiment" for the two years the above mentioned individuals were out to the Federal Congress of Men-  
tality and are hereby given. (1)

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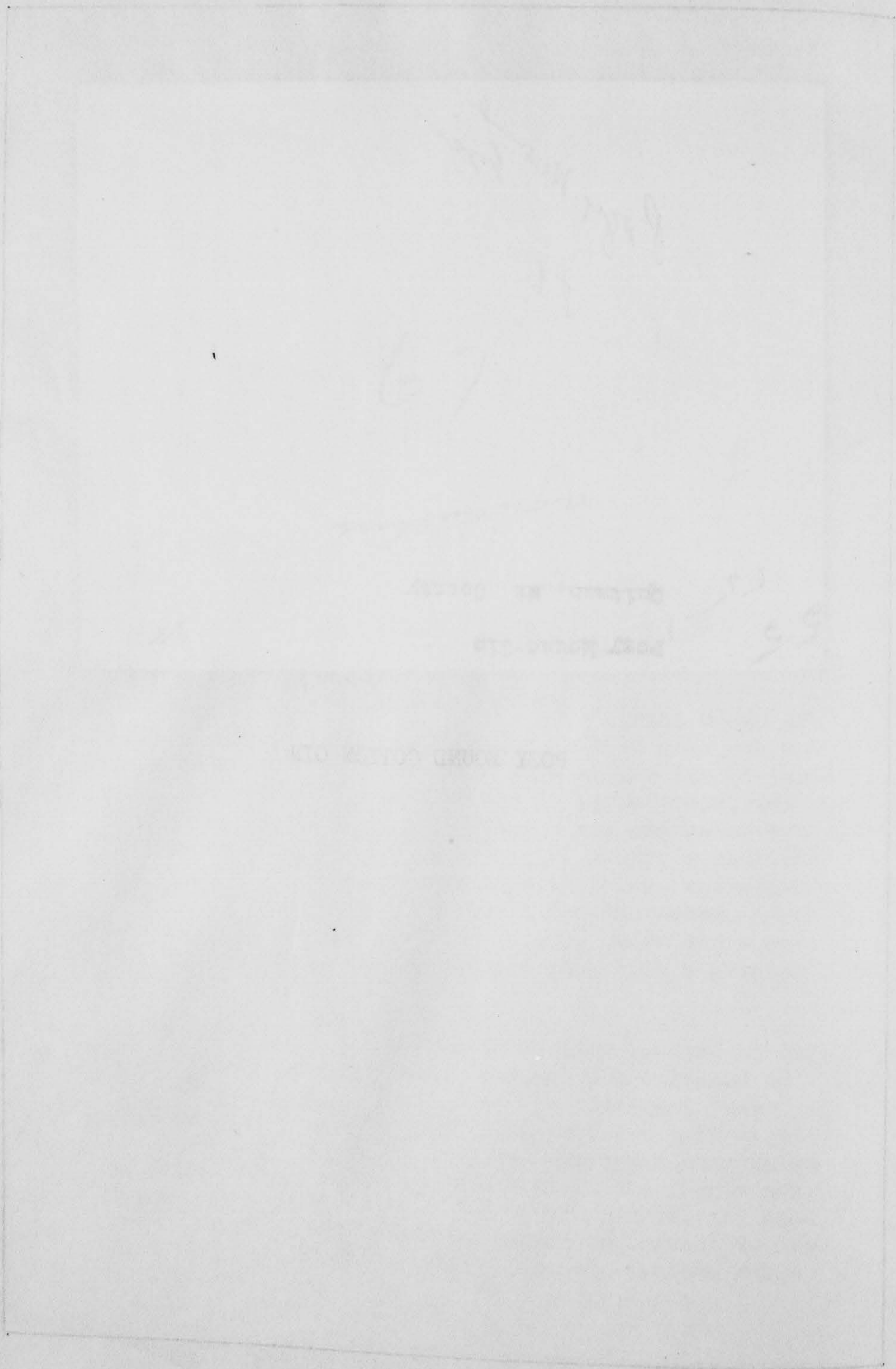
J. L. Beckwith, Marks, Miss.  
J. L. Beckwith





POZY MOUND COTTON GIN







### Lumbering

It's a fact: -

That during the period from 1933 to 1935 active lumber establishments in Mississippi increased 323.5 per cent.

That Mississippi's present forest lands have a potential permanent yield three times as great as the 1935 cut.

That in 1935, Mississippi let all the states in the Union in the production of four species of wood - yellow, pine, sycamore, cottonwood, and hickory.

That in 1935, Mississippi ranked third among the states in total production of lumber; ranking second in hardwood, and third in softwood. (1)

Quitman County contributes largely to the lumber production of the state, as given above. The natural resource of greatest commercial value, next to the fertile soil of Quitman County is the forest. About fourteen sawmills, owned by different persons, and located at various points in the county, produce and ship an estimate of 300,000 board feet of lumber, ten carloads of piling, and two carloads of posts annually. Quantities of this kind of wood product are used locally. The Southern Sawmill Crowder, operated by steam, is reported as being the largest in the county. Approximately 125 men are employed at the different mills during the busy season, and receive about \$4.50 each, daily.

The sawmills prove beneficial to the county by conserving the local timber, giving employment, and enabling the people to obtain lumber at a reasonable price for use on the farms. Grist mills are also common in the county. (2)

#### Wholesale Grocery

In 1924, Gratz Jones, Sr., organized and operated the first and only wholesale grocery in Quitman County, under the name of Malone and Hyde. It flourished, and in 1928 became the Marks Wholesale Company; it has continued as such with O. B. Wooley as manager. During the busy season, eight or twelve men are employed, with an annual payroll of \$15,000; owing to its central location, it is convenient to deliver groceries to all parts of the county at little expense. (3)

(1) Mississippi Advertising Company

(2) J. H. Manning

(3) O. B. Wooley, Marks, Miss.



### Ice and Meat-curing Plant

In 1923, M. Price founded the first ice manufacturing plant in this county. As a site for the location of his industry, he chose the town of Marks, which is the county seat and occupies a central position in the county. The choice of a well selected location greatly facilitated the distribution of ice to the various parts of the county. The ownership of this plant passed into the hands of L. A. Graeber, and is now operated by his two sons, Louis and Jimmie. The annual ice production is 1200 tons; four men employed throughout the year, with an annual payroll of \$2226. This list of employees is more than doubled during summer months, as trucks run to all parts of the county, making it possible for people not living directly in town to have an accommodation which is not a luxury any more, but a necessity. Food is preserved, and in addition, ice is a boon to those suffering from summer illnesses, which are only too common in any extremely hot temperature. (1)

In recent years, a meat curing plant has been incorporated with the ice plant. Here, people of the county preserve their meat, which would, otherwise, have been lost because of warm temperature. This plant cures and preserves approximately 97,000 pounds annually, at the cost of two and one-fourth cents per pound.

### Stock Raising

One result of the Boys' Corn and Pig clubs has been to make stock raising an important industry of the county, with signs that it will soon vie with the states of the West in the production of cattle and hogs.

Many things favor livestock raising in Quitman County, as pastures are green for the greater part of the year, and hay crops grow well; the winters are so warm that the farmers find it unnecessary to put up expensive buildings in which to house their stock; no stock farms are here, although all farmers raise cattle and hogs in a small way. (2)

Numerous small dairies supply milk to town folk, but the only commercial dairy in the county with modern equipment is owned and operated by Mrs. Mary Shotwell, of Belleview. The dairy building, located one mile from the county line, contains concrete floors; windows and

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- (1) L. A. Graeber, Marks, Miss.  
 (2) Clint Henderson, Vance, Miss.









QUITMAN COUNTY MEAT CURING PLANT  
MARKS

- (1) Mrs. Mary Chiswell, Lexington, Ky.
- (2) John Jantson, Marks, Ala.
- (3) F.H. Binell, Marks, Ala.
- (4) W.A. Cox, Marks, Ala.



Wm. H. H. H. H.  
H. H. H. H. H.  
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H. H. H. H. H.  
H. H. H. H. H.

WILLIAM COUNTY WEST VIRGINIA  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
JANUARY 1900



doors are screened; walls and ceilings are painted white, and it is equipped with electric lights, cream separators, apparatus for cooling the milk, and hot water for sterilizing purposes. Fifty cows are milked daily, and the milk is delivered to Clarksdale, where it is sold. (1)

#### Coffin Factory

Within the past two years Quitman County has developed two coffin factories, its newest industries. Although this industry is in its infancy, marked progress has been made.

In 1934, John Jamison of Marks, with one helper, established a coffin factory in his back yard. The business flourished and it became necessary to have a larger building and to add three more employees; it is now located next to the colored burial establishment, on the west side of the railroad. (2)

F. M. Bizzell, also of Marks, opened a coffin factory in 1936, with six employees; the production averages five coffins per day, and marketing extends to all parts of the United States. (3)

In the summer of 1936, Don Gorton, ingenious young business man of Lambert, installed an ice cream plant in his drug store at Lambert. This plant supplies cream for his drug stores at Lambert and Crowder.

#### Public Industries

The years of 1900-'02 witnessed the development of the Y. & M. V. Railroad as a successful agency for the transportation of freight and passengers through this section. The railroad could surmount the difficulties of poor roads and unfavorable climate, as it traversed the central part of the county, by way of Vance, Denton, Lambert, Marks, Hinchcliff, Essex, Darling, Falcon, Sledge, and Crenshaw. In 1908 the Legislature created a railroad commission to take care of freight rates and also to supervise the express, telegraph, and telephone companies). In 1914, the railroad company saw the need of a branch line for the transportation of express and heavy freight, which extends from Memphis to Swan Lake. Now there are two passengers, two locals, and several freights which run daily on regular schedule. Forty-four persons are employed throughout the year, with an annual payroll of \$38,500. Without this excellent service many Mississippi industries could not exist, and the railroad is beneficial to the county in the way of taxes. (4)

(1) Mrs. Mary Shotwell, Belleview, Miss.

(2) John Jamison, Marks, Miss.

(3) F.M. Bizzell, Marks, Miss.

(4) W.A. Cox, Marks, Miss.



**LIGHT PLANT:** Because the system was so poor and water supply so inadequate, the town officials made plans for a drainage and water supply system in Marks. These two systems were finished in 1917, along with a 25-horsepower light plant, built and owned, by James Feitzel. Seeing the need of a larger plant in 1919, Feitzel increased his plant to 50-horsepower. During this time the plant also furnished lights for the town of Lambert; in 1921, that town purchased a light plant, but in 1926, it was sold to the Mississippi Power and Light Company. In 1922, the Feitzel plant burned, and was replaced by a 225-horsepower plant, owned by the Home Power and Light Company. It was sold to the Mississippi Power and Light Company to be used as a reserve plant, and this company furnishes electricity for all the towns in Quitman and practically all the larger farm homes. (1)

**WATER SYSTEM:** Lambert, Marks, Belen, Sledge, and Darling have a sufficient water supply at the present time; late in the summer of 1936, the people of Marks saw an immediate need for a better water supply, consequently, and according to contract, a well 800 feet deep, and flowing 300 gallons per minute through an 8-inch pipe was drilled by the Lane Central Company, near the Kyle Chevrolet building, at a total cost of \$3,718.40. Sledge also has a well which was constructed in 1930, with an eight-inch pipe, having a depth of 1300 feet, and has natural pressure. This, and three other privately owned wells in Sledge, afford all water needed locally.

Belen well, drilled in 1905, has a six-inch pipe with a depth of 1200 feet, the pressure consisting of sixty gallons per minute. It was not until 1910, however, that distributing pipes were laid to supply the town; the old well that was drilled for use at the time the courthouse was in Belen, is now being used for the school there.

Lambert has an artesian well with a six-inch pipe and a depth of 900 feet. The cost of the construction was \$2900, and it gives a sufficient supply for the town, and water is also furnished the railroad company from this well. A reservoir is placed to catch all waste water, and it is pumped into the railroad tank. The water has been analyzed and rates as the second purest in the state.

A community well at Darling supplies the town, and one is also located at the schoolhouse.

All other towns and communities of the county have privately owned artesian wells. (2)

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- (1) W. A. Cox, Marks, Miss.
  - (2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.



**TELEPHONE EXCHANGE:** In 1909, the Southern Bell Telephone Company installed in the Cox-Turner Building the first Exchange in the county, which is now owned by T. C. Potts, of Crenshaw. This Exchange has remained throughout the years, and at present requires the attention of the efficient manager, Mrs. Mary Blackmon, and two other regular employees with an assistant occasionally. (1)

### Private Industries

As the towns have progressed, mercantile business has claimed first attention, being a necessary and growing business; stores are located in the different towns of the county, with from one to two shoe shops, barber shops, markets, and cafes in the larger towns - Marks, Sledge, Lambert, Crowder, and Darling.

In 1935, there were 128 retail stores in the county, doing a volume of business for the year of \$1,095,000. These stores, owned by 125 proprietors, had 109 people engaged at a total salary of \$63,000 for the year. In 1933, the county had in operation 159 retail stores, and total sales amounted to \$961,000.

### References

Abel, R. S.	Lambert, Miss.
Atkinson, Pat	Crowder, Miss.
Bizzell, F. M.	Marks, Miss.
Barnes, Stanley	Marks, Miss.
Blackmon, Mrs. Jim	Marks, Miss.
Brown, S. N.	Vance, Miss.
Calloway, L. D.	Sledge, Miss.
Covington, William	Belen, Miss.
Cox, W. A.	Marks, Miss.
Graeber, L. A.	Marks, Miss.
Henderson, Clint	Vance, Miss.
Ingram, R. G.	Lambert, Miss.
Jones, Gratz, Jr.	Marks, Miss.
Jamison, John	Marks, Miss.
Manning, J. H.	Walnut, Miss.
Moore, G. L.	Crowder, Miss.
Ross, George	Lambert, Miss.
Shotwell, Mrs. Mary	Belleview, Miss.
Thornton, Doke	Darling, Miss.
Turner, W. V.	Marks, Miss.
Wooley, O. B.	Marks, Miss.
Whitwell, E. E.	Marks, Miss.
York, E.	Marks, Miss.

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(1) Mrs. Mary Blackmon, Marks, Miss.







## Chapter XV

## TRANSPORTATION

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Old Roads

The development of Quitman County was slow at first because of lack of good roads. Points within the county and adjoining counties were reached by way of Coldwater and Tallahatchie rivers. Since there were no bridges at that time, the only means of crossing the rivers were on ferries; barges or "flat boats" were used in plying the streams, conveying both passengers and freight to various points. Indian trails or paths beaten by wild animals, leading through the wilderness were not inviting to the traveler, and in this connection the most historic thoroughfare in Quitman County was originally an Indian trail. This road extended almost directly east to west, from Batesville through the present site of Marks, by way of Belen to Friars Point, in Coahoma County. In traveling this road, people crossed the Tallahatchie River about fifteen miles from Marks, at a point which was known as "Porter's Ferry." This route, known as the "Choctaw Trail" to the first settlers here, was soon widened into a wagon road, making traveling easier. In 1904, bridges were constructed across the rivers, and the old trail, after much improvement, parts of which are still in use, has proved to be of great benefit to the county. (1)

Mrs. F. M. Brougher, of New Orleans, widow of Dr. F. M. Brougher, who was the first health officer of the county, recounts the discomforts of travel which her husband endured in the early days here. Riding on horseback over trails through cane-brakes that had been blazed by wild animals of the forest, to Coldwater River or Cassidy Bayou, his horse would be abandoned for the time being, to cross over in a small "dug out," and then walk; or if there was a great distance to go, to ride a farm mule to the patient's home - probably a shack. (2)

In addition to the railroad facilities affording a steel rail and steam train service, which had been definitely established, there came along the truck and automobile,

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(1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.

(2) Mrs. F. M. Brougher, New Orleans, La.



carrying both people and freight to various parts of the county; this brought a new era which demanded more and better roads. Good highways mean ready communication between points in the country and with the town; and this means the getting of produce to market with less expense and less consumption of the farmer's time. With good roads, farmers are able to have the advantage of automobile transportation, and many good things thought before impossible, have become feasible. We are now in a period of road-building which is opening parts of the county never before reached.

Old roads are smoother and wider, and new and wider bridges have been built. As the number of cars and trucks in the county increased, (there were 15,074 on January 1, 1937) the roads are used more. From the time of the first County Highway Commissioners, John Richardson, J. C. Brady, John Gleason, W. D. Morgan, and Levi Pickle (colored) in 1877, until the present County Highway Commissioners, J. B. Lollar, Clausen Peden, J. V. Bingham, A. Jamison, and C. G. Rotenberry, county highway improvement has been a major project. (1)

#### Modern Highways

Quitman County is traversed by two state highways, number three north and south, and number six, east and west, and several county highways reaching in every direction.

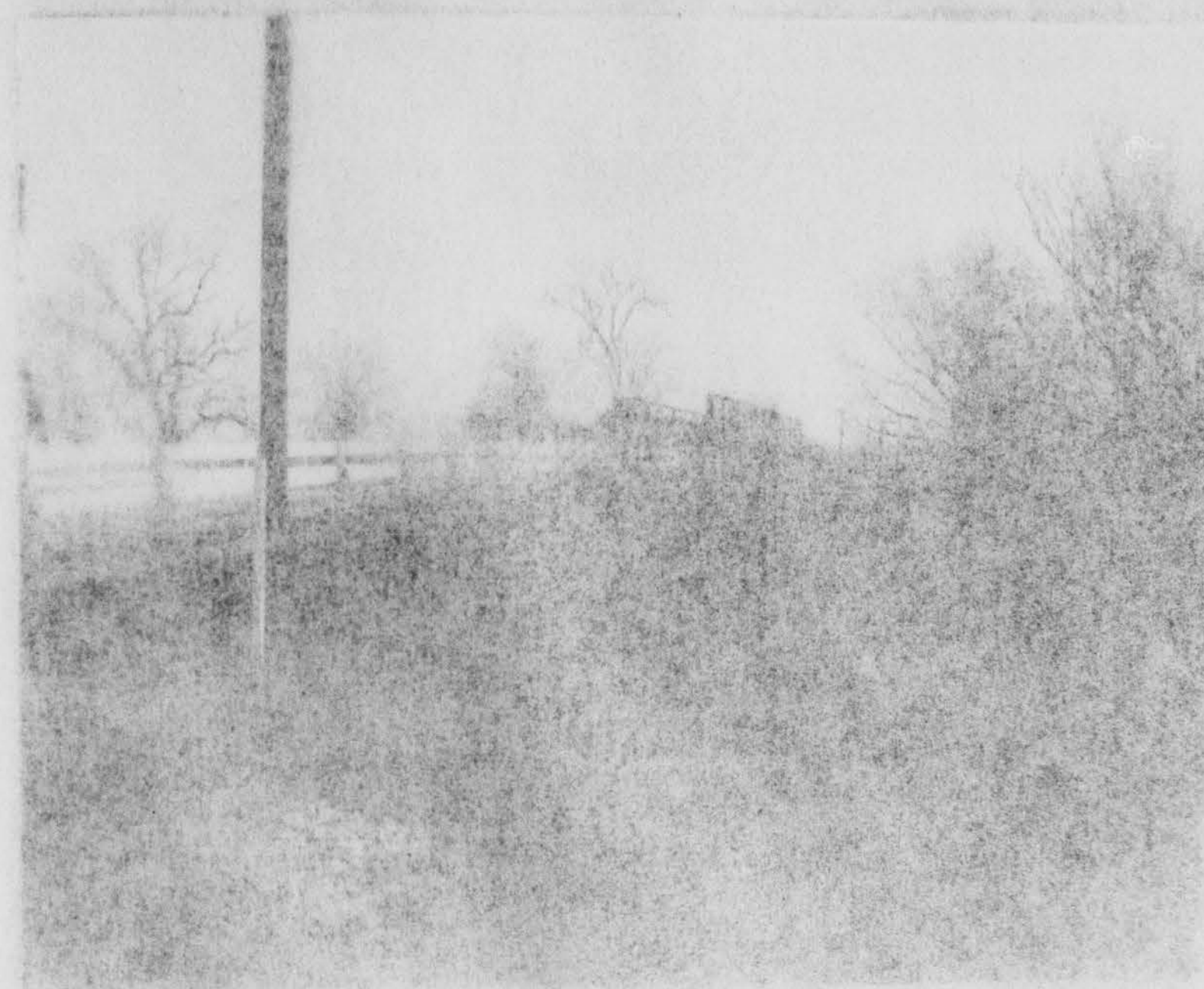
Fifty per cent of the three-cent tax on gasoline, and the profit accruing on the sale of license tags is used for the maintenance of the state highways in the county, as is also an appropriation of \$80,500 made by the county.

Highway 3 enters the county two miles north of Sledge, and is routed via Falcon, Darling, Essex, Hinchcliff, (crossing Coldwater River two miles north of Marks), Marks, Lambert, Olliverfried, Longstreet, and Vance. On the highway, and in the town of Sledge, is a new modern school building, a part of the public school system of the county. The town and school are named for Ruffin Sledge, a wealthy planter and a pioneer citizen. (2)

Another interesting town along the highway and located in the geographical center of the county, is Marks, the county seat. A few miles south of Marks, and on Highway 13, is the Federal Compress.

(1) Dr. A. Jamison, Marks, Miss.

(2) D. L. Calloway, Sledge, Miss.





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the county which depended upon  
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#### ROADS

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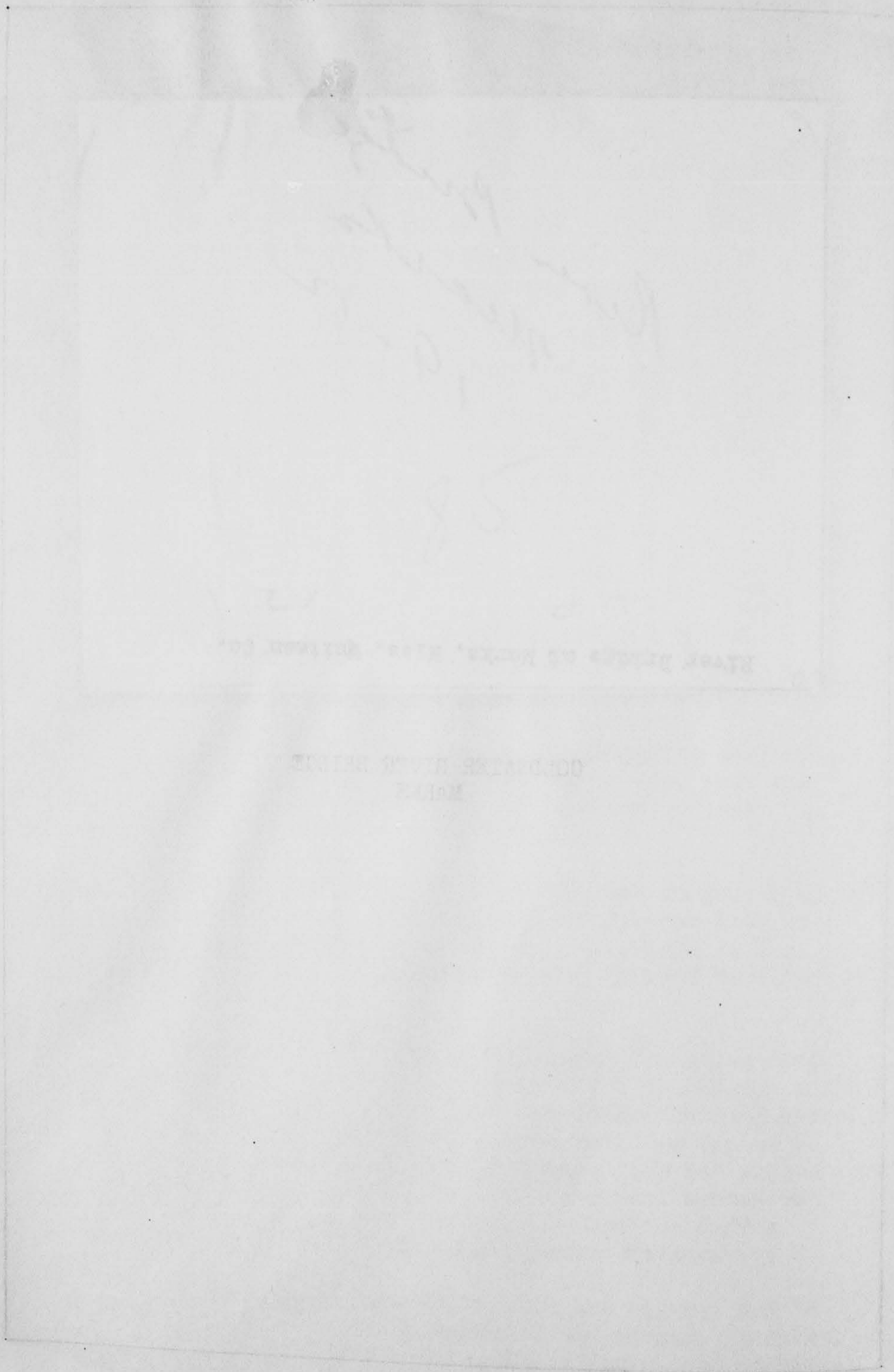
the highway and lo-  
of the county, is Marks,  
of Marks, and on High-





COLDWATER RIVER BRIDGE  
MARKS







Highway 6 enters the county just beyond Bobo Bayou, and is routed via Marks and Belen, and passes out of the county at the Davis Home, on the Quitman and Coahoma County line. Coldwater River is crossed at the town of Marks, and the highway passes the S. S. Cox Home, which is built on the site of the historic home of Tom Hill, the first settler in Quitman County. This settlement was known as "Tom Hill Landing." Passing through the business section of the county capital, it intersects State Highway 3, at Main and Second streets. On the outskirts of Marks, the hospital, owned by Dr. J. E. Furr, and at the present time (1937), the only one in the county, is located on the highway. And then Belen, ever occupying a conspicuous place in the history of Quitman County, because it was once the county seat, and the home of many of our outstanding citizens, is reached. The highway continues to the Davis Home, thence to Clarksdale.

Besides the state highways, Quitman is traversed by several important county highways or secondary roads, which, as well as the state highways, are all graveled and in good condition. This has been done since 1920.

At a meeting of the Highway Commission in Jackson, March 3, 1937, assurance was given that State Highways Number 3 and 6 will be raised above the flood plane of the Coldwater and Tallahatchie rivers before the winter of 1938.

A main county highway begins at Crowder, crosses Tallahatchie River at Campbell White's place, passes through Lambert, thence west to Sabino and intersects State Highway 6 at the Davis Place.

A secondary road starts east of Darling, running through that town and west to the village of Birdie; the road crosses Coldwater River at Birdie, intersecting one road leading to Jonestown, and one leading to Clarksdale.

Three miles north of Vance, a road runs in a westerly direction by the Walnut High School, and intersects the Clarksdale Road at Buford Lake, and one highway runs south of Lambert by the Swan Lake branch of the Y. & M. V. Railway, through the State Farm by Chancy, on to Brazil.

At Buford Lake, a secondary road leaves Highway 3, and runs by Belleview and intersects U. S. Highway 49, two miles south of Clarksdale.

Four miles south of Lambert, a road branches from Highway 3, leading through the state farm, crossing



the Shine Turner Bridge, thence in an easterly direction to Crowder.

In the spring of 1936, the Dunlap Bus line was established, making regular trips through the county. The bus leaves Clarksdale on Highway 6, goes by way of Marks, thence changing onto Highway 3 to Sledge, where a local road is taken to Oxford, or vice versa; the passengers complete the journey from there by train, if desired. (1)

#### Railroad Pioneering

Between 1877 and 1900, little was done in the way of building railroads, but during the latter year, and when the Y. & M. V. was seeking a more direct and shorter route between Chicago and New Orleans, the survey touched Riverside, and L. Marks gave the railroad right-of-way through all of his property. This line, under construction in 1900, was completed in 1902. The railroad station was called Marks, in honor of L. Marks; the post-office remained Riverside until 1910.

The great period of railroad building in Quitman County has closed, but we shall need railroads for many years to come, and probably always. At present we know of nothing that will take their place in transporting large quantities of bulky freight over long distances at the speed which is required. Unless transportation by air develops beyond anything we foresee today, the railroads will always be needed for this purpose. (2)

There are, approximately, thirty miles of railroad in Quitman County. Other than the branch line controlled by the Illinois Central through the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Company, which extends from north to south in the county, is a railway that runs from Lambert by way of Brazil to Swan Lake; this is called the "mud line" because it runs through a stretch of low gumbo land. Freight trains began to operate in April, 1902; in 1904, passenger trains traveled through the county. At present there are two passengers, two locals, and several freight trains which run daily on regular schedule.

Over this network of routes, our goods are shipped from place to place where they are needed, and our people travel where they want to go. The railway and trucks move coal, lumber, cattle, and cotton to the homes, mills, and gins. Automobiles and buses speed here and there across the country, carrying our people on business and pleasure

- (1) R. C. Ingram, Lambert, Miss.
- (2) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.

trips. This is in contrast to the conditions of earlier times, when most of the travel was done by way of Coldwater, Tallahatchie, and on some occasions, the Mississippi River. "Flat boats" plied the river loaded with bales of cotton and lumber to be carried to markets, or bringing back the supplies that the early settlers needed. Occasionally, a steamboat would come up Coldwater River to the town of Marks.

The modern system of transportation helps to supply people with food, clothing, houses, automobiles, radios, newspapers - all the things needful for comfort. It has helped raise standards of living to a high level, and has created a dependence one upon another for common welfare.

If this system of transportation were to break down, even for a few days, nearly all the people would suffer great hardships. (1)

In an interview with Cave Johnson, erstwhile resident of Quitman County, who now (1937) resides in Greenwood, he talked of the early days in the county concerning roads and transportation. "It was very inconvenient to travel in those days," said Mr. Johnson. "People nowadays don't know how to appreciate good roads and comfortable means of travel. Why, in those days rails had to be cut and laid across the roads in the low places and then covered with dirt. After a rain, the mud would reach the wagon bed and for weeks afterwards the roads would be almost impassable. It took four mules to pull a light wagon with two or three people in it.

"I remember distinctly the first car that was used in the county. I was in my four-horse carriage coming home from Clarksdale when I passed it; it was driven by Henry Davis, who still lives near Clarksdale, and as the car passed, one of the horses became so frightened she jumped the harness and broke the tongue out of the carriage. Oh! This made me furious, to think such a vehicle should be allowed on the road. One of my horses didn't ever get used to automobiles; whenever one would pass, she would tremble with fear." (2)

#### "DeSoto Memorial Highway Association (1937)"

"Marks was well represented at the highway meeting in Oxford last Monday, at which time a permanent organization

- (1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.
- (2) Cave Johnson, Greenwood, Miss.



was formed to work for the betterment of Number 6, which runs through Marks.

"The official name of the new association will be the DeSoto Memorial Highway. It will work for the development of Number 6 from Gattman, Mississippi, on the Alabama line, through Amory, Okolona, Pontotoc, Oxford, Batesville, Marks, and Clarksdale, to Friars Point, on the Mississippi River. The Highway Department of Arkansas and Alabama will be asked to name their connecting highways DeSoto Memorial Highway; co-operation of other east and west highway committees will also be asked.

