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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.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
For
Mississippi

Source Material
For
Mississippi History

Preliminary Manuscript

Simpson County

Volume LXIV

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

ASSIGNMENT # 2

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
SIMPSON COUNTY

Callie Thames-Canvasser.

- (a) Simpson County was organized January 23, 1824, and named in honor of Josiah Simpson.
- (b) It was part of the Choctaw cession of 1820. Termed the new purchase, and subsequently formed the Eastern part of Copiah. (Erected in 1823)

(1) Shape:

The shape of the county is almost Rectangular.

(2) Size:

Has a present area 575 square miles.

(3) Boundaries:

The original boundaires are the same as to-day with the exception of Jefferson Davis which is now part of the boundary.

It is bounded on the north by Rankin and Smith Counties; on the east the old Choctaw Indian line of 1820 divides it from Smith county. On the south the Choctaw boundary line of 1805, divides it from Lawrence, Jefferson Davis and Covington counties on the west in Copiah county. The Pearl River forming the dividing line.

(4) Name:

The county was named for Josiah Simpson, Territorial Judge. Who was a native of Pennsylvania. Educated at Princeton and after reading law engaged in the practice of that profession. He was appointed Territorial Judge to succeed Judge Fitts, the record's show his home as being at Green Hill near Natchez afterward known as Devereaux Hall, one of the oldest historical homes of Natchez.

Josiah Simpson is credited as being a vigorous, intelligent student very methodical in his habits with great purity of character and simplicity of manner.

ASSIGNMENT # 2

(5) County Seat's:

In 1827 the villiage of Westville was made the seat of Justice.

This villiage was named for Colonel Cato West *Who?* and is located in the western part of the county.

The first court house erected. (a frame building) destroyed by fire in 1844- In 1846 a brick court house was built, which burned in 1872. In 1874 another brick building *was erected at a cost of about \$1000* In 1900 Mendenhall *was erected* site. But five years later the State Supreme Court ordered it relocated in Westville, until an election could be held determining the permanent location. In this election held July 12, 1906 it was decreed by a majority vote that Mendenhall should there after be the permanent seat of government. The present Court house was erected in 1907.

(There is nothing to mark the spot of what was the original county Seat. However the Federated Club women of the county, have asked the Board of Supervisors for \$300.00 with which to erect a marker where the Court house stood. This request was granted and in the fall of 1936, work will begin. This marker is to be made of native stone.)

The present County Seat of Mendenhall was called Edna in 1900, But in 1901 the name was changed to Mendenhall in honor of Tom. L. Mendenhall famous lawyer and pioneer leader of development in Simpson County in earlier days.

(see more about early history of Mendenhall)

(6) Early Settlement:

Mrs. J. H. Baker
Historical Reaserch Supervisor
Simpson County

CONCLUSION OF ASSIGNMENT # 2

Early Settlements:

From John La Tourratte Map of Mississippi, of 1839.

- Westville.
- (1) We find Fayette Hill, ten miles NE of
 - (2) White Oak Spring NE of the County.
 - (3) Mill Haven located on Camphill Creek.
 - (4) Old Jaynesville in the southern part of the county.
 - (5) *n*

From U.S.A. Official Register we find in 1859.

- (1) Harrisville in NW part of the County.
- (2) Mt Zion in SE part of county.
- (3) New Dublin and Old Hickory NE part of county.
- (4) And Westville the original County Seat, located in West part of county.
- (5) Sanders Creek SE part of county.

At theses last five places, the United States Post Offices were located.

Mrs. J. H. Baker
Supervisor Historical Research Project
Simpson County

SIMPSON COUNTY
SUPPLEMENT TO ASSIGNMENT #2 (TWO)

(Add to "Early Settlements" on page 6)

Thomas L. Mendenhall was born August 19, 1832 in Anson County, North Carolina. He died of "Septaemia" at his residence in Westville, Mississippi, January 21, 1895, and was married to Miss Lenicy Brent June 3, 1857.