"Permanent officials unanimously elected were: R. X. Williams, Jr., Oxford, president; Mrs. James C. Hartsfield, Oxford, secretary-treasurer; Dr. M. Q. Ewing, Amory, vice-president; Chauncey Smith, Clarksdale, 2nd vice-president; W. A. Cox, Marks, 3rd vice-president.

"The publicity committee is composed of: Lieut-Gov. J. B. Snider, Clarksdale, chairman; Dr. J. C. Luper, Okolona; Mrs. J. C. Hartsfield, Oxford.

"Present members from Marks were: J. B. Eavenson, T. G. Jackson, E. L. Boudreau, W. A. Cox, T. N. Gore, S. A. Davidow, E. C. Black, C. P. Smith, and L. A. Graeber." (1)

#### Some Early Roads and Indian Traces \*

"It is a far cry through the centuries to 2000 B.C., but we know that highways existed before the dawn of history. The earliest records we have of them were the 'trade routes' of Asia Minor, connecting the east and west. Over these roads crops were carried to market, and on these early trade routes along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers great commercial cities have flourished in different ages. Many of these cities are now but mounds of earth; some are buried beneath the shifting sands; but the overland routes remain, and railways that have been surveyed and built follow the paths once traversed by the caravans of those early times.

"The Romans realized the importance of good roads, and built a system of highways extending the cities to the outer boundaries of the empire. Many are still in existence.

(1) 1937 files of the Quitman County Democrat, published at Marks, Miss.

\* Written by Rosa Belle Shelby.





BRIDGE OVER CASSIDY BAYOU  
NEAR BELEN



"About A.D. 476, came a period when Western Europe lapsed into barbarism; wants were few and simple, and each district was expected to be self-supporting. Land routes were dangerous on account of brigands, therefore, they fell into disuse. Roads were never required, and for a thousand years were not cared for. As the world progressed, it became evident that roads were necessary, and again the building of them became important to people of all countries. It was necessary for the traveler to know in advance where the trail leads, and to have a key to understand the markings. Probably the first trails on the North American continent were those laid out by Indians. These were probably based on the runways of the buffalo or other wild animals which commonly formed the first paths through the wilderness. Some were short, and others stretched for miles across plains and hills. Indian tribes used these trails to reach their hunting grounds, to visit points where they traded among themselves, and later, with the white settlers. At times they were used as war trails, though there were certain of these which were known as 'War Paths,' and were used almost exclusively for war purposes. The place where two great Indian trails crossed was a historic spot, not to be forgotten by scout, guide, or geographer. A post pillar generally marked the juncture of these roads, and the white man found the Indian trails of great value in finding the shortest routes. From narrow paths through the forest they became well defined roads, and some of the best highways of today follow the exact routes which were tread by the moccasined feet of the Indian two centuries ago. Immediately following the adoption of the American Constitution, steps were taken by President George Washington, Albert Gallatin, secretary of the treasury, and Henry Clay to inaugurate the building of a great national highway, beginning at tide water on the Potomac River and extending westward to the Ohio River, at Wheeling, West Virginia. Financing of the road began in 1802, and the bill was passed and signed by Thomas Jefferson in 1806. Through additional activities of Congress, this road was hard surfaced and remained continuously a national highway for over twenty-five years. It was extended in 1825, and became known as the 'Santa Fe Trail.' Daniel Boone and his sons were busy at the same time, 1806, cutting out a road from St. Charles, Missouri, to Boone's Lick in Howard County, and in 1833, the Missouri Legislature authorized the construction of a macadam road eight miles to connect Boone's Lick with the Santa Fe Trail.



"When the era of railroad building set in, the National Government abandoned the upkeep of these roads, and turned them back to the states through which they ran. Later, the Government hard-surfaced the road from Washington to Baltimore and to St. Louis, and then to Los Angeles, California. It has bridged every stream, has been sign posted and adopted as one of the interstate roads under the amended 'Federal Aid Bill' in the states through which it passes from the Atlantic to the Pacific. John C. Calhoun, one of the chief advocates of building this road, said that it would tend to cement the states, and preserve the Union. Historians have referred to this act as helping to accomplish the purpose. It is the only road in the United States established by Act of Congress, and therefore, properly named the 'National Road.'"

#### "Colonial Trails

"Naturally, the colonists settled around the bays and mouths of navigable rivers along the Atlantic Coast. A century later it was found necessary to overcome the barrier of the Appalachian Mountains. New colonists pushed along the rivers, and struck into the mighty forests. They found Indian trails and they came into general use. Thus 'Nemacoliens Path,' followed by Washington on his mission to the French in 1754, was the forerunner of Braddock's Trail in 1755, and the National Road. The Kittanning Path, up the Juniata to the Alleghany, became the route of Forbes Trail in 1758; the Warrior's Path from the Shenandoah Valley through Cumberland Gap to the Falls of the Ohio, became 'Boone's Wilderness Road' in 1769, over which Kentucky was settled; the Iroquois Trail from Albany to Lake Erie developed into the Genesee Road.

"Great highways played an important part in the winning of the West. Among the famous trails of that period are the Santa Fe, terminating in Southern California; California Trail, ending at San Frisco; the Oregon Trail and the Lewis and Clark Trail, which led to the Columbia River Valley and the Oregon Coast. Many of the modern automobile roads followed the course of these famous trails, blazed by daring and determined pioneers of the 18th Century. The history of our own state is most interesting, and follows:

"During the period of more than a century, covered by the French, British, Spanish, and early American occupancy, of the so-called Natchez District, the ocean, the rivers, and streams afforded the chief, and indeed,



almost the only means, of reaching its isolated settlements.

"One of the first concerns of Mississippi territorial authority was to open up overland routes of travel to the older settled regions of the United States. In the East, and to New Orleans on the South, this policy was regarded as an urgent military necessity in those turbulent times, as well as commercial and economic good, and an important means of attracting new settlers.

#### "Natchez Trace

"The earliest and the most famous of the public highways which traversed the present state of Mississippi was the so-called Natchez Trace. Its origin is interesting: As soon as the Spaniards finally evacuated the Natchez District, and immediately after the organization of the territorial Government of Mississippi, the Federal authorities empowered Governor Wilkinson, then in command of the United States Troops at Natchez and Fort Adams, to enter into certain negotiations with the Indian tribes south of Tennessee. One of the principal objects of the negotiations with the Indians was to obtain their consent to the opening of the public roads and mail routes from the settlements of the Natchez District to the frontier settlements of Tennessee and Georgia, thereby facilitating intercourse and trade and promoting emigration to the new Mississippi territory. All of the vast region extending East and West of the Natchez District for nearly five hundred miles, to the distant white settlements on the Cumberland River, Tennessee, and to those on the Oconee in Georgia, was undisputed Indian territory, with the single exception of the limited area on the Tombigbee and Mobile rivers, to which the title has been extinguished by France and England in former years. The Natchez District was remote and difficult to access. Intercourse with the United States was by the laborious ascent of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to the Kentucky and Tennessee settlements, or else over the lonely Indian trace, which led for five hundred miles through the lands of the Choctaws and Chickasaws to the Cumberland River. In pursuance of these plans, the treaty of Chickasaw Bluffs was concluded, October 24, 1801, whereby the Chickasaws conceded to the United States the right to lay out, open, and make a covenant wagon road through their land and those of Natchez in the Mississippi territory, and the same shall be a highway for the citizens of the United States and the Chickasaws; also the Treaty of Fort Adams, concluded December 17, 1801, with the Choctaws, whereby that nation consented that a convenient and durable



wagon way may be explored, marked, opened, and made their lands; to commence at the extremity of the settlements of the Mississippi territory, and to be extended from thence until it shall strike the lands claimed by the Chickasaw nation; and the same shall be and continue forever a highway for the citizens of the United States and the Choctaws.

"In November, 1801, Governor Wilkinson asked the assembly, through Governor Claiborne, to immediately appoint commissioners to mark a route for a permanent highway from Grindstone Fork by way of Ford Adams, to the line of demarcation, whereupon he would build the road, as it was needed for free communication to the sea for succor, or retreat, in case of exigency.

"The road from the National boundary to Natchez was laid out in 1802. The governor's journal shows that Hugh Davis and John Collins were of the commissioners, and James Patton a market. South of Natchez, this road ran close to the river to a station called Tomlinson, sixteen miles distant, thence via Homochitto Ferry, four miles; Buffalo Bridge, ten miles; Fort Adams, fifteen miles; and Pickneyville, eleven miles.

"April 21, 1806, Congress appropriated the sum of \$6,000 for the purpose of opening the road through the Indian country in conformity to the above treaties.

"In 1815, a committee of Congress, appointed to inquire into the expediency of repairing and keeping in repair the road from Natchez to Nashville, reported in favor of an appropriation for that purpose, stating that the subject was then unusually interesting from the efforts of the enemy to seize upon the Emporium of an immense country, as well as the other position in the same quarters of less importance to the United States. So long as the war continued, New Orleans, and other adjacent parts, will be liable for invasion, and will, of course, require no inconsiderable force for their defense. During such a state of things, it is highly desirable, indeed necessary, that good roads should facilitate the transmission of intelligence, as well as the march of troops and transportation of supplies, when a passage by water may be too tardy, or wholly impracticable. An appropriation bill was passed in accordance with the recommendation of the committee.

"The Natchez Trace crossed the Tennessee River a few miles below the Mussel Shoals, at 'Colbert's Ferry,'

and thence pursued a southwest course through the country of the Chickasaws and Choctaws to 'Grindstone Ford,' on Bayou Pierre, thence ran south and west to Natchez; south of Natchez we already have seen that it followed the general trend of the river to the line of demarcation. It eventually connected with the various roads leading to New Orleans.

"At Nashville, this old road connected with the public highway, which ran east to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, via Lexington, Chillicothe, and Zanesville; under the treaties, the Indians expressly reserved the rights to establish public houses of entertainment along the route, as well as the control of the numerous ferries. The stations which sprang up along the road between Natchez and Nashville and the distance (miles) separating each station from the other were as follows:

"Washington 6, Selsertown 5, Uniontown 8, Huntley (later old Greenville) 8, Port Gibson 25, Grindstone Ford 8, McRaven's Indian Line 18, Brashears 40, Nortons 12, Choctas 30, Choctaw Line 43, Indian Agents 10, James Colberts 10, Old Factors 26, James Brown's 17, Bear Creek 33, Levi Colberts 10, Buzzard's Roost 5, George Colbert 11, Tennessee River 7, Toscombs 16, Factors Sons 16, Indian Line 20, Dobbins 5, Stanfields Key Spring 10, Duck River 8, Smiths 8, Boones 16, Franklins 8, McDonalds 6, Nashville 12. The total distance to Nashville was 501 miles and the distance to Pittsburg was 1,013 miles.

"Undoubtedly the road through the Indian country in Mississippi was once the old Indian trail or 'Charley's Trace,' leading southwest to the Mississippi River; down it passed a steady stream of travelers, often men of wealth journeying to the South in search of land, and other profitable investments; up it passed traders, super-cargoes, and boatmen from New Orleans, who would make the long return journey overland to their homes 1,000 miles away. They traveled a-foot, and on horseback in small companies for mutual protection, and frequently carried them rich treasures of specie, the proceeds of their cargoes packed on mules and horses; many stories are told of the Mason and Murrel gang or bandits who infested this lonesome trail for years.

#### "Natchez to New Orleans"

"Early in the 19th Century, two public roads were opened up which ran from Natchez to New Orleans. One ran by Madisonville, Louisiana, to the head of Lake Pontchartrain



and thence across the lake by water to New Orleans, a total distance of 156 miles; the other followed the river South by way of Baton Rouge and the levee; Marchalks almanac for 1819 gives the stations on the Madisonville Road, together with the distance of each from Natchez.

#### "Gaines Trace

"This old road ran from Colbert's Ferry, a few miles below the Mussel Shoals, on the Tennessee River, to St. Stephens on the lower Tombigbee. Major Gaines in his reminiscences of early times in the Mississippi territory, written for the Mobile Register, says: 'In October, 1810, I received instructions from the secretary of war to proceed to the Chickasaw nation and endeavor to obtain permission to open a wagon road from Colbert's Ferry to Cotton Gin Port, on the Tombigbee River, and make arrangements to transport the goods thence to St. Stephens; I set out immediately, in obedience to my instructions, had an interview with the leading chiefs of the Chickasaws, who objected to opening the wagon road, but promised me facilities and safety for the transportation of the goods for the Choctaw trading house on pack-horses, at a very moderate expense; Lieutenant Gaines, by order of the War Department, had six or seven years before this time surveyed and marked out the road I was instructed to open.' This trace is referred to in the Treaty of Chickasaw Council House, September 20, 1816.

#### "Old Military Road

"In accordance with an Act of Congress April 27, 1816, a thoroughfare known as 'Jackson's Military Road' was built through Mississippi. It extended from Madisonville, Louisiana, to a point twenty-one miles north of the Mussel Shoals. The work, which was done under the direction of the War Department, occupied a period of over two years, viz; June, 1817 to January, 1820. There is also a road from Natchez to Fort Stoddart.

#### "Special Acts

"By act of the General Assembly December 5th, 1809, John Hanes, B. S. Smoot, and James Caller, be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners to employ a fit person to open a road from Pearl River, where the present Choctaw Boundary line across the same, the nearest and best way to the Chicasawhay River, so as to intersect the same at or near the lower end of the Higawana Reserve; and



they are hereby empowered to contract with said person for the payment of such a sum as may appear reasonable for the performance of said work, to be paid out of the territorial treasury, after the fulfillment of the said contract; provided, nevertheless, that the sum to be expended for making and opening the road shall not exceed \$300.

"By act of December 18, 1811, Sec. 31.

"The old road leading by or near St. Albans to the Walnut Hills, as laid out by the Spanish Government, be and the same is hereby declared a public road, and shall be used and worked upon accordingly, until altered by order of court or as hereinafter directed.'

"By Act of December 12, 1812, Sec. 1.

"The following rates and tolls for ferriages across the River Homochitto where any public road may cross the same were established: For every wheel carriage,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents per wheel; for every foot passenger,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents; for each and every head of horses, or horned cattle, more than one, 4 cents; if but one,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents; for each and every head of hogs, sheep, etc., the sum of 2 cents.'

"By Act of January 6, 1814.

"Harry Toubin, B. Pittman, E. Chastang, James Taylor, Lewis Black, William Patton, George Evans, William Roe, shall be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to lay out a road from the town of Mobile to McCray's Ferry, on the Buckatanny, November 16th; six commissioners were appointed to lay out, open, and keep in repair a road thirty feet wide from Natchez to the Louisiana line, following the general direction of a line from Natchez to Amite River.'

#### "Huntsville Road

"In 1823, a road was marked from Huntsville, Alabama, by way of Columbus to Doaks Stand, on the Robinson Road, as this terminus of the new road was thirty-five miles from Jackson, and the nearest point on the Robinson Road was the Choctaw Agency House, ten miles north of the capitol, Governor Leake sought to have the Columbus Road changed, but it remained for some years the only line of communication between the capital and the populous and prosperous Tombigbee, in northeast Mississippi.



"The old Natchez Trace has been marked with boulders in Adams, Jefferson, Claiborne, Attala, Choc-taw, and Chickasaw, and I am not sure about Lee County." (1)

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## Chapter XVI

## THE ARTS

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"WHAT IS ART?"

"But life upon the larger scale, the higher,  
 When graduating up in a spiral line  
 Of still expanding and ascending, gynes,  
 It pushes toward the intense significance  
 Of all things, hungry for the Infinite.  
 Art's life - and where we live, we suffer  
 and toil." --- E. B. Browning

Introductory

(Mrs. B. J. Marshall, Art Chairman of  
 Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs)

"In this workaday world there seems very little time for the cultural things of life, but the nature of Quitman County is at once revealed in its love and activities in the Fine Arts, as well as in the Practical Arts and Crafts; here we find a painter, either accomplished, or in the making; there a musician, embryonic or accomplished, each contributing some part of himself in his art to the lives of those about him. Much of the artistic-soul has been expressed in various ways, such as are afforded by our several poets, historians, and crafters.

"Art is not a thing to be hidden away in a dark corner to be preserved through generations, but a thing of beauty to be enjoyed by all people of all ages.

"During the past several years, appreciation of art has been stimulated and there is a general desire for art in every-day life. This has largely been done through the various art clubs, art exhibits, fine arts festivals, and pageants which have assured the taking of art to those who cannot come to art.

"Meanwhile, the study of art has entered the schools, giving the girl or boy a true understanding of the principals of art and instructions in creative work."



### Literature

The cultural development of the county has come largely through schools, clubs, and other group associations which have served as incentives for bringing out latent talent by way of encouragement, comparison, and criticism, this being particularly true of our poets, orators, and dramatists, who have made important literary contributions. The Coterie Club of Marks has encouraged literature by giving prizes each year for the best essay or poem written by pupils of the high school.

Though the Tuesday Book Club and the Friday Book Club, once Federated Clubs of Lambert, are now extinct, their work is seen in several fine boys and girls. The Tuesday Club educated Lilly Murphree and gave assistance to several other girls. The Friday Club sent Cecil Meade to a business college in Memphis.

### Poets and Selections

The beloved late Mrs. Annie Turner was called Poet Laureate of the Coterie Club, writing verses for many significant occasions of the organizations, as well as appropriate tributes to members and visitors. She, too, loved to speak of her love for her family, her friends, and of nature through her lines.

DR. B. J. Marshall, born in Alabama, January 1, 1881, has been a citizen of Quitman County since 1910, when he came here to practice dentistry. Among his poems are: "A New Deal," "A Thought of Mother," and "A New Day." His poem, "Old Friends and New," has been widely read and enjoyed.

### "Old Friends and New"

"What thought could there more pleasant be,  
Than friends of by-gone years?  
Such brings a compensation for life,  
Sorrow, gloom, and tears.  
Yet friends of now, the faithful few,  
And real ones whom we trust,  
Breed hope and love and charity for mankind oft  
unjust,  
Yet old or new, if friends endure,  
Existence seems worthwhile  
And tho' some claim but two or three,  
The world should seem a smile." (1)

(1) Mrs. Pearl Marshall, Marks, Miss.

Miss Ruby Powers, born in 1902 in Montgomery County, near Kilmichael, has been a citizen of Quitman County for fifteen years. She attended the school for the blind in Jackson, and at the age of sixteen, began writing poetry. She published books of poems in 1927, 1929, and 1936. The name of her favorite poem, "Sweet Rose," was inspired by a red rose blooming in her mother's yard at Darling.

### "Sweet Rose"

"Sweet rose, when your dear, fragrant bud appears,  
My heart is filled with gladness and with song;  
When you unfold in all your loveliness,  
You chase away all thoughts of doing wrong.

"Sweet rose, with hue so brilliant and so brave,  
You toil not, neither do you spin to grow;  
Yet, you are clothed with grace and beauty rare  
To make life's garden brighter here below.

"Sweet rose, your presence always makes me feel  
That I should love and serve my master more,  
For He has blessed you, and He'll bless  
And clothe and feed us from His bounteous store." (1)

It will be of interest to readers to learn that Miss Ruby Powers, of Marks, has had the following poetry accepted for publication in the Crown Anthology of Verse, a standard compilation of contemporary poetry: "Dear Father, Hold My Hand."

The inclusion of the poetry is a result of the author's participation in a \$250.00 prize poetry contest sponsored by Crown Publications. This volume will contain the representative work of this country's eminent contemporary poets. The inclusion of the author's work is a distinct sign of literary recognition.

The "Crown Anthology of Verse" will be on the market early in 1938, at which time prize winners will be announced.

The author's literary efforts have already achieved publication in the following periodicals:

"Baptist Record," "Memphis Commercial Appeal," "Quitman County Democrat," and "Braille Lutheran Messenger."

(1) Miss Ruby Powers, Marks, Miss.



The following is a brief biographic sketch of the author:

"Born near Kilmichael, October 11, 1902; entered Mississippi School for the Blind at Jackson, in 1910; graduated high school 1924; graduated in music in 1925; entered Perkins Institution, Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1928, and took Harvard and Special Methods Courses for the teaching of the blind. She has been writing poems since she was sixteen years old, plays violin and piano, and is a member of Baptist church; member of Marks Coterie Culture Club, and has composed a number of sacred musical numbers. She is now transcribing books into Braille for libraries for the blind." (1)

A. J. Lowry, born in Helena, Arkansas, is now living in Quitman County, and has been writing poetry for ten years. Several of his poems have been read over the radio and they were complimented by the announcer, as well as his friends. Lowry's "Hope Renewed" has furnished inspiration to thousands in this county and elsewhere.

#### "Hope Renewed"

"Sometimes I think I cannot stem the tide,  
And say I'll cast my useless oars away  
And drift upon life's troubled waters,  
Back to the quiet bay.

"And, then another thought would come  
To give me hope and strength to row,  
I start again with hope renewed,  
To reach the other shore.

"And on and on, I struggle hard,  
Against the coming tide,  
'Till, lo! behold, I make it safe,  
Clear to the other side."

Mrs. Pearl Marshall, talented local resident, was born in Attala County, but has lived in Quitman many years. Her poem, "The Grand Child," has been selected by the National Poetry Committee to be used in the 1936 edition of American Poets. Mrs. Marshall wrote:

#### "Song of the Night"

"I heard a song in the hush of night,  
Sweetest of melody-moonlight bright,

(1) Quitman County Democrat, November 25, 1937

Heavenly strains from a nearby tree,  
The song of a bird in ecstasy,  
Glorious bird, your song so rare,  
I know it was God who perched you there,  
Outside my window this night divine,  
To comfort this lonely heart of mine." (1)

#### Miscellaneous

Mrs. Fern Ellison Dorris, daughter of the late E. H. Ellison, and widow of the lamented Vernon Dorris, native of Tennessee, but adopted son of Quitman, received her early and high school education in St. Agnes Academy, Memphis, Tennessee. She taught successfully in the Marks School for several years, being a resident here in the home of her sister, Mrs. W. A. Cox, and later attended Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, where she received an advanced degree, majoring in geography, a subject of all-time interest to her. She is now teaching it in the Georgia State College for Women, at Milledgeville, Georgia, but in the interim has written a comprehensive geographical sketch, "The Yazoo Basin." The pictures for the book are of scenes along the Coldwater River.

Lomax Lamb, graduate of Marks High School, and now a student at Yale College, where he will graduate at the age of twenty years, is a gifted young journalist. He is on the staff of the College Daily, a coveted position by both new and old men, and as "Elia" he writes a column entitled "a Lamb's Tale"; during the vacation months he does feature writing for the Memphis Press-Scimitar. A sketch from this column is as follows:

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#### LAMB'S TALE

"What this paper needs," the city editor somewhat confidentially yelled at me one scorching, summer morning, "is a live, clever story about fish bait. Get down to the river right away and find out all you can about the business."

"Knowing nothing at all about the private life of what-ever-it-is-that-fish-bite, and feeling as much a sucker as the poor members of the finny tribe who swallow the bait, I regretfully began my search for the local minnow-magnet.

"The day was sultry and almost as quiet as one of those South American cities in the afternoon when everyone

(1) Mrs. Pearl Marshall, Marks, Miss.



is taking his siesta; I stood at the top of the levee, with the sluggish Mississippi below me there at Memphis, anxiously looking up and down the embankment to see if any story possibilities were at hand. A few boats were docked, and a negro or two seemed to be lazily puttering around them, but there was no sign of anything else stirring.

"At first my hopes sank, but then I happened to glance over in the distance and saw an old shanty boat with a spruce, newly-painted sign prominently displayed. 'Minnows, All Kinds of Fish Bait,' it read. 'Fresh every day.'

"There was my man, I thought, and slowly made my way over the rough levee paving. It was an old gentleman I saw, rocking quietly back and forth in the shade of the deck. He must have been seventy-odd, and he had a magnificent white beard - some old river man I thought - who had seen better days.

"I'm from the Press-Scimitar," I told him, "and I'd appreciate it a great deal if you would give me some information about your minnow business."

"He disappointed me, however, for the bait concern wasn't his at all. It belonged to a friend who wasn't there just then, who had just been selling minnows for a week and wouldn't be able to tell me much anyway. Perhaps, if I came back later.....

"Slowly I started back up the levee, when I heard a low voice behind me. It was the old man:

"You said you were a reporter, didn't you, from the Press-Scimitar?"

"I nodded agreement.

"You don't happen to be that Pegler fellow that writes for y'all - Westbrook Pegler?" he hopefully inquired. "He certainly can do some fine writing."

"I hated to disappoint the old gentleman. I hated to tell him I wasn't Westbrook Pegler; that I was just about the cubbiest of cub reporters; that I was merely sent out on this poor excuse of a story to help clear congestion in the office. I hated to tell him that - but I did.

"But now it seems I'll have to pay another visit to that old shanty boat, I'll have to tell the man with

the magnificent mustache that it may not have been Pegler he was talking to that day, but that it was someone who did try writing a column.

"I'd tell him that this columnist may not have been born with the sarcasm, or brilliance, or venom, of a Pegler; that instead, he preferred the optimistic approach. I'd tell him that the cub reporter tried to find amusing, or interesting occurrences in the news of the day that his readers might have missed, and that he thought that they might enjoy. The old gentleman would learn of the difficult job I had to fill, the not inconsiderable shoes of Percy Flage, and of my hoping for the best.

"You can see I'd like to visit that shanty boat again.

Elia." (1)

Stacey Furr, Belen, showed ability in story writing during his high school days at Marks, and is now a member of the staff of the college paper at Mississippi College. (2)

Mrs. Pearl Marshall, Marks, composes and presents plays in the various towns of the county. Among these are "The Love Trail" - a three-act musical comedy; "Trials of a New Minister," a three-act comedy and drama; and "Over the Garden Wall" - a two-act juvenile play. (3)

#### Music

Musical standards have been continuously improved and extended since the county was in its infancy. Many parents are proud to make possible to their children musical training, either through teachers in the high school, or private instruction, and some of them have excelled in various branches of this art.

Ruby Powers, Marks, almost totally blind, is very much appreciated; she graduated in piano in 1925 at the Blind Institute in Jackson, and taught six months at the Baptist Orphanage. She studied violin seven years, and voice two years. Several times each year she gives sacred concerts over the county, which are very creditable and enjoyable and has composed some soulful sacred music, and is especially gifted in arranging hymn variations and medleys. (4)

Mrs. Clyde Black Carr, Marks, studied piano from the age of five through high school at Oakland. She continued

- (1) Lomax Lamb, Marks, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.
- (3) Mrs. Pearl Marshall, Marks, Miss.
- (4) Miss Ruby Powers, Marks, Miss.



her musical education at Belmont College, Nashville, Tennessee, and at the Conservatory in Cincinnati, Ohio. She had instructions in the Oxford piano course, a teaching method of class work in Northwestern University, Chicago, and for the past five years has served efficiently as music teacher in the Marks and Lambert schools. (1)

Mrs. Myrtle Trevillion, Marks, is county director of the WPA Music Project, besides teaching piano to a number of pupils in her home. She is a past pupil of Miss Willie Abernethy, of Jonestown, and Mrs. Billy Broome (of Vicksburg), nee, Margie Boone.

Her direction of the WPA Music Project has been marked by splendid group work, both instrumental and voice, a particular feature being her training of the colored folks in their spirituals and otherwise. She also stressed Music Appreciation, and has furnished Gospel Songs in the churches on many occasions.

It is not amiss here to mention that Mary Elizabeth Trevillion, small daughter of "Myrt" (as she affectionately calls her mother), is a little artist, winning many local honors, in such as Juvenile Amateur Hours and other contests. She also represented Quitman County in Memphis on Bry's Juvenile Hour, and won first place. (2)

Alice Gibson, of Belen, has contributed her share toward "spreading the gospel of good music," doing teaching of the highest type for many years in Belen and Marks. She received her musical education in Randolph-Macon, and Martha Washington colleges, afterwards working in the Cincinnati Conservatory, and Chautauqua, New York. (3)

Oliver Manning, young musician, was born on June 13th, 1919. He began his musical education at the age of six and studied under various public school teachers until he was nine years old. At this time, he was placed with Miss Ada Chapman, of Clarksdale, one of the best piano teachers in Mississippi. He spent the summer of 1935 studying under the renowned artist and piano teacher, Walter Chapman. Besides being a composer since he was twelve years of age, Oliver has made public appearances since he was seven, and has won many honors in contests; outstanding of these is the piano scholarship to Louisiana State University, awarded by the Mississippi Federation of Women's Club. He is now (1937) studying under Carleton Liddle, there. His novel arrangements of

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- (1) Mrs. Clyde Carr, Marks, Miss.
  - (2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.
  - (3) Miss Alice Gibson, Belen, Miss.













OLIVER MANNING  
YOUNG MUSICIAN AND COMPOSER



the well-known "Blue Danube" caused much favorable comment when he played on the Ensemble Hour at the University. It might be told that an academic scholarship to Louisiana State University may be added to the laurels of this young musician, this being awarded on the strength of his four-year average of 94.6 in high school work.

Margaret Lane Denny, talented little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Denny, is a born musician and actress, being able to sing the words and tune to many songs as soon as she could talk.

Mary Ann Pegues, small daughter of Mrs. Ruth Pegues, of Marks, though only four years old, and never having had music lessons, can play a number of popular songs. She may well be classed as a "prodigy."

Other valued musicians are: Mrs. Van Stone, who studied piano during her high school days, and three years at Blue Mountain College; Mrs. James Walker, who completed her musical education at the Bohlan School of Music in Memphis, Tennessee, and Mrs. G. P. Cooper, pianist and singer, receiving her training in Grenada College, all of Lambert.

#### Group Music

Music has reached approximately every home in the county; in most families, at least one member can play or sing, probably nothing more advanced than popular tunes or hymns, but this is enjoyed. Music appreciation is also on the up-grade through the use of radios.

In 1928, Jack Lambert, of Memphis, came to Marks, and with the assistance of Mrs. Lomax Lamb, Mrs. L. A. Graeber, Mrs. J. M. Causey, and Mrs. Douglas Carr, organized a band of twenty pieces. Composed of pupils from all over the county, it was known as "The Quitman County Band." After two and a half years, Lambert resigned, and Mr. Popilarda of Memphis, was engaged, but was forced to resign on account of his business. He was succeeded by Charles Harrison, of Memphis, under whose supervision the band flourished for the next five years, when his work in Memphis demanded his time. In the meantime, many of his pupils had finished high school, and entering college were given places in the college bands. Lomax Lamb plays in the band at Yale, and Douglas Carr at State College.

Each spring, Harrison has all of his bands (about fifteen or twenty), to come to Memphis for the Cotton



Carnival, and this united band has been the official musical unit, leading all parades. In 1936, the band was reorganized as the Marks High School Band, with Mr. Kooyman and Mr. Jones, of Clarksdale, as supervisor and instructor.

Churches have organized choirs, and inter-denominational choirs of twenty-five or more members; these furnishing music upon many special occasions.

Splendid junior choirs have been organized for children from the ages of nine to fifteen years, and are supervised by various musical leaders.

Our negroes realize that group work in music is pleasant and sometimes remunerative. Phil Coleman organized and directs "Coleman's Band," playing for colored normals and dances. (1)

#### Painting

"Painting is called 'Silent poetry,' and poetry, 'Speaking painting.' The laws of each art are convertible into the laws of the other." ----- Emerson.

Few people pass through life without at some time being stirred emotionally by art. To know and appreciate it is one thing, but more wonderful is it to act on this emotion or appreciation, by portraying to the eyes both in the still life and scenes of nature and familiar animal life.

Mrs. Matelaine Marshall Riddle, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. B. J. Marshall, of Marks, but now living in Virginia, studied art at St. Agnes Academy in Memphis, and Virginia Intermont College of Bristol, Virginia. She excels in the use of oil, water colors, pastel, and pen and ink; specializing in still life, figure, landscaping, and commercial designing.

Mrs. E. W. Bryan, of Belen, very appropriately calls her favorite painting, "The Seaman"; it is a bust of an old sailor wearing a rain hat and coat with a pipe in his mouth. Mrs. Bryan studied art three years at Galloway College in Searcy, Arkansas, and now decorates vases, lamps, and children's toys, besides painting in water colors and oils. (2)

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- (1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.
  - (2) Mrs. Dorothy Bryan Lipsey, Belen, Miss.



Annie V. Turner, Marks, enjoys drawing and painting the flowers in her own yard, and also does landscaping subjects very aptly. She attended "Palette and Brush" classes at Sophie-Newcomb, New Orleans, Louisiana; Lewisburg Seminary, Lewisburg, West Virginia; Academy of Arts in Memphis, and the Memorial Art Academy, Washington, D. C. (1)

Edith Pirtle, young artist of Lambert, and formerly artist for the Quitman County Historical Research Project, makes posters for sale, and if there is any special painting to be done she is called upon. Her talent is native, but studying at Delta State Teachers College at Cleveland, has been of vast aid to her. (2)

Mrs. G. O. Denton, of Belen, studied painting at Galloway College in Searcy, Arkansas; one of the most attractive pictures she has done is original, and is of a negro cabin on the plantation, and typifies "Wash Day." (3)

Mrs. B. J. Marshall, of Marks, oil, water color, and pen-and-ink artist, was born in Goodman. She studied art in Stanton College and under private teachers, and has taken summer courses in Sketching and Art Appreciation at the Art Institute in Chicago. She also capitalizes her artistic ability by designing all the floats and costumes for the cotton festival at Clarksdale each year, as well as those for the spring carnival in Memphis. On several occasions, Quitman County has won the loving cup for the most beautiful float in the Memphis parade. For the past two years Mrs. Marshall has worked successfully in connection with the Rice Festival in Stuttgart, Arkansas. (4)

Dorothy Bryan Lipsey, natural artist of Lambert, paints in oils and water colors. She specializes in making plaques, decorating lamps, vases, and toys, and is also gifted in the handicrafts.

A beautiful oil painting of a natural bridge is the property of Mrs. W. E. Segrest, of Marks. It was painted by Alice English, of Sledge, who studied art under Mrs. C. N. McGee, of that place. Another outstanding picture of this young artist is a reproduction of Naomi and Ruth.

A lovely painting in an old-fashioned wooden frame adorns the wall of the bedroom of Myrtle Jones, near Belen.

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- (1) Miss Annie V. Turner, Marks, Miss.
  - (2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.
  - (3) Ibid.
  - (4) Mrs. B. J. Marshall, Marks, Miss.



It is a portrait of Mrs. Cave Johnson, pioneer citizen of the county, and erstwhile friend of the Jones family, who hold it is a prized possession. It was painted when she was sixteen, and is a quaint likeness of a blue-eyed, rosy-cheeked girl, with golden curls, such as the subject was. A white fascinator is thrown over her head and droops softly over the shoulders, while on the front of the dainty blue dress is a lovely cameo. (1)

#### Sculpture

At the north entrance of the courthouse is a Memorial Fountain of chipped concrete about four feet in height and three and one-half feet in width. The monument was erected in honor of beloved little Henry Marks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Marks, who met a tragic death, falling from a favorite horse while out for an afternoon ride; at the bottom is the inscription, "In memory of little Henry, son of Sam and Lena Marks."

#### Handicraft

"Handicraft is an art in flower."

#### "Beautiful Hands"

"They who are blessed with beautiful hands,  
With tapering fingers of waxen hue;  
Have indeed rare gifts from Heaven,  
Only meant for a favored few.

"I know a pair of just such hands,  
Which are skilled as well as fair;  
Their touch upon the violin strings,  
Breathe music sweet and fair.

"There's another pair of youthful hands  
Which promise grace and skill;  
They seem to have a magic touch,  
As of the Master's will.

"I know a chubby pair of boyish hands  
Which often hold the slot and sling;  
They speak of strength and manhood,  
Of service future years may bring.

(1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.

"I love them all, these precious hands,  
Each has its work in life to do;  
And whatever such service means,  
May each be strong; may each be true.

"There is another precious pair,  
Careworn with tasks that life commands;  
Yet they are dearer than all to me,  
They are my Mother's hands."

-- Hattye B. Sturkey.

Beatrice Hampton was born in Toccoola, Pontotoc County, February 14, 1874; on Thanksgiving Day of 1894, she came to Belen, Quitman County, as the bride of Vern A. Furr. They made this their home until 1902, when they decided to move to Germantown, Tennessee, because of her poor health. She died in Memphis, Tennessee, February 16, 1906.

During 1892-1894, she attended the Industrial Institute and College at Columbus, where she studied wood carving. While there, Miss Hampton made several beautiful and useful pieces of furniture; a bookcase, made of hollyhock, with a morning glory design, is done in deep carving which stands out in relief and has a dull finish. (A screen is made similar to the bookcase.) A table made of wild cherry is highly polished, and a blackberry design done in surface carving. There is also a cabinet made of wild cherry and done in wild rose design, with the deep carving standing out in relief.

The deep carving, which is more difficult to do, requires longer time than the etching or surface carving; each thoughtful touch shows its good effect; these pieces are in the present Furr Home in Marks, and afford pleasure to those in possession, and visitors. (1)

Ralph Deardoff, a resident of Marks, has a natural talent for wood carving. He received several months training at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, and while in the army at Plattsburg, New York, did carpenter work, in which occupation he excels. (2)

Cornelia Richards, who is demonstration agent for the colored people, emphasizes to her clubs the importance of handicraft. They are taught to make mattresses, rugs, quilts, and bedspreads. They also learn to bottom old chairs with corn shucks. (3)

(1) Miss Lucy Furr, Marks, Miss.

(2) Ralph Deardoff, Marks, Miss.

(3) Cornelia Richards, Marks, Miss.



### Landscaping

"So, too, in flower arrangement, the Master secures the appearance of naturalness by the most careful and daring manipulation. Twigs and stems are twisted and broken, leaves and petals, even-shaped and cut to produce the effect apparently so spontaneous, so free from artificiality."

Members of the garden clubs of the county, realizing that beautiful surroundings lend an atmosphere of culture, have adorned, not only their homes, but also the public parks and school grounds with flowers and shrubs. They have, also, planted trees in memory of prominent citizens on the court lawn.

The Exchange Club, county demonstration agent, home science and manual training teachers, have spent time and money in promoting a more beautiful county.

Closely behind the wire fence that runs along the front of Mrs. G. O. Denton's yard in Belen, are numerous shrubs and climbing roses that insure privacy. A few steps to the right of the circle driveway is a plot of ground surrounded by crepe myrtles, mock orange, and red buds of varying heights. These form an attractive back ground for the low massed flowers growing in the front. In carefully harmonized groups, Mrs. Denton has planted flowers that insure blossoms throughout the years - iris, tulips, and narcissus for early flowering, then others for the later blooming periods - zinnias, verbenas, petunias, varied colors of phlox, and salvias provide a beautiful foreground for the taller shrubs.

To the left of the drive are great shade trees of oak, pecan, and walnut, under which are placed chairs and benches. Comfortable swings are fixed at particularly logical spots. Near the lawn at the right of the house are about five pecans and an old persimmon tree. (1)

"A two-story building in a southern setting," aptly describes the picturesque place belonging to Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Guyton, of Marks. From the front of the home is seen an imposing view of the beautiful garden, and changing the point of observation to the rear of the house, one views a large garden with an inner garden and beautiful lily ponds. At the front entrance of the grounds are golden arborvitaes and juniper pfitzers. In the corner

(1) Mrs. G. O. Denton, Belen, Miss.

are nandinas, and across the back are bush honeysuckles. Beyond this are rose beds. Inside the garden are red maples, nandinas, variegated junipers, crepe myrtles, gladioli, and cape jasmine.

The lily pond is located in the inner garden with yellow jasmines, primroses, peonies, and nandinas. From the west side a flag-stone walk leads to the lower garden, where bloom crepe myrtles, lilacs, wisterias, and climbing roses. At the back are Chinese fir, American holly, pussy willow, flowering almond, red buds, Japanese weeping-cherries, and Japanese red-leaf maple. In the back garden are pecan and black walnut trees, with a grape arbor.

Concrete benches, placed here and there, are convenient as one gazes upon the lovely gardens and home. The yard has a border hedge. (1)

(1) Mrs. J. S. Guyton, Marks, Miss.



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Carr, Mrs. Clyde	Marks, Miss.
Carr, Mrs. Douglas	Marks, Miss.
Cooper, Mrs. G. P.	Lambert, Miss.
Deardoff, Ralph	Marks, Miss.
Denton, Mrs. Blanche	Jackson, Miss.
Denton, Mrs. G. O.	Belen, Miss.
Furr, Miss Lucy	Marks, Miss.
Gibson, Miss Alice	Belen, Miss.
Guyton, Mrs. J. S.	Marks, Miss.
Lamb, Lomax	Marks, Miss.
Lipsey, Mrs. Dorothy Bryan	Lambert, Miss.
Lowery, Mrs. A. J.	Marks, Miss.
Marshall, Mrs. Pearl	Marks, Miss.
Powers, Miss Ruby	Marks, Miss.
Richards, Cornelia (col)	Marks, Miss.
Stone, Mrs. Van	Lambert, Miss.
Trevillian, Mrs. Ellis	Marks, Miss.
Turner, Miss Annie V.	Marks, Miss.
Walker, Mrs. James	Lambert, Miss.
Wooley, Mrs. O. B.	Marks, Miss.

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November, 1937

## Chapter XVII

### THE BAR

#### Outstanding Members of the County Bar

To speak or think of the Bar of Quitman County is to bring to mind real men - capable, conscientious, and trustworthy - who, aside from performing their respective legal duties, have an important part in the civic, social, industrial, religious, and cultural life of our separate communities and the county at large.

Manford Esca Denton, one of the most outstanding members of the bar of Quitman County since its beginning, was also a leading figure both in the moral and material life of the community. Born in Calhoun County, January 16, 1872, the son of W. H. and Susie Lovelace Denton, his family moved to Lafayette County, where he attended the grammar schools there, and later, at the age of eighteen, he was a graduate from the Normal School at Iuka. Five years later, he received his law degree from the University of Mississippi, having taken this full course, as well as a greater part of the course in letters. In the meantime, he had been first assistant at the Tula Normal School and principal of Longtown Academy, in Panola County. He began his career in 1896 as a member of the firm of Stone, Lowrey & Denton. A close student, and of the highest moral character, and being ever attentive to any case intrusted to his care, he rose so rapidly in his profession that at thirty-six years of age, Governor Noel appointed him Chancellor of the Seventh District, in which capacity he gained the reputation of being a discriminating judge. He was re-appointed in 1912 by Governor Brewer, but resigned in 1914 to resume his practice and devote his time to his private affairs. Previously, he had served a term and a-half as a member of the Legislature. Ever since the construction of the Yazoo-Delta line of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad through Quitman County, there had been talk of moving the county seat from Belen to a point of better transportation, but it remained for Judge Denton to "suit the action to the word." He it was who organized the Marks



Townsite Company, buying half of a section of land from the late L. Marks at what then was Riverside; he it was who laid off the town of Marks and named it for its pioneer settler and millionaire planter, and led the movement to change the county seat from Belen to Marks. The first drainage meeting held in the Delta was called by Judge Denton, and was held in his office, resulting in a series of meetings, culminating in the organization of the Tallahatchie Drainage district. When the drainage laws of the state were settled according to the decision of the Supreme Court in the litigation growing out of the district, he organized the first drainage district under the new laws. He assisted in organizing the Riverside Bank, and was its president from 1910 until he resigned in 1915. He died in 1935. (1)

Van Stone, of Lambert, who was born in Montgomery County 1885, attended Mississippi College and received his law degree from Cumberland University in 1913. He has a lucrative law practice in Lambert, and is a brother of the late Judge Deck Stone. (2)

Tom Shelton, born on May 26, 1872, in Copiah County, attended Kent's College of Law, Chicago, and received a degree there in 1897, which was supplemented by another from the University of Mississippi in 1898. He began practice in Fayette, Mississippi, in 1899, and served as state senator from Jefferson and Claiborne counties. In 1908, he made the race for Congress but was defeated; again in 1910, he was defeated by only two hundred votes. Subsequently, he moved to Lambert and built up a lucrative practice there, but is inactive now on account of failing health. (3)

Eugene Thompson attended Millsaps College two years; transferred to University of Mississippi in 1927, he received his B. A. degree there in 1930. Finishing law at Tulane in 1932, he took a position with the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans. He came to Marks on October 1, 1936, and became a member of the Boone & Thompson firm, but is now practicing alone with offices in the Judge Lowrey building. (4)

Partee L. Denton, born in Belen, Mississippi, on August 6, 1900, the son of Ira C. and Birdie Bobo Partee Denton, attended Castle Heights Military Academy, Lebanon, Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

- (1) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Van Stone, Lambert, Miss.
- (3) Tom Shelton, Miss.
- (4) Eugene Thompson, Marks, Miss.

Attaining a law degree in 1925 from the University of Mississippi, he began work in the bond department of the Union & Planters Bank in Memphis, Tennessee. However, in a few months he formed a law partnership with his Uncle, Judge M. E. Denton, in Marks, which lasted until January, 1928, when he became County Attorney. He served in this capacity for four years, being defeated for the same post in the 1931 election. Upon the death of A. A. Pogue, Denton was appointed to fill the unexpired term, and has filled the place since. He is also attorney for the Board of Supervisors. (1)

Judge W. F. Gee, former resident of Quitman, but now living in Clarksdale, was born on August 5, 1883. He began his career as a lawyer in Lambert in 1909; moving from there to Marks in 1911, he commanded a large and respectable clientele here until 1925, when he moved to Clarksdale. By appointment, he served as Chancellor of the Seventh District for a short term in 1919. (2)

Judge P. H. Lowrey, revered able lawyer and jurist, was born in March, 1860, in what is now Alcorn County, then Tishomingo, near Kossuth. He attended Mississippi College and studied law under Judge Hall and Judge Booth, and was admitted to the bar in Sardis in 1886. He was Circuit Judge of the Third District from 1900 to 1903, and upon the death of Judge Stone in 1935, he became county judge of Quitman County, which chair he now holds. (3)

E. C. Black, born in Madison County, June 4, 1883, attended Cumberland University at Lebanon, Tennessee, and received his L. B. degree there in 1908. He began practice in Silver City, but moved from there to Marks and opened an office in 1909, and here he has remained, identifying himself with all things conducive to a better county in which to live, and building up a lucrative and successful practice. (4)

Edward Everett Boone, born May 30, 1890, at Ruston, Virginia, was elected to the House of Representatives from Quitman County in 1919 for the term 1920-24, and was re-elected in 1923 for the term 1924-28; during both sessions he served as chairman of the committee on drainage. He is a Mason, Shriner, a member of Knights of Pythias and an Elk. (5)

- (1) Partee Denton, Marks, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.
- (3) Judge P. H. Lowrey, Marks, Miss.
- (4) E. C. Black, Marks, Mississippi
- (5) E. E. Boone, Marks, Miss.



T. N. Gore, born in Embury, Webster County, August 28, 1890, came to Quitman County as principal of the Marks High School in 1914. He represented the county in 1928-32, legislature, and again, in 1936-40. He is a Mason; served in the World War; is a member of the American Legion and "Forty and Eight." He served on the committee of education while in the House of Representatives. (1)

Judge Deck Stone, born in Montgomery County, in 1880, after attending Mississippi College and studying law at the University of Chicago, entered into a partnership with Judge M. P. Lowrey at Marks. After two years, this partnership was dissolved in 1912, and Stone moved to Lambert, where he opened a law office. He had the distinction of serving as the first County Judge, beginning July 11, 1927; his term ending at his death in December, 1935. (2)

L. B. Lamb was born in Panola County on October 13, 1871, and after finishing Law in the University of Mississippi, began practice in Batesville. He moved to Marks in October, 1921, forming a partnership with Judge P. H. Lowrey. At one time he was attorney for the Panola-Quitman-Drainage-District, also the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad. He became Vice President of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company in 1928, which office he held until his death, June 16, 1932. (3)

J. W. Mack moved to Belen in 1897, and began his law practice there. He was born in Lula, Coahoma County, in 1870; studied law in Memphis, and in 1897 located in Belen for the practice of his profession; moving to Marks in 1911, when the County Seat was changed to that place. He was attorney for the Board of Supervisors for a number of years, and was Vice-president of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company until his death in 1928. (4)

Marks P. Lowrey attended Mississippi College and transferred to Cumberland University at Lebanon, Tennessee. In 1913, he finished his law course at Tulane University, New Orleans. In 1917, he became County Attorney and remained in this position for some years, later becoming Mayor of Marks. He resigned as Mayor and entered into a partnership with Judge W. F. Gee, which existed for two years; upon dissolving this partnership, he entered another

- (1) T. N. Gore, Marks, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Van Stone, Lambert, Miss.
- (3) Mrs. Virginia Lamb, Marks, Miss.
- (4) Mrs. Lillian Mack, Marke, Miss.

with E. E. Boone, which expired in January, 1934, when he very fittingly joined with his father, Judge P. H. Lowrey, the last partnership of his life. He died in May, 1934. (1)

W. M. Donaldson, born in Pontotoc County in 1875, and read law under former Attorney General George T. Mitchell. He moved to Belen in 1902 and opened a law office, but circumstances beckoned him to the native home, and in 1906, he returned to Pontotoc and became associated with General Rush Knox in legal practice. He returned to Quitman County in 1909, and a partnership with J. W. Mack terminated in 1912. He served two terms as Mayor of Marks, during which time he was one of the leaders in securing side-walks, street improvements, and the sewerage system, and as Attorney for the town of Marks, rendered invaluable service in that capacity during the street-paving in 1929. He died in February, 1932. (2)

R. M. Boone, son of Rev. R. M. and Mrs. Etta Everett Boone, was born in Alexandria, Louisiana, June 18, 1898. After graduating from High School, he entered the World War at the age of 18, and saw actual service in France. He developed a chronic rheumatic condition from exposure, and received an honorable discharge, after which he attended the University of Mississippi Law School; graduating in 1925, he entered the practice of law in Marks, where he consistently resided and plied his profession. During this time he was for a number of years a partner of Judge W. F. Gee, and was a part of the law firm at one time of Boone & Lowrey. He was elected County prosecuting attorney in 1932, serving two years, when he resigned to enter private practice. He died in 1935. (3)

A. A. Pogue, born in Eupora, Webster County, came to Marks in 1920 to open a law office; he was elected county prosecuting attorney in 1924 and served until 1928. On March 8, 1934, he was appointed to fill the same office upon the resignation of R. M. Boone. Pogue was a World War Veteran, serving 14 months in France during the war. (4)

- (1) Mrs. Lucile Lowrey, Marks, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. E. E. Boone, Marks, Miss.
- (3) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.
- (4) Ibid.



### Served in Mississippi Legislature

Many members of the bar of Quitman County have held positions in the Mississippi Legislature and county offices. Those who have been members of the Mississippi Senate are as follows:

Judge M. E. Denton, from 1932 until his death in 1935; he also served two terms in the lower house, 1898 and 1900.

E. E. Boone, from 1920 to 1924; re-elected for term 1924 to 1928. Served as chairman of committee on drainage.. (1)

T. N. Gore, from 1928 to 1932; re-elected for the term 1936 to 1940; he also served on committee on education. (1)

Those who have been prosecuting attorneys are as follows:

Mark P. Lowrey, 1917 to 1924.

A. A. Pogue, 1924 to 1928; 1934 to fill office on resignation of R. M. Boone.

R. M. Boone, 1932 to 1934.

Partee Denton, 1928 to 1932; in 1934 he was appointed upon the death of A. A. Pogue; for term 1936 to 1940. (2)

- (1) House Journal, Mississippi Legislature
- (2) Margaret Rivers, Marks, Miss.

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Denton, Partee L.	Marks, Miss.
Denton, Mrs. Blanche	Jackson, Miss.
Gore, T. N.	Marks, Miss.
Lamb, Mrs. Virginia	Marks, Miss.
Lowrey, Mrs. Lucille	Marks, Miss.
Lowrey, P. H.	Marks, Miss.
Circuit Judge Third District	
Mack, Mrs. Lillian	Marks, Miss.
Rivers, Margaret	Marks, Miss.
County Historian	
Thompson, Eugene	Marks, Miss.
Shelton, Tom	Lambert, Miss.
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## Chapter XVIII

## THE PRESS

" The Printing Press "

"I am the printing press, born of the mother earth.  
My heart is of steel. My limbs are of iron and my fingers  
are of brass.

"I make the songs of the world, the oratory of his-  
tory, the symphonies of all time. I am the voice of to-  
day, the herald of tomorrow. I weave into the warp of the  
past the woof of the future. I tell the story of peace  
and war alike.

"I make the human heart beat with passion or tender-  
ness. I stir the pulse of nations and make brave men do  
brave deeds and soldiers die.

"I inspire the midnight toiler, even at his loom, to  
lift his head again and gaze with fearlessness into the vast  
beyond, seeking the consolation of a hope eternal.

"When I speak, a myriad of people listen to my voice--  
the Anglo-Saxon, the Celt, the Hun, the Slav, the Hindu, all  
comprehend me. I am the tireless clarion of the news. I  
cry: 'bring joys and sorrows' every hour. I fill the dul-  
lard's mind with notes uplifting. I am knowledge, light, and  
power.

"I epitomize the conquest of mind over matter. I am  
the result of all things mankind has achieved; my offering  
comes to you in the candle's glow, amid the dim light of  
poverty and the splendor of the rich.

"At sunrise, at high noon, and in the waning evening,  
I am the laughter and the tears of the world, and I shall  
never die until all things return to the immutable dust."<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Meridian Star, Centennial Star, Edition, October 22, 1933,  
written by Robert H. Davis, for R. Hoe and Co.



### First County Papers

The first newspaper in Quitman County was the "Quitman Quill," which was owned, published, and edited by Hindman Doxey about 1880. The office was in Belen; the paper consisted of four pages and contained the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors but no other county news.

In 1891, Dr. W. B. Clarke and his son, Eugene P. Clarke, bought the "Quitman Quill" from Mr. Doxey. A copy of the paper dated February 29, 1896, printed nothing pertaining to Quitman County other than the advertisements, which are few in number, and the delinquent tax sale.

Rev. J. L. Smart bought the "Quitman Quill" in 1903 and published and edited it until 1905, when the publication was discontinued. Simultaneously almost, Eugene P. Clark moved to Marks and began publishing a newspaper called the "Marks Review," the printing office being in the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley depot. It was an eight-page paper and contained two full-page stories, proceedings of the board of supervisors, fashions of the day, world news, and illustrated by pictures sprinkled throughout the pages. The advertisements were not blocked off from the rest of the paper, but were often given prominent places, and the headlines were of the same type as that of the news articles. During the life of the paper, extending from 1905 to 1916, the office was damaged by fire twice.

The "Marks Review," 1916, had the following editorial:

#### "Fool Whiskey Law will Prove Blow to Temperance"

"The Weekly whiskey bill has passed both houses of the legislature, the Governor has signed the bill, and now it is a law.

"Hereafter you can get only one quart of whiskey every fifteen days, or twenty-four pint-bottles of beer. You cannot get whiskey and beer at the same time. For instance, if you order your quart of whiskey now, you must wait two weeks to order your beer, then two more before you get your whiskey again.

"The whiskey must be kept in its original bottle and no part of it can be emptied into another bottle or vessel and carried to another place, nor can any part of it be packed about in a grip.

"The people of Mississippi are not all children. It is not exactly up to a bunch of fellows to sit up and say just how much and how often they shall eat or drink.

"The result of the whole business is that the pendulum is finally going to swing back the other way. It invariably does, eventually. Every fool movement has its reaction, and the reaction from this is going to bring about a worse condition than ever before existed. It is going to cause officers to violate their oath of office and it is going to breed perjurers and moonshine whiskey, and every other form of devilment and cussedness that can be thought of.

"Finally, it is going to undo everything that has ever been done for the cause of temperance." (1)

#### Quitman County Leader, Successor to Marks Review

"The office and entire plant of the 'Marks Review' was destroyed by fire early Tuesday morning, July 4, 1916, the building having about fallen in when found. Origin of blaze unknown. Arrangements have been made by the Western Newspaper Union at Memphis for printing until another plant can be secured. This is the second time that this office has suffered damage by fire, but we still intend to run." (2)

The "Quitman County Leader" is the successor to the "Marks Review." On September 1, 1916, Eugene P. Clarke, publisher and editor of the "Marks Review," felt that, since the paper reached nearly all homes in the county, it should be a county rather than a town paper; hence, he changed the name to the "Quitman County Leader." Offices were in the Phelps Building, opposite the courthouse.

The "Quitman County Leader," in its infancy, was a four-page paper, slightly smaller than the "Review." Unlike the previous papers and as an addition, it had a short editorial column and ran more real county news than previously. Heretofore, only the first page of the paper was of local interest; but, from the first issue until the November 3, 1916, edition, it was purely a county paper. At this time, the paper went back to the old form, giving little county news, but a great deal of world news. It also added four more pages.

In this paper, the advertisements were blocked off

- (1) Marks Review, 1916.
- (2) Marks Review, July 4, 1916.



from the reading-matter on the sides of the sheet, rather than in the middle of the most important pages of the paper.

On September 23, 1918, Brown Brothers of Sumner, bought the "Quitman County Leader" from Eugene P. Clark, and after taking it over, they added an editorial column, in which current events of the day as well as minor happenings were discussed. R. L. Brown was editor until April 24, 1927, when the paper was sold to Mr. and Mrs. W. M. York; Mrs. L. W. Harris, who became editor was succeeded by Miss Lillian Nolan.

#### "Pellonari at the Courthouse

The following is taken from the files of the Quitman County Leader:

"Giorodoni Pellonari, known by his friends in Marks as 'Joe', will give a concert at the Courthouse on Friday night, December 8. Since his last appearance at Marks, Pellonari has entertained large audiences in New York, Chicago, Memphis and other places.. He has been classed by some of the most noted musicians as a second Caruso, and is expecting to spend a while with his parents, who reside near here." (1)

#### "To Build Steel Bridge at Mouth of Coldwater

"The board of supervisors, at its meeting this week, ordered the advertising for bids for the construction of a steel bridge at the mouth of Coldwater River. This action on the part of the board will meet with the hearty approval of everyone, especially those whose business has for many years necessitated a trip on the ferry-boat." (2)

#### "Car Runs over Alligator

"Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Barksdale and some friends, while out riding in a car near Sabino a few nights ago, ran over something, which, not seeming like anything else they ever ran over, stopped the car to investigate, and found that they had climbed over an eight-foot alligator, which had for perhaps a long number of years made its home in the marshes of Lost Lake. The saurian was so badly injured that it was very easily killed. It is said that Lost Lake has been the home of a large number of alligators for many years, and the lake being so far into the

- (1) Files of the Quitman County Leader, 1926-1927.  
(2) Ibid.

swamp, they are rarely seen, but at times their bellowing can be heard far into the swamp." (1)

#### The Lambert Enterprise

The "Lambert Enterprise" was published for the first time on January 30, 1917; J.L. Smart was editor and publisher of this paper for three years, and the files of this paper run from January 30, 1917, until February 13, 1920. The paper published out-of-town news mainly, also the following: Supervisors proceedings; fashions; kitchen cabinet recipes; column of great men; important events of world in pictures; jokes; and "In The Limelight." No news items of interest to the county were carried in its columns.

#### The Advertiser

During the year 1921, after selling the "Marks Review," E. P. Clarke started another paper called "The Advertiser." He operated this paper until 1924, when he sold it to Brown Brothers, to be consolidated with the "Quitman County Leader."

Mr. Clarke did commercial jobs as well as printing the paper, which was almost exactly like the "Marks Review." The files show that the paper ran from January, 1923, to November, 1924. Some interesting articles read as follows:

#### "Tornado Causes Heavy Damage

"The little town of Savage, a small town a few miles north of Crenshaw, was again visited by a disastrous tornado, which struck there about six o'clock Thursday evening.

"It is stated that four negroes were killed and several houses were blown down at Lambert.

"In the storm Sunday night, a number of windows in Marks were broken out and several chimneys blown down. Both storms caused some damage to telephone and light wires."

#### "Appropriation Made For County Library

"Since the act by the recent Legislature enabling county boards to donate a small library maintenance came into effect and our present board made a donation for new books, times look better for the permanence of the Quitman County Library.

"To the readers in this town and all over the county, we

- (1) Files of the Quitman County Leader, 1926-1927.



will say that the new books will be selected with great care and they would like suggestions from readers as to desirable new books for children.

"In regard to the building now used as a library and community house, it is pleasing to state that the last town site note will be paid during the month, leaving only \$800 due on the building. The party loaning this money to the Coterie Club agrees to wait ten years for payment, which places the finances of the public library in fine shape." (1)

#### Quitman County Democrat

J. B. Snider, and son bought the paper from Mr. and Mrs. W. M. York and changed the name from "Quitman County Leader" to Quitman County Democrat. J. B. Snyder, Jr., is managing editor, and has been since the purchasing of the paper on March 3, 1927. R. D. Edwards was assistant editor until May 26, 1927, when C. R. Pitts became assistant editor. A. L. Wilkins succeeded him on August 15, 1929, and held this position until February 16, 1933, when J. B. Barnes, Jr., became assistant managing editor and is yet holding this connection. It is an eight-page paper and contains an editorial column, a society column and news articles; proceedings of the county board of supervisors, news of towns and municipalities, and advertisements.

Some of the interesting articles garnered from the paper are as follows:

#### "Slogan for Town of Marks"

"In last week's paper, Dr. Marshall, chairman of the publicity department of the Business Men's Club, through this paper, announced a prize of \$5 to the one submitting the best slogan for the town of Marks. So far, there has been a lot of interest created in this offer and a number of suggestions for the slogan have drifted in. It will take only a few minutes for you to write six words, and it may be your suggestion will be accepted and the \$5 be yours. Why not think about this, and send in your suggestion? You should have the town at heart enough to think up a capable suggestion for a slogan, so why not do it?"

#### "Marks, Fertile Community, Your Opportunity"

"By agreement of the judges, it was decided to combine the idea furnished by Mrs. Mary H. Smith, Verona, Mississippi -- 'Marks Community means your Opportunity' and that furnished by

(1) The Advertiser, 1923-1924.

Mrs. J. H. Carr, Route 1, Lyon, Mississippi, -- 'Marks, where fertility is Unequaled' -- making the official slogan read, 'Marks, Fertile Community, Your Opportunity.' "

#### "Quitman Float Wins Sweepstakes in Parade"

"The highest dreams of those who worked long and hard in building and sponsoring the Quitman County float in the Memphis Cotton Carnival were realized when it won the loving cup, the sweepstakes prize, for being the most beautiful in the line of parade.