Thomas L. Mendenhall
The subject of this sketch was in many respects one of the most remarkable men in Simpson County. *He was born in Anson County, North Carolina, and married Lenicy Brent June 3, 1857.* *T. L. Mendenhall* was elected Circuit and Chancery Clerk of Simpson County in 1854, which office he held continuously until 1866, being displaced by the ~~radical~~ Carpet-Bag Regime. In 1872 he was elected to the State Senate and was one of the few Democrats in that body who assisted in staying bad legislation; also, in the succeeding session, greatly assisted in overthrowing the ~~Ames~~ *radical* crew, and restoring Mississippi once more to the rule of her own people. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1890.

Thomas L.
Mr. Mendenhall was the father of two children, a son who died while an infant, and a daughter who lived to be four years of age. He reared *five children who are men and women* the following children, to whom they are grateful: Thomas Brent Durr, *who is now an old bachelor*, Emanuel Alexander, who married Emanda Brenson, Emma Loraine Durr who married Major W. M. Lofton; Nattie Durr *who* married Kiley Thames, *and* Carrie Durr *who* married Ed Walker.

To his family he was always kind and courteous; *as a true* a friend, always real and tangible, possessing that sterling integrity so characteristic of his Carolina tutoring, which assisted him in acting as a "true man."

He died at his home in Westville, January 21, 1895.
Ref. Simpson County News and Records in Southville.

HISTORY OF SIMPSON COUNTY
CHAPTER 1

OBTAINED

Simpson County was organized January 23, 1824. It was part of the Choctaw Cession of 1820, termed the "new purchase", and subsequently formed the Eastern part of Copiah.

SHAPE AND SIZE

The shape of the County is almost rectangular, having an irregular boundary on the west. Its present area is 575 square miles.

BOUNDARY

The original boundaries are the same as today, with the exception of Jefferson Davis ^{County,} which is now a part of the boundary. It is bounded on the North by Rankin and Smith Counties; on the East by the Old Choctaw Indian line of 1820 divides it from Lawrence, Jefferson Davis and Covington Counties ^{on the South;} on the west ^{is} Copiah County. The Pearl River forming the dividing line.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
SIMPSON COUNTY

CALLIE THAMES, JANIE BOND
Convassers

COUNTY HISTORY

Assignment 13

1. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:

1. Pioneers:

- (a) In an interview with Mrs. Cassie May Boggan, we find that Millhaven is one of the old settlements of ^{Simpson} the county, and was the site of the old Jaynes Saw-Mill. This property ~~now~~ belongs to the May Estate. Mrs. Boggan's father, W. R. May, having purchased this ~~as the Old Jaynes estate~~ in 1872. ^{It} This is located on Strong River just at the river bridge at D'Lo.

~~From Mrs. Boggan we learn that there was a small~~
^{crude} mill located here; no doubt, a crude affair, but much of the lumber that was used in the Old Capitol Building, and many buildings in Brandon, where the Jaynes Family lived, was sawed at this mill and hauled by ox-team to the place that is mentioned.

Mr. Lewis C. Gibson, who was connected by marriage to the May family, hauled most of this lumber to Jackson for the Old Capitol Building.

~~From Mrs. Boggan we also learn the facts concerning~~

SIMPSON COUNTY, FORMATION

Ref. to House May 1934

Old Westville, the first County Seat of Simpson County, where some of Simpson County's most noted men and women went to school at the Old Westville Academy. Among them ^{were} being the children of W. H. May. One of them, ^{being} George H. May, prominent lawyer in Jackson; Another was Mrs. Boggan, a pioneer educator in the State, and Mr. Nora Cook, Past President of the Mississippi Parent-Teachers-Association.