"The loving-cup was awarded at the luncheon at the Hotel Peabody today to Miss Olive Taylor, and will be on display in the window of the Democrat office tomorrow.

"The float entered by Rosedale, Mississippi, won first place in the judging, and the sweepstakes cup was won by the Rosedale float in last year's competition.

"The Quitman float has been described as follows: The float carried out a gold background with yellow roses and green leaves. Miss Quitman County and her maids were seated in large roses on the float. The two pages represented large butterflies, riding at the front corners of the float; a large fold basket on the front representing flowers. From the basket, gold streamers ran back to the queen and maids. On each side of the float, three large flowers were made up.

"The float was sponsored by the Folly Theatre and the 'Quitman County Democrat,' Mrs. B. J. Marshall, who is connected with the Democrat, did yeoman service in staging the series of beauty revues, which were held at the Folly Theatre, and in collaboration with Mr. Evans, designed the float; and both made several trips to Memphis to supervise the building of the float, which was done by Newhouse & Company, Memphis.

"The float, which cost approximately \$100 to build, was paid for by the Folly Theatre. In the beginning, the management of the theatre agreed to turn over a certain percentage of the proceeds of the money received from the beauty revue nights over to a fund to be used in purchasing the float. Not quite enough was taken in to cover this expense, so Mr. Evans paid the balance out of his own pocket.

"Quitman County has won a well deserved honor, and we feel sure that all citizens of the county will rejoice in receiving this recognition.



"Miss Keeler of Clarksdale, won the title of 'Miss Mississippi' in the beauty contest held this morning." (1)

#### "Fire Destroys Theatre

"Fire originating in the Star Theatre early Saturday night, destroyed the Star Theatre, the Abernathy Building, and damaged the Savoy Hotel, completely putting it out of business, for the present, at least.

"The blaze was caused by an over-heated stove in the picture show, which was a frame building. It rapidly spread to the Abernathy Building, which was an apartment house owned by Dr. J. U. Abernathy, leveling it at a loss of \$3500. The flames quickly spread to the Savoy Hotel, a three-story frame building, and partly destroyed it at a loss of \$3000.

"The Theatre building was owned by R. W. Brown, and their loss was estimated at \$4000. No insurance was held on either of the buildings.

"Robert Frazier, deputy sheriff, was stricken with a heart attack while fighting the blaze, and was carried to the Marks Hospital, where his condition is said to be critical." (2)

#### "Storm Sufferers in Desperate Plight

"The storm that strick Quitman County last week destroyed sixteen houses just west of Darling on the Harper, Townsend, Butler, and Whitehead plantations. The tenants living in these houses lost everything they possessed, and many of the people were injured. They are in need of assistance; the Red Cross chapter and local Kings Daughters are soliciting help. Up to this date, there has been contributed through the Red Cross chapter a little more than \$100; some clothing has been sent in to the Kings Daughters to be distributed." (3)

#### "High Water, Cold, Causes Suffering

"The highest water ever seen in this vicinity has caused untold suffering and damage in Quitman County this week.

"Coupled with freezing weather, the town of Sledge and the surrounding territory have been inundated, and the work of saving people stranded throughout the county-side

- (1) Quitman County Democrat, 1928.
- (2) Ibid.
- (3) Quitman County Democrat, 1933.

has been handicapped to a great extent by the lack of boats and motors. Rescue work has been going forward as rapidly as possible, however, and as we understand it, the majority of people caught in their homes by the waters have been brought to safety.

"Water in the main street Sledge has been full three and one-half feet deep, and the whole town is covered with water, with the exception of the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley depot. Refugees have been brought in there and cared for by the Red Cross under the direction of Mrs. E. York, chairman of the Quitman County chapter.

"In the territory west of Crenshaw, which was the first struck by the high water in this immediate vicinity, the situation is well under control; everyone in danger has been brought out, we understand from a resident of the town this (Thursday) afternoon. No deaths were reported in this territory.

"The situation is still serious around Sledge, although not as bad as it has been for the past few days. The extremely cold weather, with ice to push the boats through, hindered the work to a great extent. The depot at Sledge has been full of refugees since the work started, and we understand many have been taken to Clarksdale to be cared for.

"Coming on to Darling, the work of rescuing was carried on about one mile west of there, at the Coldwater River bridge, and approximately five-hundred people have been brought out of that territory. The sheriff's force, headed by John Robert Spidle, did yeoman service in that vicinity but were also handicapped by lack of motor-boats. The current was so swift that it was absolutely useless to try to use a rowboat.

"The road between Hinchcliff and Marks went under water Wednesday evening but was still passable late Wednesday night. This road is now impassable, and we understand that some of the bridges are out. Rescue work was started today at Falcon and Hinchcliff.

"As this article is being written, water is just about to come in the front door of the Democrat office. Water is now running over the levee of the Coldwater River on the east boundary of Marks, and prospects point to the last four pages of the Democrat being printed with water in the office. The water is running down Main Street and rising steadily.

"Work at Darling Thursday night was being carried on



under the direction of Howard Stovall of Clarksdale, who is working from Darling south, and who will follow up the water. Work will be resumed Friday at the river bridge north of Marks under the direction of Mr. Spidle; crew of boats will also be working Friday east of Marks, and in the Whitening territory.

"It is expected that the town of Lambert will be in water by Friday, especially the residential district. The territory around Lambert will be flooded without a doubt.

"The Commercial Appeal has been very helpful in securing aid for this section, sending in five motor-boats Wednesday night at Darling, where they were pressed into service. Several of the Commercial Appeal staff are on hand covering the story for the paper and lending whatever assistance they are able. The Democrat asks that you give these boys all the cooperation possible, as they certainly are doing all they can to help in more ways than one.

"The Red Cross has been doing everything possible to alleviate suffering, furnishing food, bedding, heat, etc. Without the assistance of the Red Cross in this disaster, the suffering would have been much greater.

"Ninety-one convicts have been brought in from the Lambert camps to help in building levees around the jail and elsewhere in town where needed. They arrived Thursday morning.

"Reports at this writing were to the effect that Coldwater River bridge on Highway No. 6 to Batesville was just about to go out. We are unable to confirm this now.

"We do not know about the water situation at Crowder; however, we are reliably informed that the CCC camp there is able to care for fifty refugees.

"The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railway has been of great assistance in helping out in this disaster. Cars have been spotted at various points along the line, and people living in them. This has been the only way to get to Sledge and Crenshaw, and Thursday was the first time in four days a train has been able to go as far north as Crenshaw. The train went to Savage this morning.

"Work in the Savage vicinity has been handled out of Tunica County, and about fifty families were taken out of that territory and have been cared for. The situation there is well under control.

"Several deaths have been reported from various places, but only one or two that come from thoroughly reliable sources. It is reported that a colored baby was born out from Crenshaw before help came, but the mother was saved. A negro and a mule were reported drowned in Coldwater out from Darling Wednesday afternoon, while the negro was trying to swim the mule out. The loss of livestock has been heavy.

"It is predicted that by Friday morning, water will be in the stores in Marks on the south side of Main Street; and as this is being written, water lacks only a few inches of coming in the Democrat's front door, and on down Main Street has covered practically all the sidewalk. The water is rising rapidly.

"More boats and motors are needed to carry on the rescue work. A good many boats have been built, and the great lack is motors with which to propel them. Radio appeals for boats and motors have been broadcast repeatedly." (1)

#### Flood Waters Receding - Refugees Going Home

"The danger of the flood waters in North Mississippi has passed, and the enormous job of rehabilitation is the job now facing this section of the country.

"While there is still a lot of water in this section, it is falling daily and refugees are being returned to their homes as rapidly as possible.

"Many are still under the watchful arm of the Red Cross, however, and it probably will be a week or two, and possibly longer, before all are able to return to their homes.

"A good many of the refugees, we understand, were not in their homes at the time but were just living with friends or neighbors until they could get located for the coming season and get a 'furnish.' Just how many were in this predicament we are unable to say with any degree of accuracy.

"With the sudden influx of refugees filling every available building in Marks, some fear of sickness and epidemic has been felt, but the doctors of Marks have been on the job; and while there has been the usual amount of sickness that could naturally be expected under conditions of this kind, nothing like an epidemic has gained any headway, and it is thought that the chances are slim for anything like this.

(1) Quitman County Democrat, 1935.



"The sanitary conditions of the refugee camps have been watched as carefully as possible, and the danger of disease has been kept at a minimum.

"The old Methodist Church has been used as a temporary hospital, with the Marks Hospital being held in reserve for any serious cases that might need surgical attention. The courthouse, the Methodist and Baptist churches, the Masonic Hall, the Folly Theatre, and the Silent Grove colored church have been used to house refugees. The Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad set in a number of empty cars here and they have also been filled with refugees.

"The loss of livestock during the flood has been very heavy; mules, cattle, hogs, and chickens have drowned and frozen by the thousands. The roads and bridges all over the flooded area have been practically ruined and a great deal of work will have to be done before they are back in the conditions they were. Every bridge between Marks and Hinchcliff, with the exception of the Coldwater River bridge east of Marks, seems to be in good condition, although at one time it was reported on the way out.

"Motor-boats may still be heard at practically any hour of the day or night north of Marks, taking the refugees back to their homes. The water has fallen to a great extent, but is still deep enough for a motor-boat. (1)

#### Odd Advertisement

"A woman hung around her husband's neck and said, 'John, please buy me a season ticket from the Blues to the Radcliffe Chautauqua to be in Marks September 25 and 27!'. Adult tickets \$1.50; children 75¢. (2)

- (1) Quitman County Democrat, 1935
- (2) Files of county newspaper.

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MARKS HOSPITAL





MARKS HOSPITAL



## Chapter XIX

## HEALTH

State Board of Health

The organization of Quitman County was simultaneous with that of a Board of Health for the grand old state, each having come into being in 1877. Prior to this date, and even when Mississippi was only a territory in 1799, there were laws for the protection of the people against contagious diseases, but it rested on them to keep or break them, as they chose.

A local health department was established in the city of Natchez as early as 1818, followed by a pure food and drink law in 1823, the breaking of which for the second time, carried punishment, a fine and a sentence to the pillory for three days in succession. In 1848, vaccine against smallpox was provided by the state for all who applied, and in 1876, a Board of Health was provided for three of the coast counties - Harrison, Hancock, and Jackson.

Members of the first State Board of Health were: Dr. Robert Kells, president, Jackson; Dr. Wirt Johnson, secretary, Jackson; Dr. P. J. McCormick, Yazoo City; Dr. A. G. Smythe, Baldwin; Dr. J. M. Taylor, Corinth; Dr. A. H. Cage, Canton; Dr. T. D. Isom, Oxford; Dr. W. M. Compton, Jackson; Dr. C. A. Rice, Brandon; Dr. P. F. Whitehead, Vicksburg; Dr. E. W. Hughes, Grenada; Dr. P. L. Phares, Woodville; Dr. S. V. D. Hill, Macon; Dr. John Wright, Sardis; Dr. R. G. Wharton, Port Gibson; Dr. F. W. Dancy, Holly Springs.

"No one knew at that time how to prevent any disease except smallpox. A ten-year-old school boy now knows more about preventing typhoid fever, malaria, yellow fever, diphtheria, and other diseases than all these sixteen good doctors knew when they were appointed members of the first Board of Health sixty years ago." (1)

(1) Health Syllabus, State of Mississippi



The eight secretaries and tenure of service are shown below:

Dr. Wirt Johnson, April 7, 1877 - March 24, 1896  
 Dr. J. F. Hunter, March 24, 1896 - February 2, 1912  
 Dr. S. H. McLean, February 2, 1908 - February 2, 1912  
 Dr. W. W. Smithson, February 2, 1912 - January 4, 1913  
 Dr. E. H. Galloway, January 14, 1913 - January 26, 1916  
 Dr. J. D. Gilleylen, January 26, 1916 - December 28, 1916  
 Dr. W. S. Leathers, January 2, 1917 - December 28, 1924  
 Dr. Felix J. Underwood, July 1, 1924 - Present time.

In 1910, Dr. Leathers, then director of Public Health, instituted a malaria control program which brought to the state and its Health Department much attention; he headed a group of physicians traveling into every town and hamlet of Mississippi, and delivered lectures to the people, with the aid of pictures on screens. Warnings and precautions were discussed in regard to hookworm, typhoid fever, the house fly, and mosquitoes, with a major portion of the time and effort being directed toward the stamping out of malaria. (1)

It may be mentioned here that Dr. Leathers is a brother of James A. Leathers, erstwhile young lawyer of Quitman County, who married Vera Denton, sister of Judge M. E. Denton, and who is now prominent in his profession at Gulfport.

#### Epidemics

In September, 1898, yellow fever reached the epidemic stage in many parts of the state, but did not spread to this county. Measures of prevention were taken by stopping the trains, suspending schools, etc. When the disease again appeared in 1905, people had learned to guard against the mosquito, so the damage was light.

Mrs. J. S. Allen, Sr., of Lambert, resident of this county during the 1905 yellow fever epidemic, says that no one could leave the county without a health certificate; Dr. F. M. Brougher, county health officer, often signed as many as one hundred certificates daily.

The influenza epidemic of 1918, places on record the saddest recollections in the history of the county. This epidemic, throughout its course, embraced practically the entire county, maintaining a most persistent type of infectiousness and disastrous mortality. Nurses were scarce because so many had given their services in the World War. (2)

- (1) Health Syllabus, State of Mississippi  
 (2) Mrs. J. S. Allen, Lambert, Miss.

W. A. Cox, first mayor of the town of Marks, says that seven in his family were ill with influenza at the same time, and three of the children had pneumonia. His friend and physician, the late Dr. F. M. Brougher, stayed in his home for three weeks and served as doctor and nurse.

Influenza made its appearance during the first week in September, and from September 28 to October 5, the spread became general, so it might be stated that a county-wide epidemic was in progress.

Strange to note, it spared the very old and very young, and mowed down the strong and active. For several years after, cases of latent tuberculosis became active because of this infection. (1)

After learning that yellow fever was carried by mosquitoes that breed in stagnant water, Quitman Countians have co-operated with state and county health officials in the extermination of the *stegomyia* (yellow fever) mosquito. The control of yellow fever consists mainly in the drainage of mosquito breeding places, screening, and oiling.

#### Elimination of Smallpox

In the past several years measures have been taken to bring into the county instruction in the facts of hygiene and sanitation. Through the persistent effort and co-operation of agencies connected with the State Board of Health, smallpox and other contagious diseases have been reduced to a minimum by isolation, quarantine, and vaccination. Successful vaccination against smallpox is widely advocated between the sixth and twelfth months of age, together with certain simple principles of health and sanitation.

The older crosspatch method of vaccination has now entirely given away to the multiple puncture method. Recently, a vaccine virus for smallpox immunization, prepared in a medium consisting of mixed chicken embryo tissue suspended in Tyrod's solution, was developed by Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, of the Rockefeller Institution; it is known as glycerolated culture virus.

There is no doubt that this inoculation may eventually become the proper routine method of immunity against smallpox.

- (1) W. A. Cox, Marks, Miss.



### Malaria and its Control

The problem of malaria control has been of paramount importance since the organization of the county.

Before the specific cause and the exact mode of transmission of malaria was determined, the medical profession groped in the dark for some means whereby it might be controlled, and although much credit is due many of the pioneer workers for their noble efforts and the contribution they made toward malaria control, it remained for Laveran to determine the specific cause of malaria.

The disease has been practically wiped out through education and sanitation. Drinking water was once used from the lakes and bayous, and later there were driven pumps, but with the years, have come artesian wells, drainage (the biggest factor in our health improvements), screens, etc. Nowadays, with the broad, cleared acres in fields of cotton and corn, forest removed, bayous, lakes, and sloughs drained, the mosquito is seeking other climes.

Much is being accomplished by intelligent co-operation on the part of the citizens with the part-time public health officer, Dr. A. C. Covington and the part-time health nurse, Miss Alma Pope.

All activities in this division of work were markedly increased in 1936. Through the co-operation of the WPA, a part-time sanitation supervisor and a part-time malaria control supervisor worked under and with the supervision of the Health Department most of the year; the consequence being that more and better sanitation was effected during 1936 than any previous year in the history of the Health Department.

The method used in the work consisted mainly of draining breeding places, and in screening homes and public places.

### Precautions in Regard to Food

All grocery stores and other food dispensing establishments are constructed of good material; with walls, ceilings, roofs, and floors so constructed as to prevent leaks, and the entrance of flies and other insects. Floors are kept clean from sputum and accumulated dirt; counters, shelves, and bins are kept clean and free from decayed fruits and vegetables, while tables and show-cases are free from newspapers or printed paper coverings. They are

also screened at all openings; doors open outwardly, and are provided with springs to keep them closed when not in use. Vegetables and fruit, usually eaten without being cooked, are elevated about eighteen inches above floor level and kept in the store; food displayed outside the store, is elevated above the ground level, and is always screened. Such goods as lard, flour, meal, sugar, and dried fruits are kept covered to prevent dust and flies.

Persons with cancer or contagious diseases, or who have been recently exposed to an infectious disease, are not employed in the grocery stores, or any place where food is sold. (1)

Meat markets are constructed of sound material, with walls and ceilings constructed in such a manner so as to prevent the entrance of flies and insects; roofs and floors are kept in good repair, free from leaks and defects, such as holes and open cracks; ceilings and walls are kept free from dust and cobwebs, and cleaned and scrubbed as often as necessary. These markets are well lighted and ventilated, with all outside doors and windows completely screened, with doors opening outward.

Meat is not exposed outside to dust and flies; employees who handle it are required to be clean, with aprons and clothing worn of such a nature they can be readily cleaned and made sanitary. No persons suffering from a contagious or infectious disease, nor a convalescent from diphtheria, pneumonia, or typhoid fever is employed until permission is granted by the county health officer.

Refrigerators, meat hooks, and chopping blocks are kept clean by scouring with hot water and lye, then washed with a solution of common baking soda.

Scraps of meat, bones, and organic matter are not left exposed to the atmosphere of the room, but are kept in a closed receptacle which is emptied and contents disposed of in a sanitary manner. No wearing apparel is permitted to be placed on counters, tables, or shelves where food is prepared or offered for sale; meat is protected from flies and dust while being transported from the slaughter house to the market, by being covered by a clean white cloth.

Spitting on the floor, wall, or any place other than a cuspidor with disinfectant solution is prohibited in our markets; all meats condemned by any representative of the State Board of Health is destroyed or rendered unfit for use.

(1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.



Hides from slaughter houses are handled in a sanitary manner and bones, hoofs, etc., if retained for commercial purposes, are kept free of all particles of flesh to prevent the fly nuisance.

#### Hotel and Restaurant Regulations

The hotels of the county are generally co-operative in complying with the sanitary regulations, but inspectors of the State Board of Health are authorized to enter any hotel at any reasonable hour to make such inspection as may be necessary. Upon discovery that a room and bed has been occupied by persons with a contagious or communicable disease, they are thoroughly disinfected before being occupied by other persons. Beds, cots, or other sleeping places are provided with pillow slips, and under and top sheets, the under sheet being large enough to cover mattresses; the top being of sufficient size to cover, when folded back, all top covering; pillow slips and sheets, after being used by one guest, must be laundered before being used by another; separate, clean, cloth towels or sanitary paper towels are used, the common towel being prohibited.

Bedroom doors, windows, transoms, and chimneys are screened the year round; outside doors open outward. Windows and all openings of hotel dining rooms and kitchens are screened throughout the year to prevent entrance of flies and other insects; no room is offered to patrons as a sleeping room unless it is provided with at least one outside window for ventilation. Persons suffering from tuberculosis or other contagious diseases are not housed over two nights in any hotel without special permission from a health officer, and persons exposed to an infectious disease, requiring quarantine, are not employed.

Fresh running water is supplied for guests; water-works and sewerage facilities are properly connected with suitable water closets, there being separate closets for each sex. Baths and lavatories in rooms and in main wash rooms and kitchen sinks are equipped in similar manner. All liquid wastes are disposed of into the sewerage system through properly connected plumbing fixtures, and, in a manner, satisfactory to the State Board of Health.

Dishes, tableware, and kitchen utensils are thoroughly washed and rinsed after using; bread, cakes, pies, and other foods are kept under glass or wire screen, protected from flies. Milk served is undiluted and furnished by dairymen whose dairies comply with sanitary rules and regulations.

Most of the restaurants are of sound material, with walls and ceilings constructed in such a manner as to prevent the entrance of flies and other insects, with roofs and floors free from leaks and holes, being readily cleaned and scrubbed when necessary. Restaurants are screened at all openings, including doors, windows, transoms, chimneys, and flues with well-fitting wire screens; restaurants are provided with pure water, the source of which must be acceptable to the State Board of Health. Persons suffering from cancer or any infectious disease are not employed. Liquid wastes are disposed of into the sewerage through properly connected plumbing fixtures, and all garbage is kept covered in galvanized iron cans and removed daily; kitchens and dining rooms are well lighted and ventilated; all dishes, tableware, and utensils are thoroughly washed and sterilized. All bread, cakes, pies, and other ready-to-serve food is kept under glass or wire screen, protecting them from flies; milk is served unskimmed, and measures up to the standard set forth in regulations of the State Board of Health governing the production and sale.

Dairies comply with the sanitary regulations pertaining to the sale of milk; no fuel or plunder is stored in kitchen or dining rooms, or where food is kept or prepared.

Soda fountains are located in local drug stores. Screen doors leading into or out of these rooms open outward only, and are provided with springs or some other device to keep them closed when not in use. These fountains are kept free from flies by keeping screens in proper repair throughout the year; they have two separate and distinct compartments holding water, one for washing glasses, containing a suitable cleansing solution, and the other for rinsing. Glasses and dishes are kept clean, and all straws are protected from flies and dust by being kept in proper containers. Water, syrup, fruits, and flavors are pure and handled in a cleanly manner.

Public water supplies, systems, or other means of conveying water to consumers provide that all structures, conduits, and appurtenances by means of which the water is collected, treated, or delivered have been submitted in duplicate and approved by the State Board of Health, so far as relates to their sanitary features.

Agents of the State Board of Health are always allowed entry to private property for the purpose of collecting samples for examination, locating sources of pollution, and obtaining other information with reference



to the quality of water and sewerage system. Schools, public and private, and all public buildings are furnished at all times when in use, with an adequate supply of pure fresh water; the trustees seeing that the water supply is constructed so as to prevent persons from touching their lips to the outlet. The owner of the water supply makes such inspections as are, from time to time, necessary. Where wash bowls are provided, they are kept clean with liquid soap, and individual or sanitary paper towels are used.

School buildings are provided with adequate sanitary toilet facilities for both sexes, separated a reasonable distance from each other; equipped with suitable water-flush closets, connected by proper plumbing.

All human excreta is deposited in sewers, septic tanks, vaults, toilets, or other devices adequate to the needs of the people to be served, and of construction approved by the State Board of Health. All house-sewer or drains for the conveyance of deleterious or offensive matters are water tight; toilets are located so that the drainage from them is far enough away from the water supplies; pit toilets are fly proof, and adequately ventilated, being filled with earth whenever the contents reach a level within one foot of ground surface, and the building moved over a new pit of same construction. No part of the contents of a toilet is transported through streets or over highways to come in contact with flies or exposure to the open air during the transportation, and every other precautionary measure is taken in regard to them.

In September, 1936, a WPA Project was created to build pit toilets in the county; F. M. Bizzell first supervised this, but on December 7, 1936, the work was transferred to George Turner, and thirteen men were employed. In the past four months, toilet vaults have been completed in all parts of the county, fifty of these being in rural sections. The project provides for 119 toilets in the town of Marks through the town board, and enough work is ahead to last two years. The construction of these pits consists of a five-foot hole, three by three feet square, covered with a concrete slab; an eighteen inch wooden riser is then attached to accommodate from one to four persons; over this is placed a shed made of boards to fit slab and secured with bolts; the attachment of a two by three-inch pipe for ventilation completes it.



WALKER HOUSE



to the quality of water and sewerage system. Schools, public and private, and all public buildings are furnished at all times when in use, with an adequate supply of pure fresh water; the trustees seeing that the water supply is constructed so as to prevent persons from handling their lips to the outlet. The owner of the water supply makes such inspections as are, from time to time, necessary. Where wash bowls are provided, they are kept clean with liquid soap, and individual or sanitary paper bowls are used.

Public buildings are provided with adequate sanitary facilities for both sexes, separated and separated from each other; equipped with suitable plumbing, connected by proper plumbing.

All waste sewage is deposited in sewers, septic tanks, cesspools, toilets, or other devices adequate to the service to be served, and of construction approved by the State Board of Health. All manure is stored in the basement of delinquent or delinquent houses and other places. Toilets are located so that no person can be seen in the vicinity of the toilet vaults, and the vaults are fly proof, and adequately ventilated. Each toilet vault is covered with earth whenever the contents reach a level within one foot of ground surface, and the vault is covered with a pit of same construction. No part of the contents of a toilet is transported through streets or highways to come in contact with flies or exposed to the open air during the transportation, and every other precautionary measure is taken in regard to this.

In September, 1955, a \$250,000 project was created to build pit toilets in the county. F. M. Bizzell first supervised this, but on December 7, 1956, the work was transferred to the State Board of Health, and thirteen men were employed. In the past few months, toilet vaults have been completed in all parts of the county, fifty of these being in rural sections. The contract provides for 118 toilets in the city of Lambert through the town board, and enough more to last for the next ten years. The construction of these vaults consists of a five-foot hole, three by three feet square, covered with a concrete slab; an eight-foot concrete vault is attached to accommodate from one to three persons, and this is covered with a shed made of boards to protect the vault from the weather; the attachment of a two or three foot concrete vault completes it.



WALKER HOSPITAL, LAMBERT



Back yards of business places are kept free from trash, waste paper, garbage, etc. This is collected daily by scavengers and either burned or hauled to a dumping ground outside of the city limits. All garbage, kitchen wastes, and other rubbish from grocery stores, hotels, meat markets, drug stores, restaurants, and other public service places is deposited in suitable covered receptacles, emptied, and burned daily.

Residents of the county conform to sanitary rules and regulations pertaining to the prevention and breeding of flies around their premises. Garbage is not allowed to accumulate on the ground, but is burned, buried, or disposed of into receptacles having a tight fitting cover, which are emptied when full; contents being duly disposed of by a constituted scavenger. Manure is kept in closed bins or removed twice a week throughout the year; stable yards are well drained and kept free from stagnant water; sanitary toilets are constructed in such a manner as to prevent fly nuisance. (1)

#### Public Buildings

Most school buildings, public or private, are provided with adequate toilet facilities with toilet system properly installed and maintained in a useful and sanitary condition at all times. Water-flushing toilets are installed in railway stations, and permanently connected with sewer; wash basins are located near the toilet similarly connected, and kept in repair and in good working order at all times.

The jail and courthouse are well lighted and ventilated, with the walls kept freshly painted, being renewed as often as necessary. Excelsior and shuck mattresses are not permitted in the jail; thick, washable blankets are used instead, and are thoroughly aired and cleaned.

These buildings are provided with proper toilet and bathing facilities; waste products from this equipment being disposed of in a manner satisfactory to the State Board of Health. Persons suffering from tuberculosis or other infections are not permitted, if known, with other inmates, except under the direction of the county health officer, who is notified immediately upon receipt of such a prisoner.

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(1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, County Historian, Lambert, Miss.



An ample number of cuspidors, containing sufficient water or disinfectant are supplied to the courthouse. They are emptied, washed, and disinfected after each day's use.

#### Maternal Care

The death rate of mothers has been lowered considerably in recent years, as physicians and mothers, too, have learned much through the aid of science and health methods. Expectant mothers must be well, and to bear well-born babies they must have healthful, sanitary homes. They must have good food, the right kind of clothing and the opportunity for recreation.

To prevent infant mortality and physical defects, physicians stress the importance of certain general principles which pregnant women should take into consideration. If she lives in such a manner as to establish and conserve her own health, taking plenty of sleep and exercise, eating sensibly of simple food, and in every way striving to take the best possible care of her own body, so that the digestive, assimilative, and excretory organs function correctly, she can be quite sure that the child will be possessed of a sound and normal body and brain.

Miss Alma Pope, public health nurse for Quitman County, conducts training classes for midwives; they are taught the proper care of the mother's personal hygiene, proper diet, and apparel. Instructions are given in the making of infant clothing and articles necessary for home delivery. Patients needing medical treatment are referred to their family physician for same.

Prenatal medical conferences are held once a month, requiring the forty-eight midwives to attend; the Midwife Club leaders of Quitman County are: Addie Allen, of Marks; Sarah Betts, of Darling; Eliza Collins, of Lambert; Edna Fuller Doyle, of Vance; Vally Gaither, of Sledge; Martha Kuykendall, of Marks; Bettie Mullian, of Longstreet; Sarah Paynes, of Crowder; Lucretia Turner, of Sledge; Annie William, of Belen; and Bessie Franklin. (1)

#### Mouth Hygiene

Mouth hygiene has been given by dentists of the county in nearly all of the schools here.

(1) Dr. A. C. Covington, Marks, Miss.

This work was organized by Dr. B. J. Marshall, of Marks, in 1911, he being the first dentist in the state to volunteer without the supervision or direction from the State Dental Society or State Board of Health to examine the children's mouths. Much corrective dentistry has been done following this examination. (1)

Later, these examinations in the schools were done under the supervision of the State Board of Health and the Director of Mouth Hygiene.

In 1934, the State Board of Health, through the Mississippi Dental Association, sent lecturers who were paid by the state to several of the schools to give instructions on the care of teeth and mouth hygiene; this was followed by free dental examination to school children.

#### Tuberculosis

Since the legislature provided for the building of the Tubercular Sanatorium near Magee, forty-one white patients have been sent there from this county for treatment. There, many tuberculars have recovered their health, and at the same time, have been taught how to prevent recurrences of the disease by living and eating properly.

The county pays board each month for four patients from a miscellaneous fund appropriated to send persons to the State Sanatorium and the State Hospital at Whitfield. (2)

No one control method of tuberculosis can stand alone; there must be a close tie-up between all agencies that a united front may be presented to the common enemy. The family physician diagnoses, reports, and treats.

Prior to the time the patient is sent to the sanatorium, attending physician teaches the family how to prevent the spread of the disease. Well ventilated rooms or porches are used for isolating the patient from other members of the household, and he is instructed to rest in bed and eat nourishing foods.

#### Public Health Nurse

The public health nurse visits schools and private homes where she gives instructions in the control of tuberculosis.

- (1) Dr. B. J. Marshall, Marks, Miss.
- (2) Dr. A. Jamison, Marks, Miss.



All dairy cows supplying milk to the public are given the tuberculin test, as milk is known to be a carrier of the tubercular germ. (1)

Public and private health measures together have greatly reduced the number of illnesses from contagious diseases like typhoid fever and cholera. Immunization has greatly reduced the number of smallpox and diphtheria cases; screening of homes and destruction of places where mosquitoes breed has stamped out malaria and typhoid fever to a great extent.

In our modern schools if a child has a contagious disease, teachers, doctors, and nurses set to work to prevent it from spreading; sometimes they send children home until it is safe to return. Besides helping parents to keep their children well, most schools now teach children how to take care of their own health in regular classes or special courses of physiology and hygiene.

After contracting a disease, the case is duly isolated and all contacts quarantined. A warning card is placed on the door where the visiting public may see and heed; after the period of isolation, the room has a thorough sunning and airing.

#### Physicians and Nurses in the County

There are eighteen practicing physicians in Quitman County, namely: Dr. F. G. Stone, Dr. C. C. Parnell, Dr. J. D. House, Dr. J. T. Walker, Dr. E. A. McVey, Dr. J. P. Walker, Dr. G. C. Dennison, Dr. John Marin, Dr. Lawrence Pritchard, Dr. W. A. Prince, Dr. A. C. Covington, Dr. V. D. Franks, Dr. J. E. Furr, Dr. Grover Kirby, Dr. O. A. Davis, Dr. A. L. Nason; (Dr. B. J. Marshall and Dr. L. V. Crook, dentists); two non-practicing physicians are Dr. J. U. Abernathy and Dr. A. Jamison.

Registered nurses are: Jessie Mae Connerly Burns, Zola P. Sawyer, Alma Pope, and Mrs. Mack Wilson; practical nurses are: Mrs. E. C. Charley, Miss Jamie Grafton, Mrs. Della Sharpe, Mrs. Mildred Sorrels, Miss Georgia Mae Farrish, Mrs. Ruth May, Mrs. Myrtle Robinson, Miss Mary Norfleet, Mrs. Arthur Chastain, Mrs. D. O. Brewton, Miss Carmen Weatherall, Mrs. Ney Gore, Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mrs. William Nanny, Mrs. J. E. Wilshire, Miss Gladys Allen; negro nurses are: Hattie Johnson and Lillie Jackson.

(1) J. H. Manning, Walnut, Miss.

In 1918, Dr. J. E. Furr built, at a cost of \$20,000, and fully equipped his own private hospital, at Marks - the only one in the county (1936). This hospital is unique, in that it is what may be called a "one-man general hospital," which maintains a staff of graduate registered nurses, and which receives no appropriations from state or county, nor has it an endowment fund. In this hospital practically every type of surgery is performed, and practically every kind of medical case is received.

The equipment, which cost \$25,000, consists of the following: one X-ray machine with two fluroscopes - one for daylight and one for dark; one mercury quartz light, one zoalits, one shortwave diathermy with surgical equipment, one Wilmont castle unit sterilizer, consisting of one instrument sterilizer, two water sterilizers, one autoclave; one still, one operating table, two Mayo tables, two instrument tables, three small electrical sterilizers; one stretcher, Scanel transfusion set, single rooms for colored; one three-bed ward for colored, one laboratory, one examining room. There are two reception rooms, dining room, and kitchen. Total rooms in building ~~four~~ <sup>fourteen</sup>. (1)

#### Sketches of Physicians, Past and Present

Dr. Frederic Marion Brougher, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Brougher, was born June 7, 1857, at Oxford, Mississippi.

He attended medical school in Louisville, Kentucky, but graduated at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. In 1887, after passing the State Board of Examiners, he located at Marks, but later moved to Belen, where he spent his entire life in the practice of medicine.

Coming here in the early days of the county to labor for mankind, he found plenty to do. For many years he rode his "old faithful horse," called "Morgan," over muddy roads and thick overhead growth to relieve the suffering of poor people hither and yon; often not expecting material compensation. Needless to say he endured many difficulties and hardships; in response to a call he would ride away on horseback to follow a trail which had been blazed through cane-brakes by the wild animals of the forest. On reaching Coldwater River or Cassidy Bayou, or whatever stream it happened to be, his mount would be

(1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.



abandoned for the time being, and he would cross in a dug-out and then walk a long distance to the home of the patient. Then, on his return home, he would send the medicine for the patient and probably pay for it. His creed was to relieve suffering, cure ills, restore health, and to make the world a better and happier place in which to live.

Dr. Brougher was president of the Six-County Medical Association, and served as health officer several terms during these years, but always refused a second consecutive appointment, affirming "that time about was fair play" and that his fellow physicians should have a chance.

For a while he was affiliated with Dr. H. D. Glass and Dr. McDavid in a hospital at Lambert.

In 1893, he was united in marriage with Miss Kate Simpson, daughter of Captain D. H. Simpson, who proudly walked by his side the twenty-seven years allotted them together. Dr. Brougher died of heart trouble in 1920, being survived by his wife and four sons: Fred M., Jr., Theodore, Stuart, and Henry, and one daughter, Kathryne.<sup>(1)</sup>

Dr. H. D. Glass, born in Durant, attended the University of Tennessee, where he received two years credits in one year, and in 1902, he began his practice of medicine in the town of Lambert; at that time two frame shacks represented the business activities of the community, and his medical training represented his total capital. But, this was a case of "big oaks from little acorns grow," because he, later, built the Lambert Hospital, and during the "flu" epidemic of 1918 rendered \$8,000 worth of service free of charge.

Beside this and other business interests, Dr. Glass was president of the Quitman County Bank at Lambert, owner of a big lumber mill at Crowder, and a partner in the automobile firm of Glass and Ellison Motor Company; in addition, he had considerable agricultural interests. The partnership of Glass and White cultivated about sixteen hundred acres of land, and Dr. Glass had about 2,200 acres individually, which was devoted principally to famous long staple cotton.

Notwithstanding these extensive private interests, Dr. Glass showed a willingness to devote considerable

(1) Mrs. F. M. Brougher, New Orleans, La.



PIONEER PHYSICIAN



abandoned for the time being, but we would meet at a point out and then walk a long distance to the patient. Then, on his return, he would stop at the clinic for the patients and continue his work. He would also be called to the patients' homes to attend to their ailments and to make the patients comfortable and happy.

Dr. Broucher was a member of the Louisiana Medical Association, and he was also a member of the American Medical Association. He was a very successful physician, and he was also a very successful business man.

He was a very successful physician, and he was also a very successful business man.

In 1888, he was called to the attention of the Louisiana Medical Association, and he was elected a member. He was a very successful physician, and he was also a very successful business man.

Dr. Broucher was a very successful physician, and he was also a very successful business man. He was a very successful physician, and he was also a very successful business man.

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DR. F. M. BROUGHER

PIONEER PHYSICIAN (1857-1920)



time to public service. He was the first mayor of Lambert, having received the appointment when the town was incorporated, in 1905. When not serving as mayor, Dr. Glass was a member of the board of aldermen through every term.

Up until his death, in 1927, which was caused by a heart attack, he was ever anxious to give every ounce of his medical learning and energy toward mending injuries, curing the sick, and preventing deaths. He was loved by all who knew him for his generous nature and progressive spirit. (1)

Dr. A. C. Covington, Marks, was born in Kosciusko in 1885, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Covington, parents of seven children. In 1908, he married Miss Willie Adams, and of this union there were four children.

Dr. Covington entered Memphis Hospital Medical College in 1906 and graduated in 1910. In the spring of 1921, he moved to Quitman County and located at Belen, the former county seat; he practiced there about eighteen months, when he moved to Marks, the present county seat, where he now resides.

For the past twelve years he has served as county health officer, and in this capacity is commended for his energy, tact, constant endeavor to co-operate with health workers, and other physicians of the county, in carrying out a program of sanitation and immunization.

Dr. Covington is an active member of the Six-Counties Medical Society and serves as railroad physician. In the fall of 1936, he was awarded a three-months Fellowship Course in General Medicine at Tulane, New Orleans, Louisiana. This course was created from the Commonwealth Fund allotted by the State Board of Health. A good citizen, his relationship as a physician and friend provides inspiration to his patients to make a good fight to overcome disease. In addition to his duties as public health officer, Dr. Covington enjoys a lucrative private practice. Aside from his profession he enjoys sports - principal hobby being fishing. (2)

Dr. Edwin Cyril Gillespie, deceased, served as a medical practitioner for twenty-four years. Being a native of Shelby County, Tennessee, and a graduate of the Memphis Medical College, he served as interne at the old

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- (1) Mrs. G. P. Reed, Lambert, Miss.  
(2) Dr. A. C. Covington, Marks, Miss.



City Hospital, now called the John Gaston Hospital, in Memphis; he was here from 1912 to 1917, at which time he enlisted in the World War and served as captain overseas until 1919. In September of that year he moved to Lambert, and was engaged in his beloved profession until his death in February, 1936.

He believed that his profession was a God-given ministry and was as devoted to it as a minister to his church; he never turned down a call because the patient did not have money; he spent his time in doing good to all, the poorest receiving the same measure of attention as those who were able to pay for his skilled care.

He was of that fast disappearing doctor-friend type, and though he was often taken into confidence, this was never betrayed. Although he practiced in a small town, he kept abreast of all the advances in medical science, attending state and national associations and bringing back with him the latest treatments.

With a deeply inquisitive mind, he was a student of psychology as well as medicine; beside his medical skill, he brought to the sick room a never-failing fund of anecdotes, or a quaint philosophy for those who needed cheering, and none ever knew what helped the most.

During the "flu" epidemic in February, 1936, he worked night and day, and after going ninety hours without sleep, he broke down with "flu" and pneumonia and died. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Catherine Ivy Gillespie, and two sons, Edwin Cyril and Joe Ivy. (1)

Dr. E. A. McVey, who now resides in Lambert, was born in Lafayette County in 1890. While still a child, his family moved to Belen, in Quitman County, where, after practicing medicine for eight years, his father died. After this misfortune, the McVeys moved to Pontotoc, where Eric completed his high school education. After attending the University of Mississippi and the University of Tennessee, he finished his medical course in 1913, and went into his first practice at Syppel, Arkansas. In 1917, he married Miss Ruth Alvis, of Holly Springs, and returning to Quitman County, located at Lambert, where his success has been conspicuous, particularly in the treatment of pneumonia, the one scourge of that section of the county.

(1) Mrs. E. C. Gillespie, Lambert, Miss.

His sincere sympathy enables him to see through the eyes of those whom he seeks to help, to understand their problems and lead them aright in an effort to regain health.

Dr. McVey served two years in the World War. (1)

"Dr. W. B. Clarke died at Marks at the age of seventy-three years. While at Tocowa, last February, he was stricken with paralysis, from the effects of which he never recovered, and for nearly four months he was as helpless as an infant. He was born in Caldwell County, North Carolina, and received his education at the common schools of that county, finishing at Charleston, South Carolina. He studied medicine at Charleston before the war, and for a short time was located in his home town. In 1847, he was married to Miss Emma Powell, of Lenoir, North Carolina, and shortly afterwards moved to Mississippi. At the beginning of the War between the States, he enlisted with the Magnolia Guards, a company made up in Calhoun County, and afterwards transferred to a North Carolina Regiment, having been made captain of a company made up of his boyhood friends and schoolmates. At the close of the war, he again moved to Mississippi, locating at Sarepta, Calhoun County, where he followed his chosen profession.

"In 1891, he moved to Quitman County and for ten years, with the writer of this article, was engaged in publishing the 'Quitman Quill.' In 1904, he (and the writer) moved to Gulfport and founded the 'South Mississippi Times.'

"Deciding that Quitman was the best county in the world, he returned, where he lived with his son and assisted in publishing the 'Review'; he was the father of four children, only one of whom is now living; he is survived by one son, two grandchildren, and three brothers who live in North Carolina, his wife dying in 1903. He was a Mason and believed with all his soul in the noble teachings of that order; was not a church member, but opposed profanity and the violation of the Sabbath, and honored his creator with more reverence than many who pray aloud and worship on the street corners. Even though he had his faults, his acts of kindness and deeds of charity are without number.

"We have known him many, many times to ride in rains and snows in the dead hours of night to relieve some suffering human being, when no pay was expected and no

(1) Dr. E. A. McVey, Lambert, Miss.



charges made. We have lived under the same roof with him for thirty-three years, and we have never known him to turn a human being from his door hungry.

"As a husband he was kind and good; as a father, a better man to his children never lived. We believe that his good deeds, a hundred to one, over balance his faults, and that he will receive his reward in a brighter, better land.

"His remains were laid to rest at Belen by the side of the loved ones gone before, his burial being conducted with Masonic rites." (1)

Dr. V. D. Franks, who was born in Lowndes County, November 19, 1890, spent his early boyhood there. After finishing rural high school in his native county, he studied medicine at the University of Tennessee, Memphis.

In 1916, Dr. Franks moved to Essex, in Quitman County, and the following year married Mrs. Isabel Sweeten, of Memphis; they moved to Marks in 1924, where he has continued his practice; for eight years Dr. Franks did pauper and jail practice. He is a member of the Six-Counties Medical Society, and is active as a Legionnaire of the J. D. Johnson Post, also belonging to the "Forty et Eight." (2)

Dr. James Edward Furr, Marks, was born at Oxford, February 2, 1892, the son of James Stacy Furr and Mary Ellen Furr. In 1911 he received his B. S. degree at the University of Mississippi, where as an honor student, he made a brilliant record. After later graduating at Tulane University in New Orleans, he served an internship in the City Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a member of the Phi Chi Fraternity of the American Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. In the summers of 1909-10 while a student at Tulane, he was engaged in malaria and hook-worm research for the Rockefeller Foundation.

At the age of twenty-one he became a practicing physician and surgeon in Quitman County; he volunteered for service in the World War, and was commissioned first lieutenant of the Medical Corps at Camp Beauregard. After being mustered out of service, he returned to Quitman County and located at Marks, the county seat.

(1) This article was written by Eugene Clark, son of the deceased, and was published in the Quitman Quill, owned and operated by Father and Son.

(2) Dr. V. D. Franks, Essex, Miss.

### Vital Statistics

The latest authentic information (in 1935) by Dr. R. N. Whitfield, Registrar of Vital Statistics, shows that the number and cause of accidental deaths in Quitman County were as follows: Drowning, two whites and three colored; firearms, one white and one colored; accidental poisoning, one colored; cataclysm, one colored; injuries by animals, one white; excessive cold, one white; automobile, one white and one colored. Total, thirteen.

In 1934: - 179 white and 291 colored babies were born; 69 whites and 195 colored deaths occurred; the infant mortality was fifty- and-two-tenths, whites, and ninety seven and eight-tenths, colored; maternal death rate was nine and seven-tenths white, and eight and eight tenths colored, which in both instances, shows a reduction of those in previous years. (1)



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### Chapter XX

#### ORGANIZATIONS

An attempted history of Quitman County would fall far short of its mark were some account of its organizations not given; various types of groups have banded themselves together to make a concerted effort in the interest of moral, mental, and spiritual development and they have been amply rewarded in the present up-and-doing status of the entire community.

In self-culture and civic improvement the Riverside Culture Club of Marks, the Sylvan Book Club of Belen, and the Tuesday Book Club of Lambert, were active in the nineteen hundred-nineteen hundred and twenty period, and it may truly be said that they are responsible for many of the things which we enjoy today.

The county library is the result of combined efforts of the Riverside and Coterie clubs of Marks which two merged into the Riverside-Coterie Club; this is a fitting monument to the women who gave much time, love, and devotion to its cause.

The Tuesday Club of Lambert fostered the cemetery movement, in addition to many other helpful things for the town.

Each of these clubs has co-operated individually and collectively in many beneficent enterprises, taking active part with the Red Cross, Good Fellows, and Rotarians in their work.

The missionary societies of the various churches have done and are still doing valiant service toward furthering the Kingdom of God. They are valuable assets to their pastors in the work.

At least two garden clubs have labored in bringing about beautification of streets, parks, and home yards. They sponsor rose garden contests in the spring and summer and Christmas decorations in season, providing prizes for winners.



The San Souci Club was originally organized as a part of the WPA Recreation Project but evolved into an independent club, its members now (1937) being many popular maids and matrons of the county. Its activities are largely social but it identifies itself with many benevolent purposes.

Home Demonstration clubs afford an outlet of talent and also bring about a pride in accomplishment which might otherwise lie dormant. Several of these in the county really "demonstrate."

Listed among men's clubs existing during past and present years are: The Exchange Club of Marks, and the Rotary Club of Marks, the Jimmie Johnson Post, American Legion, while located at Marks is a county organization. The membership of each of these is drawn from all over the county and many enjoyable meetings are held. The Boy Scouts are well organized under the able leadership of Eugene Thompson, local attorney.

#### The Masonic Lodge

The only Masonic Lodge in the county is now located at Marks and is the consolidation of those of Belen and Marks. When J. H. Lamar installed the officers of the Belen Lodge in 1904, Judge M.E. Denton was master. The officers elected and installed for the year 1938 are: C.S. Grantham, master; E. H. Anderson, senior warden; C. R. Berryhill, junior warden; P. L. Lamar, treasurer; J. H. Roseberry, secretary; T. W. Dickens, Tyler.

The Masons, fifty-three in number, own their own building which is worth about fifteen thousand dollars.

In connection with the Masonic organization here, a tribute to J. H. Lamar is most fitting, he having been an important part and parcel of the whole and having been a dependable member and supporter for almost thirty-five years.

"Uncle John," as he is lovingly called by his numerous friends, was born in 1860, has been a mason fifty-two years and has served in the capacity of master in the four different lodges to which he has belonged. He came from Calhoun County, locating in Belen in 1904, where he operated a machine shop for the manufacture of plows. In 1916, he was elected circuit clerk of the county and served in that capacity for sixteen years. He was clerk of the Draft

Board during the World War, at which time 702 men were drafted into service. (1)

#### References

Denton, Mrs. Blanche

Jackson, Miss.

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(1) Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.



## Chapter XXI

## PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC LEADERS

Many prominent citizens who rightfully have a place in this chapter are listed in other chapters in which their chief professional or civic duties have been outstanding.

Early Citizens

Capt. F. H. Simpson with his family, consisting of a wife and three children, came to the county early enough to have a part in the struggles of the pioneer. The exact date is not known, but his daughter, Mrs. Katy Brougher, now of New Orleans writes: "My mind sweeps back over the years to the long, long ago when we were toddling together, Quitman County and I; and again, I would so much like to know how my family arrived there; there were no roads to speak of in that water-bogged, cane-brake of sloughs, bayous, lakes, and rivers, but that rich, fertile Delta soil bewitched them; and again, one thing is certain of, Marks (Belen then), has always been the social center of that territory, the brave beginning taking place with the old Tom Hill Mansion supplying the setting. I recall playing with little girls named Lillie and Tiny at Fourth of July picnics under the old cedar trees around the building. The Ganongs from Jonestown, and the widow Alcorn from beyond Jonestown were there, too. And well do I remember being at a Christmas dance and seeing my mother dancing with Judge Phipps, of Oxford; Mrs. Phillips, the young widow, dancing with Mr. Marks; and papa and Mrs. Marks were partners in an old square dance. Captain Simpson's daughter, Jennie, was married to Shine Turner (this is told elsewhere in the history), and after his death, she became a missionary to the mountaineers in Kentucky. Supported by the Presbyterian Board, she did valiant work in His Name for several years; but being frail of body, she succumbed to the dread disease, pneumonia, this having been brought on by exposure, which she encountered in her services. Her memory is revered, and each year the Presbyterian Circle in Marks devotes a service to her, and they are joined in this by other friends." (1)

(1) Mrs. Katy Brougher, New Orleans, La.



" John A. Cooper: The great grandfather, on his father's side of Hon. John Addison Cooper, planter and merchant, was born in England and emigrated to the U.S.A., locating in Georgia in its pioneer days; his son, John Cooper, was born in that state and married Miss Delilah Gibson, a native of South Carolina. John served in the Florida War and was major of a battalion, but resigned and took a private's place in his company from preference. His son, William S. Cooper, was born in Tennessee, and was there married to Miss Caroline Patton Anderson Enoch, also a native of that state. William S. came to Mississippi in 1884, and was one of the first settlers of Chickasaw County, also one of its most esteemed citizens, living the quiet and uneventful life of a tiller of the soil during the War between the States. He enlisted in the Confederate army in the beginning of 1863, and served as a faithful soldier until killed at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, in November, 1864. To this marriage was born eleven children, John Addison Cooper being second in order of birth; the latter was but fourteen years of age at the time of his father's enlistment, having been born in Chickasaw County, November 14, 1849. At this age he was left by his father in the full management of his business, and since that time he has not only taken care of himself, but also his mother a part of the time. He left home and began for himself in 1871, locating in the neighborhood of his present place, then in Tunica, but now in Quitman County; although he started out for himself with nothing but a horse and saddle, purchased on a credit, his clothing and ten cents in money, he has, by his industry and excellent management, accumulated great wealth. Being generous and open-hearted, he prefers to assist with his time and means all worthy enterprises and to advance the interests of this county. Since locating in this county he has been one of the leading and substantial citizens; was elected chancery clerk in 1885, and in that capacity was a faithful officer for four years. He has been mayor of Belen, and at the present time is a representative in the state legislature. He has held various county offices and other positions of trust at the hands of the people of his county, and has discharged the duties of all with great credit to himself and to the perfect satisfaction of his constituents.

"As a representative of his county he has studied the best interest of his people, and this has ever been uppermost in his mind and heart. He is a successful planter, being owner of 560 acres under cultivation, most of which

has been opened and improved under his direction and management. He is also actively engaged in merchandising in Belen, carrying a stock of goods equal to the trade demand of his place of business. Mr. Cooper was married in 1876 to Miss Mary E. Lawler, a native of Coahoma County, and daughter of J. N. and Martha (Ridley) Lawler, both natives of Alabama." (1)

He died in February, 1912, at the age of sixty. The sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper are: Virgil V. Cooper Sims (dead); Martha C. Cooper Shults, Jackson; Alcorn Preston Cooper, Route 4, Jackson; John Addison Cooper, Jr., Washington, D. C.; Mary E. Cooper Fazakerly, Jackson; William Sewall Cooper (dead). (2)

Martha C. Cooper Shults, of Jackson, was the first child born in the town of Belen.

William Arthur Cox, banker, lawyer, and planter of Marks, was one of the pioneer business men and developers of Quitman County, and comes of pioneer stock. He is a son of George and Maud Amanda C. Cox; his father, George M. Cox, migrated when only a small boy from his ancestral home in South Carolina into Georgia, and after a few years there, moved further west into what is now Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, then so sparsely settled that his home in the northern part of the county was several miles from the nearest neighbor. Mr. Cox was born near Enid, Tallahatchie County, January 10th, 1877, and attended the common and high school there. From twenty to twenty-two years of age he attended the University of Mississippi and was given the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1899. The same year he sought the wider opportunities which the Delta offered to an ambitious young lawyer, and settled in Belen, then the county seat of Quitman. He succeeded in the practice of his profession from the beginning, but after six years, he decided to devote most of his energy to the financial world and to business instead of law. Hence, in 1905, he moved from Belen to Riverside, where Marks now is, accepting the position of cashier of Riverside Bank. The following year the town of Marks was officially established, and on account of its superior transportation facilities, was made the county seat. He served during 1906 as the first mayor of Marks, and from that day to this he has been one of the most active figures in the rapid development along all good lines not only of Marks, but all of Quitman County. He remained as cashier of the bank until 1911, when its success under his direction

- (1) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Volume I, pp 589-590.
- (2) Mrs. Martha C. Cooper Shults, Jackson, Miss.



had become so apparent, and its efficiency as a factor in the growth of the community had become so conspicuous that he was elected its president. Mr. Cox added general insurance to his business and also has hastened the development of cut-over lands by making a connection through which farm lands are used as a security for loans. Prospering financially, Mr. Cox began to invest his surplus in Delta lands, first in Quitman, and then in Poinsetta County, Arkansas. His holdings aggregate some 2000 acres of which 1200 acres are now in cultivation. Mr. Cox is a member of the Baptist church, Clarksdale Lodge of Elks, also a Knight of Pythias. He and Miss Myrtle Ellison, daughter of L. H. Ellison, of Memphis, and this county, were married in 1906. Their children are, William Arthur, Jr., Jamie C., J. Ellison, Fern Borris, Lelia Mai, Leon H., and Zula D. (1)

"James Valentine Cook, planter of Belen, son of Silas and Lydia (Clemens) Cook, was born in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. The Cook family were originally from England and the first emigrants to America located in Virginia and the Carolinas. Silas Cook, born in South Carolina, came to Mississippi with his parents, Daniel and Mary (King) Cook, in 1815, and was married in 1832 to Miss Clemens, a native of Tennessee. After residing in Alabama one year, Mr. Cook and family returned to Mississippi, where he continued planting until his death in 1869. James Valentine Cook, reared in Lowndes County, received his early training at Columbus; in 1860 he graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana at New Orleans and practiced in that state until the outbreak of the war. He volunteered his services to the Confederacy, entered a Louisiana company, and was immediately made second lieutenant. This company went to Richmond, Virginia, where Cook received an appointment as senior assistant surgeon in a hospital in Richmond, remaining there until November, 1864. He was in the Battle of Gettysburg, Anderson's Division, and was afterward appointed surgeon in the Confederate navy, being assigned duty on the gunboat Spray on the coast of Florida. There he remained until the close of the war, after which he returned to Mississippi, where he resumed his practice, and in connection, carried on planting. He moved to Coahoma County in 1876, remained there until 1880, then retired from practice, settling on his plantation in Quitman. He was successful and accumulated considerable property - 720 acres. Dr. Cook was one of Quitman's most substantial early settlers, always having the best interest of the county at heart, and was a liberal contributor to

(1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.

all benevolent and religious enterprises, and though not a member of any church, he was a firm friend to Christianity. He was a staunch Democrat in politics, and a true patriot." (1)

"Charles W. Partee, Sr., one of the leading citizens of the Delta, and a Confederate veteran, died at his home at Belen, January 10, 1929.

He was born in Gibson County, Tennessee, in 1844, son of Squire Boone and Martha A. (Douglas) Partee. About 1847 or 1848, the family moved to Panola County, and settled a few miles northeast of Como, where his father became a planter. He was educated in the common schools of Panola, and remained on his father's plantation until the outbreak of the War between the States. He was seventeen years old when he volunteered in the Confederate Service at Union City, Tennessee, serving with Company F, Twelfth Mississippi Infantry, C.S.A.

"Later, he went to Jack Floyd's Independent Cavalry Company, which operated around Memphis, regulating conditions which had arisen in that vicinity, and then became Company H, of Alexander Chalmers Battalion, which still later became the Eighteenth Mississippi Cavalry, C.S.A. He had five brothers in the Confederate army, A. Z., R. D., Hiram, J. K. B., and S. B. Partee, Jr. His father died during the war and left large tracts of land in Quitman and other counties in the Delta. Mr. Partee married Miss Elizabeth Jackson, October 22, 1871, but she died many years ago.

"He was identified with every progressive movement for Quitman County and the Delta, and is survived by his five children, C. W. Partee, Jr., of Memphis; Mrs. N. J. Davis, of Arkansas; Mrs. I. C. Denton, Marks; Mrs. G. A. Denton, Belen, and Mrs. Nina Mae Wardie, of Greenville." (2)

J. P. McArthur, born in Winston County, April 12, 1874, at the age of thirteen moved to Quitman County with his parents. During his early days he tilled the soil for a livelihood for himself and the family, but as he grew into young manhood he went into the timber business, which was at that time a very lucrative industry here. He helped to float millions of feet of lumber to the nearest market - which was Vicksburg. The trip, starting from Marks on the Coldwater River, would take five weeks, but with food and crude facilities with

(1) Biographical and Historical Memorials of Mississippi, Vol. I, pp 585-586, Goodspeed Publishing Company.

(2) Commercial Appeal, January 12, 1929



which to prepare it, the trip was at least bearable. At the age of twenty-three, he was married to Miss Ida Bonner, who only lived seven months after marriage, dying with apoplexy. In December, 1897, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Orr, and to this union have been born five children. At one time he was tax assessor and made a splendid officer. Scrip was worth fifty cents on the dollar when he went into office, but at the close of his four year term it was worth dollar for dollar. He over doubled tax receipts and exhibits, with a pleasure copy of a complimentary write up in the "Jackson Daily News" calling this the "Banner County of Mississippi." Later, Mr. McArthur was elected sheriff, and subsequently served three terms with the required intervening four years between each one. In this latter office he showed wonderful native ingenuity in the management of it, placing capable men in the offices. He served as general field man and was adept in the act of capturing stills, blind tigers, etc. He used the hand of justice, but where there was crime "Philey," as he is known by his numerous friends, always produced results, even if it was sometimes hard for him.

Joe Blackmon has an important place on the roster of ex-officials of Quitman County. He served as second sheriff of the county, and would have certainly succeeded himself without opposition had the law not prohibited this. He was generous to a fault, never turning aside from duty to his office and his fellowman. Many were the calls on his time, energy, and purse to help others. Young men coming in from the hills to pick cotton in the fall season were all offered lodging in his home; they knew he was a friend to man by his many acts demonstrating this. He was a Christian after the pattern Christ set for his followers. And "He went about doing good." The first marriage certificate issued in the county was for the union of J. J. Blackmon and Thirza Hatch in 1877. She died with a strange malady, which could not be diagnosed; later he married Mrs. Bettie Phillips, a young school teacher with three children by a former husband, A. J. Phillips, who died a few years before. To this union were born two children, James A. Blackmon, now living in Marks, and Clyde, now Mrs. Thames Lloyd, of Jackson. (1)

W. V. Turner, one of the representative planters of the county, came to this section in 1874, before any such division as Quitman County was even thought of, and settled along the Tallahatchie River. Mr. Turner came here before there was ever a railroad established between

(1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.

Marks and the Mississippi River, and first engaged in the mercantile business, and also farmed some land. Later on, however, he devoted his time to farming exclusively, and operated a place of about 1500 acres. Mr. Turner was not confined to business and farming altogether, as he was elected sheriff of this county in 1904 and served the four-year term efficiently. Mr. Turner's death occurred in 1921.

J. B. White established the principal business houses at Belen in 1909, and throughout its existence he did both a furnishing business and a cash trade. Mr. White also operated a farm near Belen, devoted principally to raising valuable long staple cotton, but an abundance of grain as well. Being of a splendid character, Mr. White was elected sheriff in 1896 and served a four-year term. It is said that he made one of our best sheriffs.

Reuben and Mary Shotwell: "Rube" was an early supervisor of county affairs, and was a great bear hunter. When he married sixteen-year-old Mary Sims he was more than twice as old as she, but their "infair" was the most elaborate social event to take place in the early days and was attended by friends from afar and near. The supper was cooked and served by a chef from Memphis, Tennessee, and it is remembered that the dessert, boiled custard, was flavored with juice from crushed peach tree leaves, this making a splendid substitute for pistachio. Mrs. Shotwell, now a widow, 1927, owns and operates a retail dairy near Clarksdale, Coahoma County.

"Mrs. Lou Dean, of Belen, died at her home Wednesday morning after an illness of several weeks, at the age of eighty years and two weeks.

"She was a native of Panola County, moving here with her family before the War between the States, and was addaughter of John Burleyson, who was among the first settlers of this section.