Others who helped to make ~~history~~ in Simpson County *History* were: Mr. J. F. Thames, who was ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~Chancery Clerk~~ of Simpson County in 1884, and later ~~was~~ ^{was} appointed Trustee of the State Penitentiary, where he served sixteen years. Later he was elected Highway Commissioner of the Southern District, where he served four years. He is ~~at the~~ present Superintendent of the State Penitentiary. The home of Mrs. Mary Bishop Thames, his wife, still stands near where the Court House at Old Westville stood.

Dr. R. E. Giles, County Health Officer of Simpson County, lived and attended school at Old Westville in his youth.

- (b) *Explaining House*
- In an interview with Mrs. Callie Williams Gibson, the daughter-in-law of Lewis C. Gibson comes a story of the Old Gibson home on highway 18-20 near Merit, ~~about five miles from Mendonville~~. This home, a beautiful two-story structure ^{and} was built by Lewis C. Gibson. The brick for the foundation were made in Mr. Gibson's brick ^{yard}. He cut the cypress trees from his own land for the lumber and made the plaster for the walls. The mantles and fixtures were hand-

carved. The particular rooms of the main building are standing in perfect condition. The kitchen and dining room that were standing several yards away from the building have been destroyed. (This home is now the property of A. D. Stewart, who is Executive Vice-President American Cotton Corp. of Miss.) The house is surrounded by giant magnolia and cedar trees.

OLD TURNER HOME

Ref. Mrs. Mary Turner Thames tells us of the Old Louis Turner Home, located four miles N of Huges. It is now owned by Louis Thames of Sanatorium Mississippi, who is the great grand-son of the original owner. Mr. Turner hewed the logs to erect ^{the} dwelling.

In one room the original shutters to the windows are still in use. In the other rooms glass windows have been added. The house consists of four rooms and an open hall, the kitchen and dining room have been torn away. Mr. Louis Thames and his wife, Aresta Thames, were among the first tax-payers of Simpson County.

Ref. Jimmie Melander, the great grand-son of Jim Hayes tells us that the Kitchen of the old Jim Hayes Home, Weathersby, is now standing. The immense fireplace, where all the cooking was done for the Hayes family ^{this room is used as a servants house} ~~this room is used as a servant's house and is owned by Henry Hayes of Weathersby.~~ ^{and is owned by Henry Hayes of Weathersby.}

Ref. One of the most interesting interviews was with Richmond McHair, ~~whose home is a large two-story~~

structure, ^{was} built in 1837. This home is located in what is known as Sullivan Hollow, and is surrounded by ~~plant~~ ^{live} oak trees. Mr. McNair ^{was} a pioneer school teacher. Among his pupils were five lawyers, six doctors and six ministers.

~~Mrs. Cassie May Buggen~~ ^{told} us of the Old Jones Home, ~~that~~ ^{was} built in 1840. It is located ~~about four~~ ^{about} miles ~~N~~ ^W of D'Lo, on the Pinola-Georgetown road. Mr. Jones was killed during the Civil War, ^{and} his body ~~was~~ brought back to Simpson County, and laid to rest in the Old Family Cemetery near their home.

This house is owned by William and P. B. Buggen, and is occupied by a tenant farmer. The chimneys and fireplaces were built of hand-pressed brick and the house was made of hand-planed boards.

(c) Mrs. H. P. Gates, of Mendenhall, has in her home a reproduction of "Sistine Madonna" which was painted by her father, Captain Louis Saxon Terry. Captain Terry was an artist of ~~recognized~~ ^{recognized} ability, and this particular portrait was painted as his graduating work while in the University of Pennsylvania in 1840.

(d) Miss Emma Terry, Mendenhall, has a mahogany table about 42 inches square ^{which} has a solid pedestal. The table has been handed down through three generations of the Terry Family. It was a wedding gift of Miss Emma Terry's Grandmother. The exact date is not known, but it is believed to be about 150 years old.