"She was married to William Dean, who died in this county long years ago, and was a member of the Baptist church, joining when a young girl, and has lived an exemplary Christian life. She is survived by one brother, J. J. Burleyson, of Marks; a half-brother, B. B. Burleyson, of Raleigh, Tennessee; and a half-sister, Mrs. Emma Green, of Memphis; besides a number of other relatives." (1)

(1) Marks Advertiser, December 30, 1921



### Founder of Marks

Leopold Marks, for whom the city of Marks is named, was one of the most remarkable men in the county, and helped greatly in developing the Mississippi Delta. As a youth he fled from his native country, Labau, West Prussia, to escape service in the German Army. He landed in New York with only a few cents, knowing neither language nor man that lived there. He worked in New York long enough to furnish a pack with jewelry which he peddled across country until he reached Friars Point, Mississippi, and then came across country to where Marks now stands. Here he bought a small trading boat which plied the Coldwater River; realizing that the dense forests would prove very valuable for lumber, he bought land at forty cents per acre - lands that since have become as valuable as \$400 per acre. Later, he opened a store at Marks and his mercantile and planting business grew so rapidly that for years prior to his death he was the leading man in the Delta. In 1877 he took such an active and efficient part in the organization of Quitman County that he was sent as its first member to the State Legislature, where he served eight years. When the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad started to build its line from Lake Cormorant to Tutwiler, he gave without cost the right-of-way through his plantations and ten acres of land in Marks. Liberal almost to a fault, no worthy cause or needy person failed to receive his beneficence. Mr. Marks died in 1910 leaving a posterity worthy of its ancestry, six thousand acres of magnificent land, and a spotless name revered by all who knew him. Since he could not live to see the actual development of his town as his sons did, it is probable that he had a vision of what was finally to come out of the labors of the old settlers -- a rich and modern community.

The following notice was sent to friends on the death of Mrs. Pauline Marks, wife of the late L. Marks, one who sacrificed a choice part of his plantation in order to make possible the town of Marks:

"The friends and acquaintances  
of

The family of L. Marks

Are invited to attend the Funeral of

Mrs. Pauline Marks,

which will take place at

Helena, Ark., on tomorrow

Afternoon (Sunday)

Riverside, Mississippi, Sept. 28, 1901" (1)

(1) Scrapbook belonging to Mrs. W. L. Shults, Jackson, Miss.

### Other Prominent Citizens

C. C. Barringer removed to Quitman from Lafayette County approximately forty years ago. He first clerked in a store at Belen, and was a bookkeeper for some of the leading business firms of the county for several years. His ability and interest in public affairs made him a member of the county board of supervisors in 1904, and as assessor for the term of 1912-1916, he made one of the best officers the county ever had. In 1920 he won out in a keen contest with some strong opponents for sheriff, and since that time Barringer has turned his interest mainly to farming.

W. T. Covington, one of the most useful men in Quitman County, was a native of Panola, and came here in 1886, about nine years after the county was organized. In the part of the county where he first lived, he was the only white man making his residence there, but within three years, he was chosen one of the five supervisors of this county, and so sound was his judgment, so sterling his honesty, and so capable his administration, that in 1891 he was chosen to fill the consolidated office of clerk for both the circuit and chancery courts of Quitman County, and held those offices for sixteen years. He served in the legislature from 1911 to 1915, aiding in passing the Torreyson land-title act, the bank-guarantee act, and in repealing the old Tallahatchie drainage act. He was elected to the state Senate in 1918, where he supported woman's suffrage, and secured the passage of many local drainage, road, and school laws. As a citizen and a progressive planter Senator Covington is remembered as one of the most valued assets the county ever had.

Frank W. Bizzell, who originally came from Tate County, was a teacher in Tate for ten years before he came to Quitman. He came to Marks in 1909, and taught in the new school at this place, being the first teacher to have charge of the new and improved school. After teaching two years at Marks, he taught a year as principal at Lambert, and was prevailed upon to cover a broader field; he was elected county superintendent of education for three successive terms--1912 to 1924. He had the satisfaction and enjoyment of serving through a period when the schools of Quitman County progressed from mere cabins to handsome new brick buildings, with every modern convenience. At the close of this term as superintendent of education of the county, he went to work for the American Book Company, and was working for this concern when he was taken ill in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and died there in a hotel.

J. H. Lamar, who came originally from Calhoun County, served Quitman as circuit clerk for sixteen years - 1916 to



1924, and 1928 to 1936. Prior to this, he engaged in the manufacturing business, having established a plant for making plows, operating the place in connection with a wood-shop and blacksmith-shop. He is a man of the conservative type, modest in his demeanor, and it is doubtful if there has ever been a more popular office holder in the county. He was always anxious to serve those who had business to transact under the scope of his department; was a member of the local draft board of Quitman County during the World War, Mr. Lamar selected 702 good men for the service -- 202 of whom were white and five hundred colored. He was not a candidate for re-election in 1935, and at the close of the year, retired to his home in Lambert.

George Cox is found among that representative group of leaders who are recognized as foremost in business and political circles of Quitman County, and who, like in other leaders, is most influential in all affairs. At one time Mr. Cox was leading merchant of Marks and a planter of note, and his success is typical of the careers of other leading business men of the Mississippi Delta. He did a large furnishing business for the plantations surrounding, and a good cash business as well. Besides his business affairs, he took time to devote to public duties, especially as pertaining to schools - serving as member of the separate school district board. As chancery clerk for the term of 1928 - 1932, he made one of the best officers the county ever had. Since 1932 Mr. Cox has devoted his time to his farming interests.

Dr. B. J. Marshall, dentist, came to Marks from Natchez in 1910, and has always ranked as a leader in the community. He organized the Marks Business League and served as secretary for several years. At one time he was secretary of the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners, and has served as a member of the Board of Alderman, and as a member of the Board of School Trustees. He has taken an active and leading part in every improvement the town has undergone and continues in his capacity as the town's best qualified "booster". He has seen Marks grow through its business and largest development, and is one of the best informed men in the community on the affairs of the town.

Dr. H. D. Glass came to Lambert in 1902 as a practicing physician. About 1918, he became president of the Quitman County Bank at Lambert; is owner of the big lumber mill at Crowder, and a partner in Glass & Ellison Motor Company. He also had great agricultural interests - the partnership of Glass & White, cultivating about 1,600 acres of land, Dr.

Glass having about 2,200 acres individually. He was appointed first mayor of Lambert when it was incorporated in 1905, during Governor Vardaman's administration.

H. W. Wagner, who migrating here from the North, was a citizen whose memory will linger long in the hearts of local countians. He was not professional as the term is generally accepted, but was, in truth, professional in the art of serving his fellow-man. No worthy cause or needy person was ever brought to his attention who did not receive his beneficence. It was generally accepted that if there was poverty, hunger, or distress in the hearts and lives of those in the neighborhood, Henry Wagner was the man to make it right, and he did not belie this confidence even once. He was always there with his word of cheer and plans for further help, and it was not hard for him to put his plans into effect because everyone had such implicit confidence in him. (1)

#### Officials and Ex-officials

G. C. Jones was sheriff and circuit clerk of the county.

Frances Marion Hamblen was a lawyer, and at one time superintendent of education.

Will Jamison was the first circuit and chancery clerk of the county and also operated a ferry at the mouth of Coldwater River, the kind that was guided with a large rope.

(Harve) Green was sheriff of the county when Betzel was to be hanged, and it is said that the duty involved in this case effected him so much that he appointed Captain N. A. Smith, erstwhile resident, a deputy for a day, so he might "spring the trap." Captain Smith had no feeling in the matter and performed the duty according to law. (2)

L. G. Newsom, who served as tax assessor for Quitman County, tells of the following incident which happened during his administration: The board of supervisors was sentenced to be jailed. The story went on that there arose a controversy in regard to the tax roll and receipts, and the board of supervisors refused to carry out instructions from the tax commission, Duncan Thompson, chairman, whereupon they were tried and sentenced to be "locked up." They took an appeal to the Supreme Court, with the result that the sentence was affirmed. However, the period of service for this particular board ended just at this time and a new one came in, which saved the situation. (3)

(1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson

(2) Ibid.

(3) L. G. Newsom, Marks, Miss.



DR. J. U. ABERNATHY, one of Quitman County's pioneers and a former county superintendent of education, tells of some of the conditions of the schools of the county during his administration. He says that he built a consolidated school at Sabino out of sixteenth section funds, and also states that he circulated a petition asking that the board of supervisors order an election to levy two mills and an extra dollar poll tax, to supplement the school fund. After the collection of taxes he equipped every white school in the county with furniture, and raised the teachers salaries from twenty and forty dollars, to fifty and one hundred dollars per month.(1)

J. H. LAMAR, or "Uncle John," as he is affectionately called by all who know him, served the county as circuit clerk for four years. I asked him if he could tell us anything interesting that happened during his administration, and he said: "I served on the local board during the World War, and selected 902 men for service - 292 white and seven hundred colored." (2)

CLINT HENDERSON, ex-official, who served as sheriff of Quitman County, states that he had an eventful term of office, except that the celebrated Cofer trial was held then - 1928 to 1932. Cofer, with several accomplices, was tried for murdering a man named Truitt, who was in the employ of the United States as a prohibition officer. Cofer, with his family, lived in Yalobusha County, but plied his trade (bootlegging) all over the surrounding territory. He discerned or was told, that Truitt was "after him," so he stepped up on the porch of the man's home at night, called him out and shot him. Counsel was selected from the leading law firms of the state, and a hard fight on both sides was made. The first trial, lasting only a week, was a mistrial; the second trial brought a verdict of conviction, but on being carried to Supreme Court, was reversed. Then came the tug of war, or legal battle lasting three weeks, and finally ended with Cofer spending his remaining days at Parchman.(3)

CHARLEY BARRINGER, ex-sheriff of Quitman County, has a citation notice which was published fifty years ago, during J. A. Cooper's term as clerk of circuit and chancery courts. It was addressed to "J. H. McDavitt, Maggie Lake Hawk, William Hawk, Henry Craft Hawk, and Hattie Lawryee Hawk, the four last named persons being the minor children and only heirs at law of J. S. Hawk, deceased; and Mrs. Hattie B. Dorion, Mrs. Willie L. Lake, Howell Turner,

- (1) J. U. Abernathy, Marks, Miss.
- (2) J. H. Lamar, Marks, Miss.
- (3) Clint Henderson, Marks, Miss.

Carrie Turner, and Ella Turner, children and only heirs at law of T. B. Turner, deceased. And all of the above parties being residents of and having their postoffice address at Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee.

The notice is as follows:

"YOU are commanded to appear before the chancery court of the county of Quitman, in the State of Mississippi, on the second Monday of May, 1887, to defend the suit in said court of Pauline Marks, wherein you are defendants.

This, December 3rd, 1886.

J. A. COOPER, Clerk.

Waddell & Montgomery, solicitors for complainants."

This notice was mailed to Memphis and the stamp was the Benjamin Franklin kind. (1)

Searching the records in the circuit clerk's office, we found the first marriage license issued in Quitman County was that of Thirza Hatch and J. J. Blackmon. (2)

The present county administration (1936) has the distinction of being composed of the youngest officials since the organization of the county. The sheriff, Ben Gray Barringer, is the youngest sheriff ever enrolled on the county records; Mrs. Lula Mae Jones, formerly Miss Lula Mae Carroll, of Eupora, a graduate of M.S.C.W., is superintendent of education; Hayward Covington, son of the late Senator W. T. Covington, is circuit clerk; P. L. Denton, nephew of the late Judge M. E. Denton, is county attorney; W. A. Harper, is tax assessor; E. E. Whitwell, chancery clerk. The present supervisors are: J. B. Lollar, J. B. Bingham, Claussen Peden, Dr. A. Jamison, and C. G. Rotenberry.

- (1) Records of chancery clerk.
- (2) Records of circuit clerk.



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- |                                 |                  |
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ADDENDA



POPULATION  
(1930)

-----			25,304
TOTAL	MALE	13,104	
	FEMALE	12,200	
			7,925
WHITE (TOTAL)	MALE	4,155	
	FEMALE	3,770	
			7,915
NATIVE BORN WHITE (TOTAL)	MALE	4,147	
	FEMALE	3,768	
			10
FOREIGN BORN WHITE (TOTAL)	MALE	8	
	FEMALE	2	
			17,346
NEGRO (TOTAL)	MALE	8,924	
	FEMALE	8,422	



## NATIONALITIES

The white population of Quitman County is 7,915, of which number, eight are Italians, six are Assyrians, three are Swedes, and twenty-five are Chinese. The Jewish citizenry is of the highest type, most of them being American born. (Fitting respect is paid L. Marks, German-Jew, elsewhere in these pages).

Though, as shown above, the biggest part of Quitman County's population is white and black, the few foreigners who have cast their lot here have been an asset of no little value; they are, to the letter, good citizens.

Among these is Mrs. Rosa Narmour, of Swedish parentage, who came to Quitman from Leflore County. She qualified some years ago as a social worker, and was designated to New Mexico as a field supervisor; but during her stay here she served as Red Cross secretary for an extended time, and was identified with the service and cultural clubs. (1) Two others of this same nationality, A. O. Peterson and Frank Johnson, have prospered for themselves and have contributed much to the welfare of the community in a social and economic way.

Running true to form, one foreigner, a Russian, is a merchant and trader. During the trapping and hunting season "Papa Lipson," as he is affectionately called by the townspeople of Marks, hangs out a sign - "Furs and hides bought here" - meaning in his store, where he spends his time supervising the business. (2)

### Chinese

One Chinese family has contributed a big part in the progress of Quitman County: Pang Lou Sang came here thirty years ago, and conducted a business profitably; he was intelligent, and becoming naturalized, took a keen interest in helping to build the town of Marks. Several children were born to him and his wife in the back part of the store, where they had a living apartment; of these, Pang Kee graduated as valedictorian of the class of 1932 in Marks High School, and a daughter attended Woman's College at Hattiesburg, preparing for

- (1) Mrs. Blanchard Ingram, Lambert, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.



the teaching profession. One of the sons recently married a prominent and rich girl in Chicago; a number of invitations, printed on red paper with white ink, were issued to the citizenry of Marks, and a number of them attended both the wedding and the feast, which was served at Dublin, Quitman County, after the couple arrived in Mississippi. The young bride, innately refined and having the advantage of fine schools and contacts, is very cultured. The marriage ceremony was performed by the City Judge of Chicago, he being a good friend of her father, both personally and from a business standpoint. In keeping with an American-Chinese custom, she has two names which are significant; Her American one is Virginia, meaning precious and good. About twenty other Chinese live in the community, all engaged in their usual business, mercantile; all of them are law-abiding, good citizens. (1)

#### Assyrians

One Assyrian family, the Josephs, came here directly from Palestine, and are much respected. One son, Woodrow, is Captain (1936) of the football team of Marks, and is very popular. Though not professing Christians, they contribute to every worthwhile civic enterprize, and often attend Church services.

The Chinese family has contributed a big part to the progress of Quitman County. They have been here thirty years ago, and conducted a business profitable to the community. They were interested in helping to build the town of Marks. Several children were born to him and his wife in the back part of the store, where they had a living apartment. One of these, a son, was educated at the University of Chicago, and is now a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago. He is now a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago.

(1) Mrs. Blanche Denton, Jackson, Miss.

#### R O S T E R

##### World War

Name	Rank	Race	Serial Number	Date Enlisted	Date Disch.	Over Seas	No. Card	Dis-ability
Adams, Cornelius	Pvt.	W	2,563,756	5/3 /18	12/15/18	No	1	0
Adams, Walter	Pvt.	C	4,503,277	9/1 /18	11/18/18	No	2 1/2	20%
Aldridge, Jim	Pvt.	C	3,874,186	7/31/18	8/2 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Alexander, Arthur B.	Pvt.	W	4,296,525	8/9 /18	6/24/19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Alexander, Warren	Pvt.	C	2,785,273	7/18/18	10/29/18	No	2 1/2	25%
Alford, Edgar	Pvt.	C	30,801	10/5 /17	12/7/17	No	5	-
Allen, Cullen	Pvt.	C	2,128,246	3/5 /18	8/4 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Allen, Solon L.	Pvt.	W	3,609,162	8/9 /18	12/19/18	No	1	0
Allen, Will A.	Mec.	W	1,325,145	6/30/17	4/7 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Alvis, Ben C.	Pvt.	W	3,257,508	6/5 /18	3/21/19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Anderson, Dan	Pvt.	C	3,843,337	5/10/18	10/18/18	N	2 1/2	50%
Anderson, Frank	Pvt.	C	3,272,653	4/29/18	6/17/19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Armon, Luther	Pvt.	C	3,785,181	7/19/18	7/9 /19	Yes	1	0
Armour, Charley	Pvt.	C	2,196,296	3/31/18	10/19/18	No	2	25%
Applewhite, Rubin	Pvt.	C	2,203,985	3/31/18	7/14/19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Applewhite, Samuel	Corp	C	3,693,431	9/1 /18	2/28/19	No	1 1/2	0
Arnold, Asby	Pvt.	C	3,785,119	7/19/18	12/16/18	No	1 1/2	0
Ashby, Carl E.	Wag.	W	1,604,657	5/31/17	6/3 /19	Yes	1	0
Askew, Tom	Pvt.	C	2,128,174	3/5 /18	8/28/18	No	2 1/2	16 2/3
Atkins, James A.	Pvt.	W.	1,228,213	3/6 /18	5/22/19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Atkinson, Earl W.	Pvt.	W	NSN	9/22/17	12/6 /18	No	2 1/2	SCD
Austin, Jesse L.	Pvt.	W	1,562,254	5/24/18	8/7 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Bagwell, Fewell	Pvt.	W	1,152,019	11/10/18	12/10/18	No	1	0
Bailey, William	Pvt.	C	4,503,297	9/1 /18	8/7 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Baker, James M.	Wag.	W	NSN	5/31/17	3/21/18	No	2 1/2	5%
Balentine, Darwin	Pvt.	C	4,424,885	9/27/18	1/29/19	No	1 1/2	0
Ballard, Rufus	Pvt.	C	2,128,348	3/5 /18	6/10/19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Bankhead, Ben	Mec.	C	2,128,165	3/5 /18	4/8 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Barnett, Charles L.	Pvt.	W	1,606,542	9/7 /17	7/11/19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Barr, Joe	Pvt.	C	3,331,444	6/22/18	7/30/18	No	2 1/2	25%
Barrett, Leon	Pvt.	W	2,128,202	3/6 /18	6/26/19	Yes	2 1/2	0
Barrett, Will	Pvt.	C	3,846,084	8/21/18	12/8 /18	No	1 1/2	0
Barren, Mack	Pvt.	W	4,506,627	9/1 /18	10/13/18	No	8	Died
Barron, Tom	Pvt.	C	2,196,297	3/31/18	7/2 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Barron, Tom	1cl. Pvt.	C	2,203,965	3/31/18	7/8 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Barron, Tom	1cl. Pvt.	C	2,203,965	3/31/18	7/8 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Baucum, Thomas A.	Corp	W	1,325,148	7/2 /17	4/7 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Beal, Tim	Pvt.	C	3,785,161	7/19/18	12/14/18	No	1 1/2	0
Bell, Edmond	Pvt.	C	2,127,838	3/5 /18	1/8 /19	No	1 1/2	0
Bell, James E.	1cl. Pvt.	W	4,299,816	8/28/18	7/1 /19	Yes	1 1/2	0



Ben, Henry	Pvt.	C	3,785,135	7/19/18	5/21/19	No	1
Benson, Russell W.	Pvt.	C	4,424,887	9/27/18	5/12/19	No	1
Berry, Frank	Pvt.	C	NSN	10/5/17	10/25/17	No	5
Berry, James L.	Pvt.	W	2,871,163	5/27/18	8/20/19	Yes	1
Berry, Robert	Pvt.	C	2,345,254	10/6/17	8/9/18	No	2
Billings, Frank R.	Cook.	W	1,602,998	9/22/17	5/20/19	Yes	1
Billings, Joe	Pvt.	C	2,863,242	5/3/18	11/20/18	No	2
Birdsong, Andrew	lcl.Pvt.	W	1,585,512	5/31/17	4/27/19	Yes	1
Birdsong, Harry B.	Pvt.	W	NSN	9/7/17	1/14/18	No	2
Birdsong, Weston H.	Pvt.	W	2,871,164	5/27/18	3/17/19	Yes	1
Black, John P.	lcl.Pvt.	W	2,111,130	9/4/17	4/5/19	Yes	1
Blackwell, Puebla	Pvt.	W	2,563,757	4/3/18	7/18/18	No	2
Blackwood, Robert. S.	Mec.	W	2,128,212	3/6/18	2/1/19	No	1
Bland, Eggleston Jr.	lcl.Pvt.	C	2,864,949	3/25/18	7/29/19	Yes	1
Bolden, Ennis	Pvt.	C	2,128,165	3/5/18	7/15/19	Yes	1
Bolden, Maude	Pvt.	C	2,127,846	3/5/18	6/5/18	No	2
Bolden, Tom	lcl.Pvt.	C	4,503,250	9/1/18	8/7/19	Yes	1
Booker, Sam	Pvt.	C	3,234,549	6/19/18	6/18/19	Yes	1
Boone, Walter	Pvt.	C	2,864,945	5/3/18	7/8/19	Yes	1
Boose, Frank	Pvt.	C	3,784,188	7/30/18	3/17/19	No	1
Boose, Nick	Pvt.	C	4,503,159	9/1/18	12/16/18	No	1
Boothe, Herron A.	Pvt.	C	3,847,181	8/23/18	8/9/19	Yes	1
Boyles, Lovie	Pvt.	C	2,128,241	3/5/18	7/15/19	Yes	1
Bradford, Nathaniel	Pvt.	C	3,785,184	7/19/18	1/18/19	No	1
Bradley, Willie	Pvt.	C	2,203,971	3/31/18	7/14/19	Yes	1
Branch, William	Pvt.	C	2,128,151	3/5/18	7/25/19	Yes	1
Braxton, Major	Corp.	C	2,128,152	3/5/18	3/18/19	No	1
Bridges, Marion	Pvt.	C	2,183,208	4/25/18	10/26/18	No	2
Briscoe, Alfred	Pvt.	C	2,128,232	3/5/18	7/15/19	Yes	1
Brock, Monroe	Pvt.	C	30,965	10/7/17	10/24/17	No	5
Brooks, Orange	Pvt.	C	4,298,945	8/23/18	1/25/19	No	1
Brooks, William H.	Pvt.	W	1,595,079	9/22/17	8/19/19	No	1
Brooks, Willie	Pvt.	C	2,127,835	3/5/18	7/10/19	Yes	1
Brougher, Fred S.	Corp.	W	2,128,204	3/6/18	3/1/19	Yes	1
Brown, Boone	Pvt.	C	3,785,131	7/19/18	4/17/19	Yes	1
Brown, Dock	Pvt.	C	3,785,128	7/19/18	12/18/18	No	1
Brown, Gabriel	Pvt.	W	785,123	7/19/18	1/29/19	No	1
Brown, Jake	Pvt.	C	4,503,234	9/1/18	2/28/19	Yes	8
Brown, Janner, J. stable	Sgt.	W	1,604,635	3/31/17	7/25/19	Yes	1 1/2
Brown, Preston	Pvt.	C	2,203,974	3/31/18	1/5/19	No	1
Brown, Scott	Pvt.	C	4,298,564	8/21/18	1/28/19	No	1
Brown, Will	Pvt.	C	2,865,245	5/3/18	6/11/18	No	5
Bulliner, William D.	Cook.	W	2,871,197	5/27/18	12/30/18	No	1
Burleyson, Glover	lcl.Pvt.	W	149,874	8/17/17	1/20/19	Yes	1 1/2
Burleyson, Jesse	Pvt.	C	3,785,072	7/19/18	7/10/19	Yes	1
Burrows, Robert L.	Wag.	W	1,606,553	10/8/17	7/11/19	Yes	1
Burt, Warren	Corp.	C	4,424,886	9/27/18	2/6/19	No	1
Butler, Harvey J.	lcl.Pvt.	W	725,743	4/26/17	4/17/19	Yes	1 1/2
Byers, James D.	Pvt.	C	2,128,175	3/5/18	4/13/18	No	8

Caldwell, Jones	Pvt.	C	4,503,263	9/1/18	12/15/18	No	1
Calloway, Marion	Pvt.	C	2,127,829	3/5/18	8/20/19	Yes	1
Calvin, Romie	Pvt.	C	3,785,132	7/19/18	11/27/18	No	1
Cameron, Jack	Pvt.	C	3,785,147	7/19/18	11/27/18	No	1
Campbell, John	Corp.	C	4,503,286	9/1/18	8/12/19	Yes	1
Campbell, Sam	Pvt.	C	2,203,984	3/31/18	7/16/19	Yes	1
Carlisle, Sam G.	Corp.	W	1,604,658	5/31/17	2/28/18	No	1 1/2
Carter, Fred	Pvt.	W	4,296,526	8/9/18	5/31/19	Yes	1
Carter, Maurice	Pvt.	C	3,331,607	6/22/18	7/7/19	Yes	1
Caulley, John Jr.	Pvt.	C	2,863,244	5/3/18	3/11/19	No	1
Chandler, John	Pvt.	C	3,331,312	6/22/18	3/18/19	Yes	1
Chapman, Joe Ben	Pvt.	W	1,546,408	5/8/18	12/16/18	No	1
Cheefus, Joe	Cook.	C	5,674,190	7/31/18	2/7/19	No	1
Chiles, Persey	Pvt.	C	4,503,264	9/1/18	11/29/19	No	1
Chism, Chester, R.	Pvt.	W	NSN	9/7/17	2/20/18	No	2
Chorley, George H.	Pvt.	W	4,449,071	9/18/18	12/8/18	No	1
Clark, John T.	Corp.	W	1,603,241	9/22/17	5/20/19	Yes	1
Clark, Levy	Sgt.	C	4,503,197	9/1/18	3/18/19	No	1
Clanssen, Charles, APvt.	W	3,824,851	9/3/18	10/29/18	No	2	
Cleveland, Charlie	Pvt.	C	231,878	10/1/17	7/14/19	Yes	1
Cochran, July	Pvt.	C	3,785,115	7/19/18	12/13/18	No	1
Coleman, Spencer B.	Pvt.	W	2,096,262	9/9/17	1/14/19	Yes	1
Coll, Martin	Pvt.	C	2,203,995	3/31/18	3/18/19	Yes	1
Collier, Scott	Pvt.	C	2,126,195	3/5/18	6/12/18	No	2
Collins, John	Pvt.	C	2,203,996	3/31/18	7/4/19	Yes	1
Collins, Sherod	Pvt.	C	4,505,317	9/1/18	11/30/18	No	1
Collins, Stanley, DclPvt.	W	94,481	7/27/17	5/16/19	Yes	1 1/2	
Collins, Will	Pvt.	C	2,865,229	5/3/18	1/30/19	No	1
Conner, Tom	Pvt.	W	3,331,757	6/22/18	10/19/18	No	8
Cook, Guy S.	lcl.Pvt.	W	957,907	7/19/17	6/9/19	No	1 1/2
Cooper, Jerry	Pvt.	C	2,203,999	3/31/18	6/26/18	No	2
Cooper, Jim	Pvt.	W	2,128,206	3/5/18	5/21/19	Yes	1
Cooper, Joe	Pvt.	C	3,874,191	7/31/18	7/22/19	Yes	1
Copprell, John lcl.	Pvt.	C	4,296,776	8/23/18	3/5/19	No	1
Covington, Harry	Pvt.	C	2,240,000	3/31/18	3/18/19	Yes	1
Covington, John N.	2.lit.	W	Off	9/20/18	1/18/19	No	-
Cowan, Robert E.	Pvt.	W	1,585,274	6/3/17	3/11/19	Yes	9
Cox, Dewitt C.	Pvt.	W	1,562,256	5/27/18	3/11/19	Yes	1
Cox, Will C.	Pvt.	W	2,128,214	3/6/18	7/24/18	No	2
Crenshaw, Wesley	Sgt.	C	3,874,192	7/31/18	7/21/19	Yes	1
Crisp, Tom E.	Pvt.	C	2,127,834	3/5/18	7/6/19	Yes	1
Crockett, Wade W.	Pvt.	W	4,449,070	9/18/18	12/5/18	No	1
Crofford, John K.	Pvt.	W	NSN	9/22/17	12/26/17	No	8
Crosswhite, John	Pvt.	W	2,871,157	5/27/18	3/28/19	Yes	1
Crothers, Victor M.	1Lt.	W	Off	9/7/18	6/3/19	No	-
Crowley, Elmore	Pvt.	W	2,182,883	4/25/18	8/23/18	No	3
Cunningham, John Jr.	Pvt.	C	2,863,241	5/3/18	12/20/18	No	1
Cutts, James L.	Pvt.	W	2,591,659	5/11/18	2/22/19	No	1



Daniel, Harris P	Pvt.	W	2,871,161	5/27/18	12/18/18	No	1	0	
Darden, Iwe	Pvt.	C	3,785,109	7/19/18	5/21/19	No	1	0	
Darden, Joe	Pvt.	C	4,505,265	9/1 /18	5/7 /19	No	1	0	
Davidson, Arnie	Pvt.	C	4,424,889	9/27/18	12/30/18	No	1	0	
Davis, Abe	Pvt.	C	4,424,890	9/27/18	1/29/19	No	1	0	
Davis, Andrew	lcl	Pvt	C	4,505,167	9/1 /18	8/7 /19	Yes	1	0
Davis, Dan	Pvt.	C	4,503,266	9/1 /18	10/7 /18	No	2	25	
Davis, I.C.	Pvt.	C	2,203,799	3/30/18	6/22/19	Yes	2	0	
Davis, Monroe	Pvt.	C	4,503,175	9/1 /18	5/7 /19	No	1	0	
Davis, Tim	Pvt.	C	4,503,227	9/1 /18	11/25/18	No	2	50	
Davis, Will	Pvt.	C	4,656,065	1/15/18	6/9 /19	No	1	0	
Dawson, Harrison N.	Pvt.	W	1,546,781	5/8 /18	5/7 /19	Yes	1	0	
Dean, Ben	Pvt.	C	3,272,758	7/8 /18	12/11/18	No	1	30	
Dearing, Oscar	Pvt.	C	2,204,003	3/31/18	4/14/18	No	5	0	
Denton, Carl	Pvt.	C	2,863,228	5/3 /18	12/20/18	No	1	0	
Denton, Partee L.	Pvt.	W	4,467,548	10/1 /18	12/ 6/18	No	1	0	
Deuberry, Coy	Pvt.	C	537,938	8/25/18	8/22/19	No	1	0	
Diggs, Dave	Pvt.	C	4,503,214	9/ 1/18	11/29/18	No	1	0	
Diggs, Isaac	Corp	C	3,874,195	7/31/18	3/20/19	No	1	0	
Dixon, Reubin	Pvt.	C	4,503,312	9/1 /18	10/7 /19	No	1	0	
Dorris, Jim	lcl.	Pvt.	C	30,814	10/1 /17	12/17/17	No	5	0
Doty, Talmadge T.	Pvt.	W	1,557,703	5/25/18	1/15/19	Yes	1	0	
Douglas, Denis	Pvt.	C	2,204,013	3/31/18	7/ 8/19	Yes	1	0	
Douglas, Fred	Pvt.	C	3,331,406	6/22/18	7/5 /19	Yes	1	0	
Douglass, Joseph	Pvt.	C	2,345,277	10/6 /17	5/24/18	No	2	25	
Dowd, Lee	lcl.	Pvt.	C	2,128,154	3/5 /18	6/30/19	Yes	2	0
Dowd, Willie	Pvt.	C	1,104,738	8/1 /18	11/27/18	No	2	30	
Dubard, William	Pvt.	C	4,298,777	8/23/18	1/19/19	No	5	-	
Dunavant, Cecil C.	Sgt.	W	1,585,278	6/27/17	6/11/19	Yes	1 1/2	0	
Dunvant, Virgil	Pvt.	W	2,871,159	5/28/18	12/25/19	Yes	1	0	
Duncan, Henry	Pvt.	C	3,845,222	6/21/18	3/1 /19	No	5	-	
Duncan, Henry O.	Pvt.	W	1,562,257	5/27/18	12/3 /18	No	2	50	
Edwards, George	Pvt.	C	4,741,234	9/6 /18	5/21/19	No	1	0	
Elder, Lewis	Pvt.	C	4,503,260	9/1 /18	6/26/19	Yes	1	0	
Eli, James	Pvt.	C	4,503,355	9/1 /18	11/30/18	No	1	0	
Ellis, Barfield	Pvt.	C	4,503,195	9/1 /18	8/13/19	Yes	1	0	
Ellis, Walter	Pvt.	C	4,505,488	9/1 /18	4/14/19	Yes	1	0	
Elmore, Alvine B.	lcl.	Pvt.	W	2,591,666	5/11/18	12/31/18	No	1	0
Enmon, Mose	lcl.	Pvt.	C	3,874,194	7/31/18	12/27/18	No	1	0
Estes, Clarence	lcl.	Pvt.	C	2,127,830	3/5 /18	8/10/19	Yes	1	0
Eubanks, Pink	Pvt.	C	2,127,841	3/5 /18	7/11/19	Yes	1	0	
Evans, Fred	Pvt.	C	4,503,306	9/1 /18	11/30/18	No	1	0	
Evans, Miles P.	Lst.Lt.	W	Off	8/15/17	8/30/19	Yes	-	0	
Fancher, Willie C.	lcl.	Pvt.	W	1,562,502	6/24/18	7/26/19	Yes	1	0
Farley, Escar	Corp	C	2,128,173	3/5 /18	1/20/19	No	2	25	
Farr, J.D.	Pvt.	C	4,503,279	9/1 /18	3/18/18	No	1	0	
Fields, Eli	Pvt.	C	4,299,658	4/23/18	12/17/18	No	1	0	

Figg, Clarence	Pvt.	C	4,503,257	9/1 /18	1/14/19	No	1	0	
Flowers, Jeff	lcl	Pvt.	W	623,406	10/10/14	4/4 /19	Yes	2 1/2	0
Ford, James	Pvt.	C	3,331,163	6/22/18	12/20/18	No	1	0	
Fox, Willie	lcl	Pvt	C	30,813	10/1 /17	12/10/18	No	1	0
Franklin, Bird	lcl	Pvt.	W	1,546,749	5/8 /18	8/20/19	Yes	1	0
Franklin, Isaiah	Pvt.	C	4,503,645	9/1 /18	5/9 /19	Yes	1	0	
Franklin, Robert	Pvt.	C	4,506,699	9/1 /18	5/17/19	No	1	0	
Funcher, Joseph	Pvt.	W	4,503,287	9/1 /18	8/7 /19	Yes	1	0	
Furr, James E.	1st Lt	W	Off	10/28/18	1/2 /19	No	-	0	
Galloway, Jewel	lcl	Pvt.	C	2,204,045	3/31/18	6/30/19	Yes	1	0
Garland, Jefferson T.	lcl.	Pvt.	W	1,325,162	7/2 /17	4/ 7/19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Garrett, Guy L.	Pvt.	W	2,591,671	5/11/18	1/15/19	No	1	0	
Gary, Major	Pvt.	C	4,503,161	9/1 /18	8/7 /19	Yes	1	0	
Gaston, Willie	Pvt.	C	230,303	10/6 /17	5/13/19	Yes	1	0	
Gates, Edward	Corp.	C	231,822	10/1 /17	7/14/19	Yes	1	0	
Gates, Sam	Pvt.	C	3,785,094	7/19/18	8/11/19	Yes	1	0	
Gillianland, Irwin	Pvt.	C	2,208,567	3/31/18	7/26/18	Yes	7	Died	
Gillon, Marmaduke	Pvt.	C	2,127,843	3/5 /18	8/12/19	No	1	0	
Gladney, John	Pvt.	C	3,785,201	7/19/18	12/13/18	No	1	0	
Gladney, Silas	Pvt.	C	2,204,031	3/31/18	7/8 /19	Yes	1	0	
Glasbye, George	Pvt.	C	2,863,226	5/3 /18	7/16/19	Yes	1	0	
Going, Ralph	Pvt.	C	3,874,195	7/31/18	8/19/19	No	1	0	
Goliday, Mitchell	Pvt.	C	2,128,256	3/5 /18	5/12/19	Yes	1	0	
Gordon, Jessie	Pvt.	C	2,128,839	3/17/18	7/9 /19	Yes	1	0	
Gordon, John W.	lcl.	Pvt.	C	3,873,473	12/25/18	7/23/19	Yes	1	0
Gordon, Josh	Pvt.	C	3,785,122	7/19/18	11/28/18	No	1	0	
Gordon, Simon	Corp	C	231,788	10/1 /17	7/14/19	Yes	1	0	
Gordon, William B.	Pvt.	C	2,863,230	5/3 /18	12/21/18	No	1	0	
Govan, Leonard	Pvt.	C	NSN	10/5 /17	1/28/18	No	2	50%	
Gray, Nathaniel	Pvt.	C	2,127,849	3/5 /18	9/2 /19	Yes	1	0	
Green, Henry	Pvt.	C	3,865,526	9/13/18	12/21/18	No	1	0	
Green, Henry	Corp.	W	1,032,832	3/17/17	7/27/19	Yes	2 1/2	0	
Green, Jim	Pvt.	C	2,865,240	5/3 /18	7/26/19	Yes	1	0	
Green, Monroe	Pvt.	C	3,843,339	5/10/18	7/11/19	Yes	1	0	
Green, Surely	Pvt.	C	2,863,238	5/3 /18	4/17/19	Yes	1	0	
Gregg, William G.	lcl.	Pvt.	W	2,563,212	4/9 /18	5/20/19	Yes	9	0
Greer, James R.	Pvt.	W	3,824,849	9/3 /18	12/23/18	No	1	0	
Grice, Edward A.	1st Lt	W	Off	10/24/18	12/19/18	No	-	0	
Headley, Johnie	Pvt.	C	2,128,196	3/5 /18	1/2 /19	No	2	25%	
Hall, Isaac	Pvt	C	233,480	10/12/17	7/21/19	Yes	1 1/2	0	
Hall, Wood B.	2nd.Lt	W	Off	8/17/18	2/3 /19	No	-	0	
Hammonds, Oliver S.	Pvt.	W	2,564,702	5/24/18	1/31/19	Yes	1	0	
Hammonds, Ollie	Pvt.	C	4,298,778	8/23/18	4/14/19	Yes	1	0	
Hardy, Julious	Sgt	C	4,503,177	9/1 /18	10/2 /19	Yes	1	0	
Harrington, Dwight L.	Pvt.	W	2,128,208	3/6 /18	2/13/19	No	1	0	
Harris, Bob	Pvt.	C	2,127,560	3/5 /18	4/8 /19	Yes	1	0	
Harris, Burges	lcl.	Pvt.	C	2,127,826	3/5 /18	7/9 /19	Yes	1	0



Hart, William	Pvt.	C	4,302,406	9/18/18	12/10/18	No	1	0
Harton, Mose	Pvt.	C	2,204,050	3/31/18	1/18/19	No	1	0
Harvey, Ben	Cook.	C	2,128,235	3/5/18	8/18/19	Yes	1	0
Haskin, Jessie	1cl.Pvt.	C	2,204,052	3/31/18	5/7/19	Yes	1	0
Havens, Andre T.	Pvt.	W	1,546,767	5/7/18	2/21/19	No	1	0
Haynes, Bennie G.	Pvt.	W	2,915,486	5/16/18	3/26/19	Yes	1	0
Helms, Joe W.	1cl.Pvt.	W	1,562,258	5/27/18	1/16/19	Yes	1	0
Henson, Geo. W.	Pvt.	W	13,992	10/8/17	11/1/17	No	2	-
Hentze, Leroy	Pvt.	C	3,331,342	6/22/18	5/24/19	Yes	1	0
Hicks, Henry	Pvt.	C	2,204,059	3/31/18	6/27/18	No	2	33
Hicks, Willie	Pvt.	W	3,786,405	7/18/18	10/11/18	Yes	8	Die
Hill, Calyon	Pvt.	C	2,128,244	3/5/18	6/25/19	Yes	1	0
Hill, Jourdan	Pvt.	C	NSN	10/1/17	10/25/17	No	5	-
Hill, Tucker	Pvt.	C	4,503,158	9/1/18	8/7/19	Yes	1	0
Hill, Walter	Pvt.	C	3,785,165	7/19/18	12/18/18	No	1	0
Holder, Paul D.	Sgt.	W	1,603,021	9/22/17	5/21/19	Yes	1	0
Hollins, Taylor	Pvt.	C	4,922,220	9/9/18	12/16/18	No	1	0
Hollis, Frank	Pvt.	C	3,874,197	7/31/18	7/25/19	No	1	0
Holman, Lenwood	Pvt.	C	4,505,136	9/1/18	8/7/19	Yes	1	0
Hopper, Hezikiah	Pvt.	C	4,503,382	9/1/18	5/2/19	No	1	0
Hooper, Sam	Pvt.	C	231,823	10/1/17	7/14/19	Yes	1	0
Horton, John E.	Pvt.	W	2,871,160	5/27/18	5/29/19	Yes	1	0
Horton, Samuel	Corp.	C	3,874,198	7/31/18	7/21/19	Yes	1	0
Hoskins, Percy	Pvt.	C	2,863,224	3/3/18	7/22/19	Yes	1	0
Houston, Frank	Pvt.	C	2,128,172	5/3/18	9/4/19	Yes	1	0
Houston, Fred	Pvt.	C	3,785,108	7/19/18	7/12/19	Yes	1	0
Hudson, Ike	Pvt.	C	3,785,125	7/19/18	5/14/19	No	1	0
Hughes, James M.	Pvt.	W	13,832	9/22/17	11/18/17	No	2	50%
Ikerd, Willis A.	Pvt.	W	2,871,168	5/27/18	10/21/19	Yes	8	Die
Irwin, Jesse	Pvt.	C	3,755,950	6/22/18	12/22/18	No	1	0
Jackson, Alex L.	Pvt.	C	2,128,171	3/5/18	1/31/19	No	1	0
Jackson, Cleve	Pvt.	C	2,128,247	3/5/18	12/23/18	No	1	0
Jackson, Floyd	Pvt.	C	302,684	10/2/18	12/10/18	No	1	0
Jackson, Hugh	Pvt.	C	3,785,556	7/18/18	10/10/18	No	3	25%
Jackson, James E.	Pvt.	C	4,517,916	8/15/18	2/4/19	No	1	0
Jackson, Johnnie	Pvt.	C	232,498	10/1/17	5/14/18	Yes	8	Die
Jackson, Otis	Pvt.	C	2,863,233	5/3/18	7/19/19	Yes	1	0
Jackson, Wardell	Pvt.	C	2,128,155	3/5/18	3/17/19	No	1	0
James, John	Corp.	C	4,298,781	8/23/18	5/31/19	No	1	0
James, Otis	Pvt.	C	2,204,076	3/31/18	7/7/19	Yes	1	0
Jamison, William T.	Pvt.	W	4,457,633	10/1/18	12/14/18	No	1	0
Jarrett, Jessie	Pvt.	C	4,424,891	9/27/18	1/29/19	No	1	0
Jefferson, Columbus	Pvt.	C	2,128,159	3/5/18	9/20/18	No	2	16
Jefferson, John	1cl.Pvt.	C	222,291	10/16/17	5/12/19	Yes	1	0
Jefferson, Lee	Pvt.	C	2,204,075	3/31/18	6/10/18	Yes	1	0
Jenkins, Willis	Pvt.	C	1,728,792	10/6/17	3/15/19	Yes	1	0
Jennings, Haywood	Pvt.	C	4,298,780	8/23/18	12/10/18	No	1	0

Johnson, Dave	Pvt.	C	2,345,523	10/6/17	7/1/19	Yes	1	0
Johnson, James A.	Corp.	W	2,871,156	5/27/18	5/29/19	Yes	1	0
Johnson, Monroe	Pvt.	C	2,128,164	3/5/18	7/15/19	Yes	1	0
Johnson, Oscar	Pvt.	C	3,785,140	7/19/18	8/18/19	Yes	2	18 2/3%
Johnson, Rock	Pvt.	C	4,655,857	10/15/18	12/21/18	No	1	0
Johnson, Simp	Pvt.	C	4,503,269	9/1/18	8/4/19	Yes	1	0
Johnson, Will	Pvt.	C	2,127,828	3/5/18	11/2/18	No	2	SCD
Johnson, Will H	Pvt.	W	2,127,828	3/5/18	11/6/18	No	2	SCD
Jones, Albert	Pvt.	C	3,844,629	7/2/18	1/28/19	No	1	0
Jones, Andrew	Bgler.	C	2,128,157	3/5/18	7/10/19	Yes	1	0
Jones, Arthur E.	Pvt.	W	3,002,006	10/12/16	12/11/18	No	1	0
Jones, Charley	Pvt.	C	3,331,305	6/22/18	7/5/19	Yes	1	0
Jones, Eligah	1cl.Pvt.	C	2,127,599	3/4/18	7/9/19	Yes	1	0
Jones, Elijah	Pvt.	C	2,195,555	3/31/18	7/10/19	Yes	1	0
Jones, Henry	Pvt.	C	2,863,239	5/3/18	7/19/19	Yes	1	0
Jones, Josh	Pvt.	C	2,204,089	3/31/18	3/18/19	Yes	1	0
Jones, Lam	Pvt.	C	2,127,848	3/5/19	6/26/19	Yes	1	0
Jude, Matt O.	Pvt.	C	3,331,441	6/22/18	9/23/18	No	2	16 2/3
Kelley, Ephram	Pvt.	C	3,785,112	7/19/18	7/12/19	Yes	1	0
Kendricks, Jim	Pvt.	C	2,208,588	3/31/18	7/14/19	Yes	1	0
Kenedy, Reber V.	Pvt.	W	2,871,158	5/27/18	12/22/18	No	1	0
Kidd, Ollie	Pvt.	C	4,503,170	9/1/18	8/7/19	Yes	1	0
King, Arch	Corp.	C	3,874,199	7/31/18	8/2/19	Yes	1	0
King, Henry B.	Pvt.	W	3,824,850	9/3/18	12/7/18	No	1	0
King, Sylvester	Pvt.	C	3,843,340	5/10/18	7/16/19	Yes	1	0
Kirkwood, Rogaston	Pvt.	C	3,330,042	7/22/18	10/24/18	No	2	SCD
Koger, Joseph M.	Mec.	W	2,871,166	5/27/18	12/23/18	No	1	0
Kuykendall, Josh	1cl.Pvt.	C	3,785,062	7/19/18	7/9/19	Yes	1	0
Kuykendall, Lacy	Pvt.	C	3,785,167	7/19/18	12/13/18	No	1	0
Kuykendall, Leland	Pvt.	C	2,863,227	5/3/18	7/11/19	Yes	1	0
Lamar, Claud	Corp.	W	2,128,205	3/6/18	5/6/19	No	1	10%
Latham, Henry	Pvt.	C	2,128,243	3/5/18	7/26/19	Yes	1	0
Lawrence, Edmond	Pvt.	C	4,298,782	8/23/18	8/14/19	Yes	1	0
Lawrence, George R	Sgt.Maj.	W	2,095,577	9/9/17	1/29/19	Yes	1	0
Laws, Percy A.	1cl.Pvt.	W	NSN	9/22/17	12/11/18	No	2	0
Lawson, Lozie	1cl.Pvt.	C	2,127,847	3/5/18	3/29/19	No	1	0
Lee, Acy	1cl.Pvt.	C	4,298,783	8/23/18	7/15/19	Yes	1	0
Lee, Frank	1cl.Pvt.	C	4,922,174	9/9/18	4/30/19	No	1	0
Len, George	Pvt.	C	3,330,043	6/22/18	1/29/19	No	1	0
Lennon, Charlie	Pvt.	C	3,848,305	9/5/18	6/14/19	No	1	0
Lewis, E.L.	1cl.Pvt.	W	2,131,437	4/2/18	2/8/19	No	1	0
Lewis, Frank	Pvt.	C	3,874,503	7/31/18	11/12/18	No	2	12 1/2
Lewis, John	Pvt.	C	4,298,784	8/23/18	3/17/19	No	1	0
Lewis, Manuel	Pvt.	C	3,331,326	6/22/18	7/15/19	Yes	1	0
Lindsey, John	1cl.Pvt.	C	2,128,840	3/7/18	9/4/19	Yes	1	0
Lipe, Roy E.	Pvt.	W	2,915,236	5/16/18	12/10/18	No	1	0
Longinotti, Manuel	Pvt.	C	4,298,785	8/23/18	12/14/18	No	1	0
Longstreet, John	Pvt.	C	4,302,348	9/14/18	12/23/18	No	1	0



Loveberry, Will	C	4,503,294	9/1 /18	3/12/19	No	1	0
Lucas, Joseph G.	Pvt. W	3,257,509	6/5/ 18	1/ 30/19	No	1	0
Lynch, Cyte	Mec. C	2,128,233	3/5 /18	7/15/19	Yes	1	0
Mack, Jim	Pvt. C	4,298,786	8/23/18	- - 18	No	1	0
Mann, Joel M.	1stLt. W	Off	11/12/18	1/15/19	No	-	0
Mansell, Fugate E.	Corp. W	2,871,165	5/27/18	12/23/18	No	1	0
Mansell, Guy E.	Pvt. W	13,822	9/22/17	2/16/18	No	2	SCD
Marion, John	Pvt. C	4,303,246	9/1 /18	11/27/18	No	1	0
Marshall, George	Pvt. C	3,785,080	7/19/18	10/25/18	Yes	8	Died
Martin, Choice H.	Pvt. W	953,805	7/19/17	4/6 /19	No	2 1/2	0
Mason, Henry	Pvt. C	2,863,235	5/3 /18	1/30/19	No	1	0
Mathes, Sylvester	1clPvt. C	4,298,787	8/23/18	8/14/19	Yes	1	0
Melton, Connie	Pvt. C	4,503,281	9/1 /18	8/7 /19	Yes	1	0
Middleton, Dennis	Pvt. C	4,503,327	9/1 /18	8/11/19	Yes	1	0
Miles, Ned	1cl Pvt. C	NSN	10/5 /17	12/7 /17	No	5	-
Miller, Buster	Pvt. C	2,204,121	3/31/18	7/9 /19	Yes	1	0
Miller, Edwin M.	Corp. W	2,871,154	5/27/18	7/19/19	Yes	1	0
Miller, Walter C.	Pvt. W	13,970	10/22/17	2/5 /18	No	2	SCD
Miller, William	Pvt. C	4,503,191	9/1 /18	8/7 /19	Yes	1	0
Mills, Allin E.	Pvt. W	4,296,528	8/9 /18	9/1 /19	Yes	1	0
Mills, William T.	Pvt. W	4,296,530	8/9 /18	7/1 /19	Yes	1	0
Mitchell, James	Pvt. C	3,331,325	6/22/18	3/18/19	Yes	1	0
Mitchell, Raymon	1cl Pvt. W	4,296,829	8/ 9/18	1/25/19	Yes	1	0
Moore, Earnest	Pvt. C	4,298,789	8/23/18	12/29/18	No	1	0
Moore, Henderson	1cl Pvt. C	2,128,277	3/5 /18	12/6 /18	No	2	33 1/3
Moore, James,	Pvt. C	2,195,560	3/31/18	11/12/19	Yes	1	0
Moore, Sam	Pvt. C	3,844,492	6/30/18	7/16/19	Yes	1	0
Moore, Samie,	Pvt. C	3,331,422	6/22/18	9/28/18	No	2	20%
Morgan, Ed	Pvt. C	2,208,605	3/30/18	7/14/19	Yes	1	0
Morgan, Epsie J.	Pvt. C	4,424,885	9/27/18	2/6 /19	No	1	0
Morgan, William	Pvt. C	2,863,236	5/3 /18	7/16/19	Yes	1	0
Moss, Elzy	Pvt. C	2,128,192	3/15/18	9/20/18	No	1	12 1/2%
Moss, Glenzy	Pvt. C	4,503,135	9/1 /18	12/16/19	No	1	0
Moss, Charles	Pvt. C	3,873,092	7/29/18	7/21/19	Yes	1	0
Murphy, Winter	Wag. W	2,591,697	5/11/18	12/27/18	No	1	0
McAlister, Nathaniel	Pvt. C	NSN	10/1 /17	12/17/17	No	5	-
McClure, Whitten C.	Pvt. W	4,776,905	8/30/18	1/7 /19	No	1	0
McCoy, Jack	Pvt. C	3,785,164	7/19/18	10/7 /19	No	1	0
McCullough, Robert E.	Sgt. W	1,127,243	5/5 /18	1/11/19	No	1	0
McDonald, Melvin	Pvt. W	1,546,837	5/8 /18	7/21/19	Yes	1	0
McDowell, Jim	Pvt. C	2,127,832	3/5 /18	7/24/19	Yes	1	0
McGee, Mack	1clPvt. C	231,913	10/7 /17	7/14/19	Yes	1	0
McGee, Phillips	1cl.Pvt. C	4,503,267	9/1 /18	7/24/19	No	1	0
McGraw Ed.	Pvt. C	4,503,256	9/1 /18	12/16/18	No	1	0
McGuire, Will	Pvt. C	2,127,845	3/5 /18	11/12/18	No	2	30%
McKinney, Will	Pvt. C	3,331,427	6/22/18	11/1/18	No	2	25%

McKnight, John	Pvt. C	3,785,118	7/19/19	2/ 1/19	No	1	0
McMahon, Carl R. 1cl	Pvt. W	2,131,439	4/ 2/18	3/19/19	No	1	0
McMahon, Jewell	Pvt. W	2,128,211	3/ 6/18	11/29/18	No	1	0
McVey, Erie A.	Capt. W	Off	10/25/17	1/21/19	No	-	0
McWright, Earnest	Pvt. C	2,129,573	3/12/18	3/18/19	Yes	1	0
Nason, Ben	Pvt. C	NSN	10/ 5/17	1/11/18	No	2	50%
Nason, Charlie	Pvt. C	2,127,842	3/ 5/18	4/ 2/19	No	1	0
Neal, Samuel F. 1st.	Lt. W	Off	6/26/18	12/ 7/18	No	-	0
Nelson, John	Pvt. C	2,345,341	10/ 7/17	7/15/18	No	5	-
Newsom, Bisor	Pvt. C	2,128,200	3/ 5/18	8/ 4/19	Yes	1	0
Nicholas, Allen T.	Corp. W	2,132,943	9/22/17	3/31/19	No	1	0
Nichols, Robert L.	Pvt. W.	1,604,723	6/ 4/17	9/ 1/18	Yes	6	Killed
O'Keefe, Joe G.	Mess. Sgt. W	1,606,798	9/ 9/17	7/11/19	Yes	1	0
O'Keefe, Robert E.	Sgt. W	905,046	6/29/17	2/25/19	No	1 1/2	0
Oliver, Howard B.	1st. Lt. W	Off	11/ 2/18	12/21/18	No	-	0
Oneal, Warren C.	Wag. W	1,604,526	5/31/17	7/25/19	Yes	1 1/2	0
Orr, John	Pvt. C	4,503,205	9/ 1/18	12/18/18	No	1	0
Parish, Jessie	Pvt. C	2,128,156	3/ 5/18	2/ 6/19	No	1	0
Parker, Grover	Pvt. C	2,204,136	3/31/18	7/11/19	Yes	1	0
Partee, James	Pvt. C	3,785,098	7/19/18	12/17/18	No	1	0
Patterson, James	Corp. C	4,922,163	9/ 9/18	12/16/18	No	1	0
Patterson, Jim	Pvt. C	2,195,570	3/31/18	8/ 6/18	No	2	30%
Patterson, Josh	Pvt. C	3,874,504	7/31/18	7/23/19	Yes	1	0
Patton, Relious	Pvt. C	4,922,159	9/ 9/18	12/16/18	No	1	0
Peeler, Dave	Pvt. C	4,424,896	9/27/18	12/30/18	No	1	0
Peggs, Milton	Pvt. C	4,506,706	9/ 1/18	12/ 7/18	No	1	0
Pellonari, Nicandro 1cl	Pvt. W	2,871,162	5/27/18	5/27/19	Yes	1	0
Perry, Lemon	Pvt. C	4,503,207	9/ 1/18	12/14/18	No	1	0
Phillips, John W.	Pvt. W	2,128,209	3/ 6/18	2/24/19	No	1	0
Phipps, Eddie	Pvt. C	4,298,790	8/23/18	2/15/19	No	1	0
Phillips, Joe A.	Pvt. W	1,607,149	10/ 8/17	7/19/19	Yes	1	0
Phipps, Percy	Sgt. C	3,874,203	7/31/18	7/15/19	Yes	1	0
Phipps, Robert	Pvt. C	4,503,186	9/ 1/18	12/22/18	No	1 1/2	0
Pirtle, Elmer F.	Sgt. W	1,604,659	5/31/17	2/28/19	No	4	0
Pittman, Eugene	Pvt. C	2,128,242	3/ 5/18	4/29/19	No	4	0
Pittman, Johnnie	Pvt. W	3,874,204	7/31/18	7/22/19	Yes	1	0
Pittman, Willie H.	Pvt. W	2,131,436	4/ 2/18	8/ 1/18	No	2	5%
Pitts, Rance	Pvt. C	2,863,247	5/ 3/18	7/14/19	Yes	1	0
Pistols, Tom	Pvt. W	2,591,738	5/11/18	2/22/19	No	1	0
Plunket, Pascal	Pvt. C	3,785,235	7/19/18	12/16/18	No	1	0
Polk, Ulysses	Pvt. C	2,863,246	5/3/18	7/26/19	Yes	1	0



Porter, Leon L.	Mus. 2cl	W	2,591,700	5/11/18	2/22/19	No	1	0
Powell, Isom	Pvt.	C	2,127,839	3/ 5/18	6/13/19	No	1	0
Prentice Alonzo	Pvt.	C	2,128,193	3/ 5/18	3/13/19	No	1	0
Promese, Jim	Pvt.	C	2,128,338	3/ 5/18	7/15/19	Yes	1	0
Provine, Rubin L.	Pvt.	W	1,546,848	5/ 8/18	6/26/19	Yes	1	0
Purvis, Hoses	Pvt.	C	2,204,143	3/31/18	7/ 6/19	Yes	1	0

Rainey, Tommy L.	Pvt.	W	2,871,167	3/27/18	5/24/19	Yes	1	0
Rains, Claude V.	1cl Pvt.	W	1,585,645	6/ 3/17	12/ 7/18	No	1	0
Ranson, Jesse	Cook	C	2,127,837	3/ 3/18	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Red, Jeff	1cl Pvt.	C	4,503,213	9/ 1/18	4/17/19	No	1	0
Reed, Manboy	Pvt.	C	4,298,792	8/23/18	7/18/19	Yes	1	0
Richardson, Clyde	1cl Pvt.	C	3,754,562	7/29/18	12/23/18	No	1	0
Riley, J. B.	Pvt.	C	3,843,338	5/10/18	7/19/19	Yes	1	0
Robb, McCarty C.	1cl Pvt.	W	3,872,637	7/22/18	4/17/19	Yes	1	0
Robinzine, Edward	Corp	C	2,128,249	3/ 5/18	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Robison, Jessie	1cl Pvt.	C	231,845	10/ 1/17	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Rogers, John B.	1cl Pvt.	W	2,128,207	3/ 6/18	5/23/19	No	1	0
Ross, George L.	Ord Sgt	W	2,173,760	12/15/17	5/20/19	Yes	1	0
Rounsonville, Edgar	1cl Pvt.	C	3,785,168	7/10/18	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Rowe, James Edward	Pvt.	W	4,298,531	8/ 9/18	3/29/19	Yes	1	0
Rowell, Jessie	Pvt.	C	4,919,489	9/ 5/18	12/7 /18	No	1	0
Rudd, James M.	1cl Pvt.	C	3,331,306	6/22/18	7/ 5/19	Yes	1	0

Sanders, William	Pvt.	C	2,128,160	3/ 5/18	6/13/18	No	2	33 1/2
Sanford, Cletus B.	Pvt.	W	3,872,541	7/19/18	2/ 1/19	No	1	0
Sanford, Island	Pvt.	C	2,128,237	3/ 5/18	7/10/19	Yes	1	0
Scanlon, Columbus	Pvt.	C	2,128,231	3/ 5/18	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Scott, Herman R.	Corp	W	2,564,063	5/ 3/18	6/ 5/19	No	1	0
Sharp, Claude G.	1cl Pvt.	W	1,562,264	5/27/18	6/ 7/19	Yes	1	0
Shaw, Tim Jr.	Pvt.	C	2,128,169	3/ 5/18	12/21/18	No	1	0
Shaw, William H.	Sgt.	W	2,128,205	3/ 6/18	4/ 9/19	No	1	0
Shewbert, James C.	Hs	W	3,714,434	7/21/18	2/ 7/19	No	1	0
Shirley, Ellison	Pvt.	C	2,345,369	10/6 /17	3/22/18	No	2	33 1/2
Sims, Robert	1cl Pvt.	C	2,208,613	3/31/18	7/14/19	Yes	1	0
Sisson, George	Pvt.	C	2,204,271	3/31/18	7/12/19	Yes	1	0
Sledge, Arthur	1cl Pvt.	C	2,128,153	3/ 5/18	7/10/19	Yes	1	0
Small, Ollie	Pvt.	C	3,785,091	7/19/18	4/28/19	Yes	1	0
Small, William	Corp	C	2,128,161	3/ 5/18	7/10/19	Yes	1	0
Smart, Frank B.	Pvt.	W	1,152,021	11/10/18	12/10/18	No	1	0
Smith, Eddie	Pvt.	C	4,503,244	9/ 1/18	2/15/19	No	1	0
Smith, George C.	Bglr.	W	1,585,267	6/ 5/17	5/27/19	Yes	1	0
Smith, Henry W.	1cl Pvt.	W	1,585,297	5/31/17	8/18/19	Yes	9	0
Smith, Jessie	Pvt.	C	4,503,122	9/ 1/18	8/ 7/19	Yes	1	0
Smith, Jim	Pvt.	C	2,126,419	5/4 /18	12/21/18	No	1	0

Smith, Joe	Pvt.	C	2,204,260	3/31/18	7/14/19	Yes	1	0
Smith, John	Pvt.	C	3,786,120	7/19/18	1/18/19	No	1	0
Smith, John W.	Pvt.	C	3,847,492	8/21/18	12/13/18	No	1	0
Smith, Lawrence	Pvt.	C	4,922,190	9/ 9/18	1/17/19	No	1	0
Smith, Ollie	Pvt.	C	3,785,091	7/12/18	4/26/19	Yes	1	0
Smith, Thomas J.	1cl Pvt.	C	3,331,355	6/22/18	7/ 5/19	Yes	1	0
Smith, Will	1cl Bvt.	C	4,503,278	9/ 1/18	8/ 7/19	Yes	1	0
Smithen, Haynes	Pvt.	C	4,922,213	9/ 9/18	8/11/19	Yes	1	0
Sorrels, Charlie	Pvt.	W	3,824,847	9/ 3/18	2/ 1/19	No	1	0
Spearman, Fesser	Pvt.	C	230,117	10/ 6/17	7/24/19	Yes	1	0
Spencer, Henry W. and	Lt	W	Off	5/31/17	3/21/19	No	0	0
Springer, Andrew	Pvt.	C	3,785,144	7/19/18	12/18/18	No	1	0
Stafford, John P.	Pvt.	W	2,131,435	4/ 2/18	7/25/19	Yes	9	25%
Stanley, James	Pvt.	C	2,128,228	3/ 5/18	7/18/19	Yes	1	0
Stanley, Andrew	Pvt.	C	3,785,166	7/19/18	11/27/18	No	1	0
Stennis, Louis E.R.	Pvt.	C	2,773,581	8/ 1/18	12/13/18	No	1	0
Stephenson, Fred	Pvt.	C	2,128,167	3/ 5/18	7/17/19	Yes	1	0
Stewart, Carlyle W.	Pvt.	W	2,923,540	5/11/18	3/28/19	Yes	1	0
Stewart, Emmett M.	1cl Pvt.	W	1,586,493	5/31/17	9/28/19	Yes	1	0
Stokes, Cleveland	Pvt.	C	2,204,285	3/31/18	7/16/19	Yes	1	0
Stewart, James	1cl Pvt.	C	2,128,165	3/ 6/18	7/24/19	Yes	1	0
Stone, Joseph B.	Capt	W	Off	9/14/18	11/30/20	Yes	-	0
Strickland, John	Pvt.	C	4,505,328	9/ 1/18	12/16/18	No	1	0
Strickland, Page M.	Pvt.	W	1,562,265	5/27/18	3/ 8/19	Yes	1	0
Strickland, William N.	Pvt.	W	156,755	5/23/17	7/ 8/19	Yes	1	0
Striegel, Laudaline	1cl Pvt.	W	2,871,155	5/27/18	12/23/18	No	1	0
Strong, Gus	Pvt.	C	2,127,844	3/ 5/18	9/4 /19	No	1	0
Summers, Willie	Pvt.	C	2,863,243	5/ 3/18	7/18/19	Yes	1	0
Surrett, Christofer	Pvt.	C	4,503,262	9/ 1/18	8/ 8/19	Yes	1	0
Suttle, Crawford	Pvt.	C	230,130	10/ 7/17	7/24/19	Yes	1	0
Sykes, Fred	Pvt.	C	4,298,794	8/23/18	1/25/19	No	1	0

Tabb, James Cullen	Pvt.	W	5,583,886	10/30/18	12/11/18	No	1	0
Tabor, Ben	Pvt.	C	4,503,221	9/ 1/18	11/23/18	No	2	SCD
Taber, Edmon	Pvt.	C	4,505,162	9/ 1/18	8/8 /19	Yes	1	0
Talbert, Eddie	Pvt.	C	2,208,615	3/31/18	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Tate, Nelson	Pvt.	C	2,128,170	3/ 5/18	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Taylor, Ed	Pvt.	C	4,424,899	9/27/18	10/7 /18	No	8	Died
Taylor, Henry	Pvt.	C	3,331,733	6/22/18	10/14/18	No	2	10%
Taylor, J. P.	Pvt.	C	2,192,493	3/31/18	3/15/19	Yes	1	0
Taylor, Lee	Pvt.	C	2,127,831	3/ 5/18	12/23/18	No	1	0
Taylor, Lee	Pvt.	C	3,331,288	6/22/18	9/10/18	No	3	25%
Templeton, William C.	Pvt.	W	1,603,141	9/22/17	2/22/19	No	1	0
Terrel, James	Pvt.	C	3,785,077	7/19/18	10/ 9/18	No	2	20%
Thompson, Hisikiah	Pvt.	C	2,204,288	3/31/18	7/ 9/18	Yes	1	0
Thompson, Isreal	Pvt.	C	3,785,067	7/19/19	5/10/19	Yes	1	0
Thompson, Martin	1cl Pvt.	C	2,128,168	3/ 5/18	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0



Thompson, Sam	Pvt	C	4,503,190	9/ 1/18	2/18/19	Yes	1	0
Thornton, Ceaser	Pvt	C	3,785,138	7/19/18	8/ 7/19	Yes	1	0
Thornton, John	Pvt	C	4,922,198	9/ 9/18	8/11/19	Yes	1	0
Threet, Jim	Pvt	C	4,503,179	9/ 1/18	3/31/19	Yes	1	0
Tobath, Warren	Pvt	C	30,968	10/6 /17	10/20/17	No	5	-
Togiars, Grady	Pvt	C	4,503,282	9/ 1/18	8/ 8/19	Yes	1	0
Toliver, Chalmers	Pvt	C	3,785,106	7/10/18	1/18/19	No	1	0
Towns, Floyd	Pvt	C	2,208,617	3/31/18	4/22/18	No	5	0
Tucker, John	Pvt	C	4,503,225	9/ 1/18	8/7 /19	Yes	1	0
Turner, George A.	Corp	W	2,915,328	5/16/18	5/26/19	No	1	0
Turner, James M.	2nd Lt	W	Off	10/ 9/18	2/8 /19	No	-	0
Turner, John T.	2nd Lt	W	Off	9/20/18	12/28/18	No	-	0
Turner, Williams S.	Pvt	W	1,567,337	5/27/18	8/18/19	Yes	1	0
Turner, Willie	Pvt	C	4,503,567	9/ 1/18	11/29/18	No	1	0
Tutt, John	Pvt	C	4,298,797	8/23/18	3/11/19	No	1	0
Twiley, Buddy	1cl Pvt	C	231,946	10/ 1/17	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Tyson, Luke	Pvt	W	3,824,848	9/ 3/18	12/ 7/18	No	1	0
Wadkins, Phenix	Pvt	C	4,298,798	8/23/18	2/18/19	Yes	1	0
Wadlington, Ethel	Pvt	C	4,503,189	9/ 1/18	8/ 8/19	Yes	1	0
Wadlington, Lee	Pvt	C	4,503,155	9/ 1/18	12/16/18	No	1	0
Walker, Cornelius	Pvt	C	3,331,608	6/22/18	7/ 5/19	Yes	1	0
Walker, John	Pvt	C	2,127,850	3/ 5/18	7/23/19	No	2	25%
Ward, Elmer L.	Pvt	W	1,565,379	6/ 3/17	5/27/19	Yes	1	0
Ward, Landry	Pvt	C	2,208,624	3/31/18	7/28/18	No	2	50%
Ward, Tom	Pvt	C	2,130,941	3/25/18	7/ 1/19	Yes	1	0
Warren, Henry	Pvt	C	4,503,193	9/ 1/18	8/ 7/19	Yes	1	0
Washington, Jim	Pvt	C	3,271,600	6/21/18	12/11/18	No	2	30%
Watkins, Kelly	Pvt	C	231,952	10/ 6/17	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Watson, Jesse	Pvt	C	3,785,264	7/19/18	8/21/18	No	3	SCD
Watson, William E.	Corp	W	1,602,906	9/ 9/17	5/20/19	Yes	1	0
Weathersby, Walter	Pvt	C	4,770,659	8/22/18	12/13/18	No	1	0
Weathington Johnny	Pvt	C	NSN	10/ 6/17	1/11/18	No	2	75%
Weaver, Rollin	Pvt	C	2,128,239	3/ 5/18	7/24/19	Yes	1	0
Wells, Eddie	Pvt	C	4,298,799	8/23/18	12/14/18	No	1	0
Wells, Rushing	Sgt	W	2,128,210	3/ 6/18	8/13/19	Yes	1	0
White, Amos G.	Sgt	W	1,591,700	8/23/17	3/21/19	No	1	0
White, Anderson	Pvt	C	2,204,462	3/31/18	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
White, Edgar M.	Wag	W	3,869,627	7/15/18	3/ 6/19	No	1	0
White, Howard	Pvt	C	2,863,232	5/ 3/18	7/26/19	Yes	1	0
White, James	1cl Pvt	C	2,128,162	3/ 5/18	7/15/19	Yes	1	0
White, Monroe	Pvt	C	4,503,283	9/ 1/18	8/28/19	Yes	1	0
White, Nathan	Corp	C	2,879,584	7/16/18	8/ 8/19	Yes	1	0
White, Will	1cl Pvt	C	3,331,290	6/22/18	5/29/19	No	1	0
Whitehead, Henri M.	Pvt	W	1,606,583	9/ 4/17	7/11/19	Yes	1	0
Whitehead, Lee	Pvt	C	229,574	10/ 6/17	7/18/19	Yes	1	0
Whitten, Atlas	Pvt	C	2,218,229	3/ 5/18	3/ 5/18	No	1	0

Whitwell, Elbert M.	Pvt	W	5,583,924	10/30/18	12/14/18	No	1	0
Wiggins, Beverly K.	Sgt 1cl	W	1,545,672	4/ 4/19	7/21/19	Yes	1	0
Williams, Albert	Pvt	C	2,863,231	5/ 5/18	12/ 4/18	No	2	30%
Williams, Chris C.	Pvt	C	2,128,158	3/ 5/18	7/ 8/19	Yes	1	0
Williams, Ed	Pvt	C	4,503,253	9/ 1/18	8/ 7/19	Yes	1	0
Williams, Edmond	Pvt	C	231,197	10/ 6/17	6/ 7/19	Yes	1	0
Williams, Henry	Pvt	C	2,128,221	3/ 5/18	6/10/19	No	1	0
Williams, Jessie	Pvt	C	2,127,840	3/ 5/18	6/22/18	No	2	33 1/3%
Williams, Jim	Corp	C	4,505,709	9/ 1/18	7/18/19	Yes	1	0
Williams, John	Pvt	C	NSN	7/18/19	8/ 9/18	No	2	SCD
Williams, Leroy	Pvt	C	4,302,550	9/14/18	1/28/19	No	1	0
Williams, Quince	Mec	C	3,785,187	7/19/18	8/ 7/19	Yes	1	0
Williams, Wallace	Corp	C	231,180	10/ 1/17	7/25/19	Yes	1	0
Williams, Walter	Pvt	C	2,863,234	5/ 3/18	5/16/19	No	5	0
Williams, Willie	Pvt	C	3,786,173	7/19/18	8/22/18	No	1	33 1/3%
Williby, Hugh	Pvt	C	4,503,343	9/ 1/18	11/27/18	No	1	0
Willis, Randolph	Wag	W	1,603,347	9/22/17	10/13/18	Yes	8	Died
Wilson, Clifford 1cl	Pvt	C	2,128,227	3/5 /18	8/ 2/19	Yes	1	0
Wilson, Grant 1cl	Pvt	C	2,127,827	3/ 5/18	7/26/19	Yes	1	0
Wilson, Jim	Pvt	C	5,874,207	7/31/18	12/ 6/18	No	1	0
Wilson, John	Pvt	C	2,128,197	3/ 5/18	1/ 2/19	No	2	25%
Wimberly, Oscar	Pvt	C	4,503,200	9/ 1/18	10/13/19	Yes	1	0
Wofford, Ben I.	Pvt	W	1,606,586	10/ 6/17	7/11/19	Yes	1	0
Wright, Earl L	Sgt	W	785,091	6/22/18	3/28/19	No	1	0
Wright, Merrell	Pvt	C	3,824,844	9/3/ 18	12/18/18	No	1	0
Yarbrough, Dave	Pvt	C	2,204,466	3/31/18	3/28/19	Yes	1	0
Young, Ben	Pvt	C	2,204,465	3/31/18	7/ 9/19	Yes	1	0
Young, Clinton	Pvt	C	4,503,212	9/ 1/18	8/ 7/19	Yes	1	0
Young, Lawrence	Pvt	C	2,128,199	3/ 5/18	6/17/18	No	2	33 1/3%



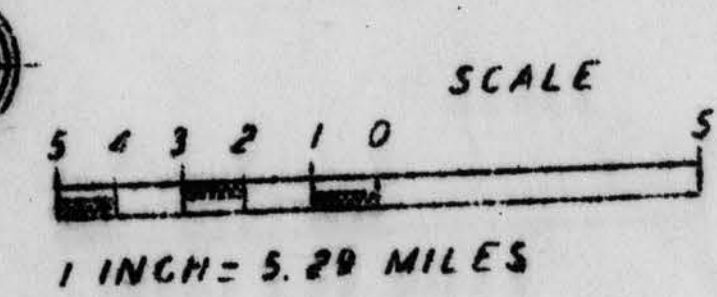
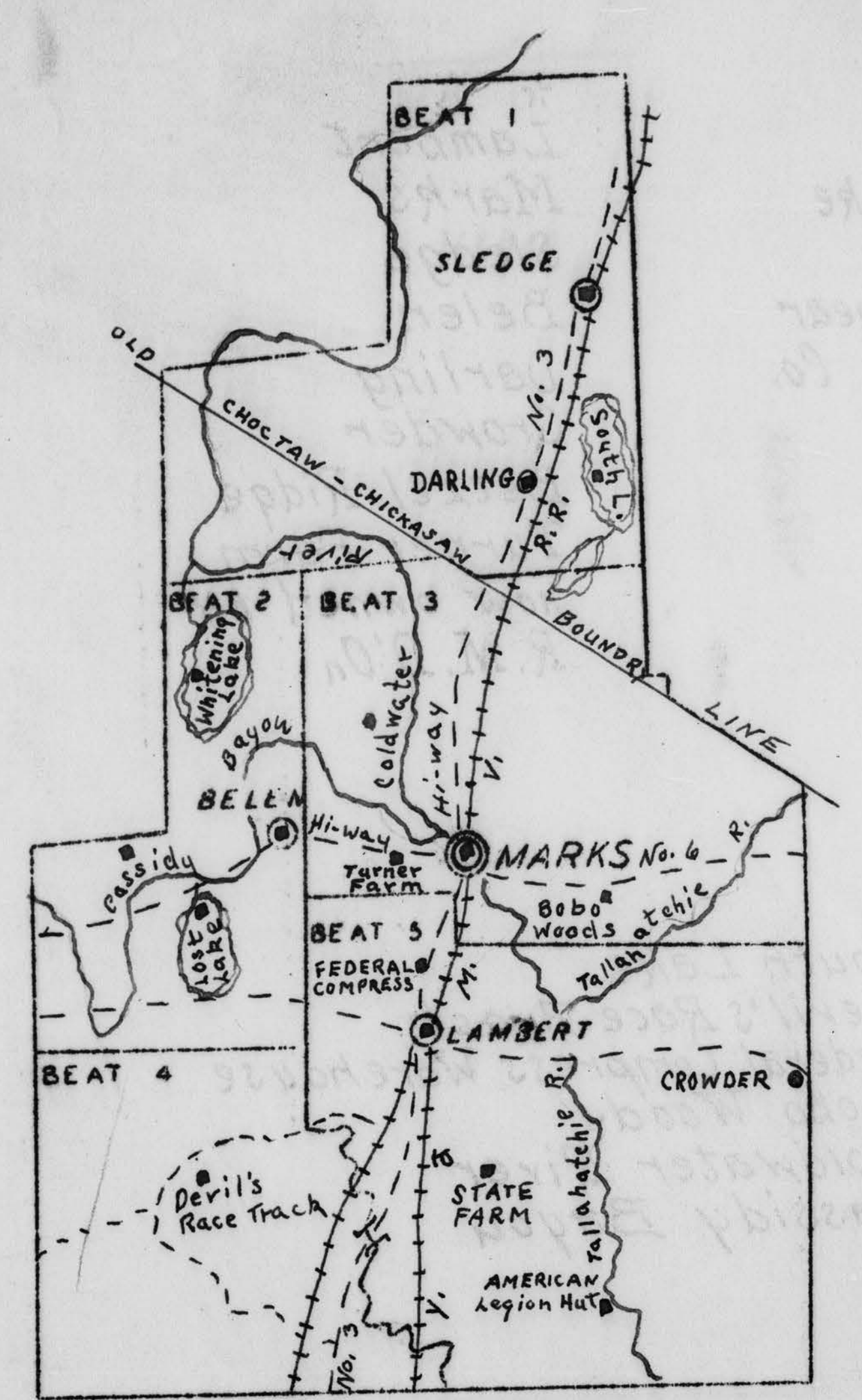
# Marines

Name	Rank	Serial Number	Date Enlisted	Date Discharged
Boone, William D.	Electn. lcl R.	112-50-67	7/10/17	9/18/19
Brougher, Theophilus C.		111-082	7/19/18	8/9/19
Cade, Roy W.	Fireman 3cl	120-01-07	12/28/17	11/11/18
Caswell, Marcus D.	Aprnts, Seaman	120-88-60	6/17/18	1/31/19
Chorley, Eugene C.		105-561	12/19/17	5/27/19
George, Charles P.	Pvt.lcl	135-208	7/28/18	12/20/19
Greer, Frederick Z.		122-184	6/8/18	8/13/19
Jamison, Arthur	Seaman	154-26-73	6/18/18	12/17/18
Johnson, Corrine A.	Yeoman 3cl	154-60-76		6/9/19
Johnson, James D.	Corporal	105-321	12/15/17	6/25/18
Labarreare, William L		114-438	5/3/18	3/31/19
McGee, Joe		105-324	12/15/17	6/11/18
McMahon, James W.	Fireman 3cl	186-39-41	6/5/18	9/26/18
Nobles, Fred W.	Fireman 3cl	124-30-66	6/4/18	1/24/19
Porter, Tommy W.		105-327	12/15/17	5/31/19
Porter, William W.	Seaman	153-59-89	6/26/18	9/23/19
Prestidge, John B.	Aprnts, Seaman	153-79-01	6/3/17	12/17/18
Smith, Reland R.		105-337	12/15/17	1/21/19
Stewart, William A.	Shipwright	194-26-98	8/27/17	1/9/19
Taylor, Charlie H.		111-096	4/7/18	2/28/19
Thomas, Lawrence T.	Aprnts. Seaman	190-35-70	11/30/17	4/15/18
Walthall, William O.		884-57		4/21/19
Warrington, Richard K.	Seaman 2cl	163-01-06	2/14/18	6/11/19
West, Robert R.	Carpenters M.lcl	163-64-99	4/22/17	10/8/19
Woodyear, Carl N.	Aprnts Seaman	164-82-30	6/4/18	2/21/19



Name	Rank	Serial Number	Date	Remarks
Woods, William H.	Private	11-001	11-001	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-002	11-002	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-003	11-003	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-004	11-004	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-005	11-005	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-006	11-006	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-007	11-007	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-008	11-008	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-009	11-009	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-010	11-010	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-011	11-011	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-012	11-012	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-013	11-013	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-014	11-014	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-015	11-015	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-016	11-016	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-017	11-017	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-018	11-018	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-019	11-019	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-020	11-020	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-021	11-021	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-022	11-022	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-023	11-023	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-024	11-024	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-025	11-025	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-026	11-026	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-027	11-027	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-028	11-028	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-029	11-029	
Woods, William H.	Private	11-030	11-030	

# QUITMAN



AREA 395 SQ. MI.

- LEGEND-**
- Historical Places
  - Highways
  - County Roads
  - Railroads
  - Streams
  - Lakes

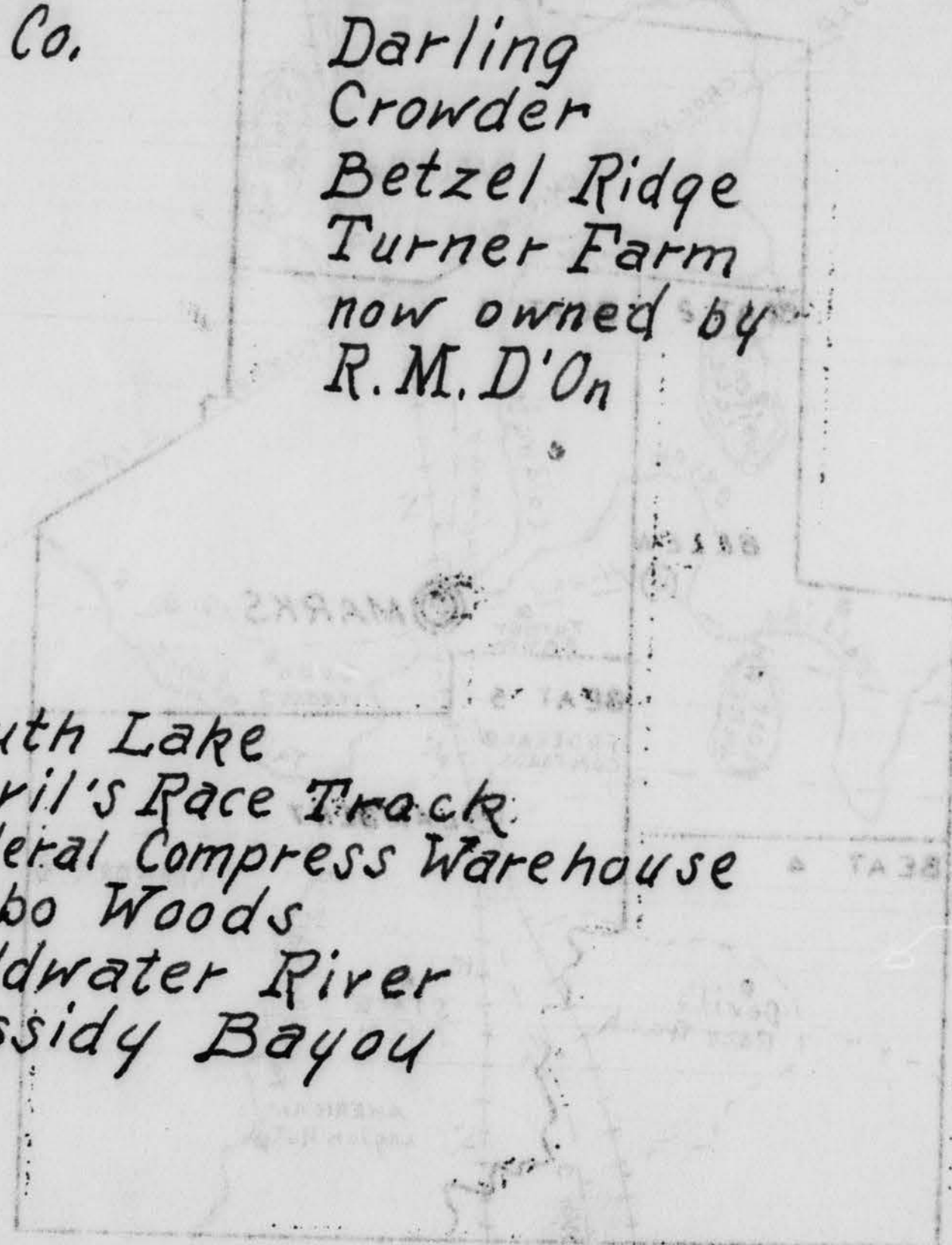


# WAMTUQ

\*\*\*  
 Lost Lake  
 Whitening Lake  
 State Farm  
 Legion Hut near  
 Tallahatchie Co.  
 Line

\*\*  
 Lambert  
 Marks  
 Sledge  
 Belen  
 Darling  
 Crowder  
 Betzel Ridge  
 Turner Farm  
 now owned by  
 R.M.D'On

\*  
 South Lake  
 Devil's Race Track  
 Federal Compress Warehouse  
 Bobo Woods  
 Coldwater River  
 Cassidy Bayou



LEGEND  
 Historical Places  
 Highways  
 County Roads  
 Railroads  
 Streams  
 Lakes

SCALE  
 1 INCH = 2.58 MILES  
 AREA 382.30 MI.



Supplementary material not included in  
the bound volume.

I.

September 21, 1936

SR-3991

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT  
QUITMAN COUNTY

DWO-529

OUTLAW DAYS; Assignment #14

Myrtle Hubbert

Laura Alice Bryan

Project No. 2984

I. Gang and Feud Leaders

None

II Riots

Shortly after the "Elaine Riot" in Arkansas in 1919, the negroes in Marks, Mississippi were making preparation to kill all the white women and children in the county. Vague rumors were whispered about, and on the night of the planned riot, Will Benson, Negro teacher, went to the officials and told of the uprising. The alarm was spread to all the towns, warning the inhabitants, and telling them to be armed and ready for the attack.

When the Lambert night-watchman, W. W. Davis, waked the citizens and told them of the expected riot, entire families quickly dressed, loaded guns and pistols, and began planning ways to protect the women and children.

The sheriff immediately deputized fifteen or twenty men to go to the negro quarters, search their homes and put the negroes under arrest. Sixty loaded guns were found in one home.

Although there was little cause for alarm, this was no trifling affair.

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III. "White Caps and Bull Doozers"

None



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## IV. Saloon Days

In Quitman County saloon days began about 1900 and lasted legally until January 1909 when Mississippi was the first state to go "Bone dry". There were nine saloons in the county. One in Sabino, one in Marks, and four in Lambert. The big liquor interest of the people resulted in the saloons having the finest equipment--brass fixtures, the best of tables, and glass appointments. These were kept shining by porters.

All of the saloons were built and operated similar to the main one in Lambert, which was located at the railroad crossing facing the depot. The location made it convenient for passengers to rush from trains get liquor hurriedly and dash back before being left. Passing through the entrance into the main barroom, one's attention was quickly drawn to a plate glass that covered the entire side of the room. This mirror was valued at twenty-five hundred dollars, (\$2500.00). Almost as ornamental were the bars with highly polished brass rails at which, the white people did their drinking. Back of this room were two rooms; the wine room for women which was patronized mostly by prostitutes; the other was the room for hilarious drunks. Oftentimes when a drunk customer got too boisterous, the proprietor offered a drink on the house. Although his glass was exactly like the others, it contained several "knock out drops". When the potion was drunk and the customer rendered helpless, he was immediately put to bed and made comfortable for the time being. Above the hilarious drunks, far to the back was a gambling room equipped with poker and dice tables. Often coming through the town were professional gamblers who "made" the

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little towns. Many times because of their cheating they were immediately run out of town for there was honor among gamblers even. Such instances made killing common.

These days with all of their wickedness had humor and pathos. The better class of women never ventured from their homes on the street after dark due to disturbances there. Truly was this a world for men. The better class of men would come and drink moderately as we today go for Coca Colas. Once a week there was a big dance with an orchestra from Memphis. On these nights, strange as it may seem, the saloon keepers closed their establishments at midnight and went to the dance.

Many of the people who frequented the saloons gave interest to the days. One customer was an old man who had been left bald headed and eye-browless as a result of typhoid fever. Every day he slipped from his grocery store and went to the saloon where he could get drunk and proceed to have a "good time". Finally someone would shout, "Here comes your wife." This was followed by a scramble. She would seize a chair, bottle, or what was nearest and hit him or anyone else in her path. He was one drunk customer that was never put to bed for when his wife appeared, he made a bee-line for home.

The main business was logging timber that grew plentifully in this part of the country. The men worked steers mostly, though mules were used also. These drivers would "blow in" forty or fifty dollars at once on Saturday night in the bar rooms and gambling room. The bosses darried as



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much as five hundred dollars on themselves. One man was seen to wager twenty-five hundred dollars on one throw of dice and win. Each driver would leave town with a week's supply of liquor, which he carried in jugs, covered with tow sacks across a mule's back. Then came farmers to get their week's ration of liquor regularly and sometimes the liquor was worth more than the groceries. A saloon keeper remarked one day when he saw a man going home with a sack of flour on his shoulder, "That dunce has a sack of flour on his back but I bet he hasn't a drink of liquor in his house!"

Education and religion were neglected while the people spent their time as well as money in riotous living. In contrast to the wealth and interest of the saloons were one room school houses with the poorest of equipment; as for religion there were no churches, or small ones where Circuit riders would preach.

Election days usually meant killings. One death occurred as a result of a sheriff's election. The ballot was synonymous with liquor, quarrels, and guns.

During these days the barber shop brings to our minds another picture of wickedness. Every man carried his pistol and took it from his hip pocket and placed it on the shelf with the barber tools. One could see as many as twenty-five guns at one time on the shelf.

The above custom added to whiskey explains to one why the county was known for liquor and killing.

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#### V. Early Horse Thieves and Cattle Rustlers.

Since the beginning of the county cattle thieves have been one of the greatest problems. One cause of this was that the county had no stock laws. Assuming themselves as cattle and stock buyers these thieves would go into open woods and drive a herd of cattle away to an adjoining state and sell them. Usually on their return to this county, another herd of horses and cows was stolen and sold here.

We recall an instance in this county of a horse thief leader, Mr. G. B. Stribbler, that used the assumed name, T. E. Edwards, who branded stolen horses which he sold in other states. He earned his living in this dishonest manner until his death twelve years ago.

Some of the thieves drove their cattle to Friars Point and other boat landings where they were loaded on a boat and carried away to be sold.

At the present time the thieves have a quicker method of transportation, of the cattle (which is called trucking). These thieves are so bold that they often drive to barnyards and load the cattle in trucks which they carry away for sale.

Laws have not been able to solve this problem. The last court record shows that there were five men sent to the penitentiary for three to five years for stealing cattle in this county.

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#### VI. Periodic Outlaws and Deserters

The court records do not show names of outlaws in this county but several of the pioneers tell us they existed. Occasional.



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man was found dead, and his murderer would hide in the woods from the officers. When hunger overcame him, he left his hiding place long enough to go to a farm-house for food.

Out of the large number from Quitman County who enlisted their services in the World War, we have records of but two deserters. One boy from Lambert left Camp Pike but was captured and taken back into the army on his good behavior. The other deserter was a young man from Marks who joined Captain C. B. Nelson's Company at Crenshaw. He was captured and sent to Ft. Leavenworth until the armistice was signed.

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## VII. Kidnappers

None

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## VIII. General Method of Extermination

The foregoing description of the happenings in Quitman County would not lead one to believe that it is one of the most progressive counties of today. Still such is true owing to the extermination of the evil condition as told above. This we owe to laws. By them fences were required for the enclosure of cattle and horses, thereby discouraging the thieves of such. In January 1909 rumors began that Mississippi would soon be a dry state. The saloons were heavily insured. The keepers realized their days would soon be in the past. Saloons were burned to the ground in some

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instances. Because of the heavy penalty put on one by the state law for making, selling, or possessing liquor, the saloon became extinct. Today the interest of the people is found in modern consolidated schools and the beautiful churches any county would be proud of.

*Sup. Mrs. Blanchard Ingram*  
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Suppliment to OUTLAW DAYS

SALOON DAYS

The people of Lambert were greatly distressed over broken homes, suffering children and broken hearts during the saloon days. The women organized and decided to "clean up" the town.

This resulted in each member of the organization being subpoenaed to appear before the kangaroo court. They refused to appear because Judge P. H. Lowrey said they were right in all they had done.

During this time the Methodist Church was being built, and as a result of this "clean-up", the Methodists received abuse that tried their faith. Obscene poetry was published and tacked on the church door, ribald songs were sung, and the pastor was ordered out of town. He refused to go.

*Mrs. Blanchard Ingram*  
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QUITMAN COUNTY