(d) In the home of George Shivers, ~~Shivers~~, ^{is an} ~~fine~~ ^{an} old walnut bedstead, spool pattern; this bedstead was owned by his Grandmother, Mrs. Phobia Berry Shivers, ^{and} ~~it~~ ^{was} brought from Georgia on an ox wagon ⁱⁿ ~~about~~ 1830. There are five chairs and a table that ~~Mr.~~ Shivers states were given him by ~~his~~ ^{they} Grandmother, and are ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~one hundred years~~ ¹⁰⁰ old. ~~There~~ ^{are} three pictures in hand-carved frames, all were ~~than~~ ^{more} than 100 years old but they could not give the exact date. These are portraits of their ancestors. ^{Also} in the Shivers home ~~there~~ is a mantle ~~piece~~ ^{that} was made from an old walnut bedstead that was owned at one time by Nathaniel Traylor. This, ~~the~~ ^{bedstead}, is more than ~~one hundred years~~ ¹⁰⁰ old.

~~Mr.~~ Alex Hinton, cashier of the Peoples Bank, Mendenhall, has ~~two~~ ^{two} solid walnut ladder-back chairs and a chest of drawers, also ^{solid} ~~solid~~ walnut that are ~~more~~ ^{over} than 100 years old. ~~Mr. Hinton could not give the exact date.~~

In the Relic Department in the New Capital of Jackson, there is an old hand ^{made} reel owned by ~~Mr.~~ ^{Mr.} Jim Hayes of Weatherby. This reel ~~was made in 1840 and was used before the clock-reel was made.~~ An old clock reel was made in Simpson County about 1840 and was owned by ~~by~~ Mrs. Ajesta Thames. In this Department we find ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~seven~~ coverlets, all of them made before 1870, and some of them ~~even~~ ^{even} earlier - all of them hand-woven. Mrs. Hugh Patterson, Mendenhall, has cedar chest ^{and} ~~95 years~~ ^{old.}

She is unable to give the exact date it was made.

Mr. Burkett, a pioneer citizen of Simpson County.

Made it when he was just a young boy, and if he were living he would be 110 years of age. Mrs.

Battenon states that this chest is about 95 years old.

200-YEAR-OLD
SECRETARY

In the home of Mrs. L.H. ^{May} Mendenhall, there is ^{an}

old secretary and from Mr. May and Mrs. Jessie May

Boggs we learned that this secretary has been in the

May and Jones Families for ~~about~~ 200 years. It has

been handed down from one member of the family to

another and is now owned by L. H. May. ~~They were~~

~~to give the exact date but knew that it was brought~~

to America by some of the ancestors from England.

This is one of the most beautiful pieces of furniture

that we have used. In time the legs were sawed off but

the present Mrs. Nell May has it restored to its former beauty.

B. J. Burkett, near Harrisville, has an old copper ^{Kettle of} 100-
gallon capacity ^{100-year-old} that was used for making sirup

Mr. Burkett states that it is nearly 100 years old, but he is unable to give the exact date.

Mrs. A. E. Kennedy, of Hager, has in his possession an old clock made by the Southern Clock and Case Company in St. Louis Missouri, February 15, 1876. It was set to time August 1, 1876. This clock is adorned with the day of the week and month. It was handed down from Dr. Kennedy's Mother and was first owned by his Grandmother.

Mrs. Callie Williams Gibson is the present possessor of the solid walnut four-poster beds and a cedar wardrobe.

These beds and ~~the~~ wardrobe reached the ceiling of the modern homes of today. They were brought from Mobile,

Alabama, on an ox wagon in 1863, and have been kept in

the Gibson family. Mrs. Gibson can not give the exact date when it was purchased and brought to Simpson County.

An old secretary, dining room table, a four-poster bed-

stead belonging to Mr. Lewis Gibson, ^{are} now in possession

of Mrs. Mary Gibson Calhoun. This is part of the furniture that Mr. Gibson brought from Mobile, Alabama.

2. Historians:

a. We have an old ^{Land Grant} that was made to John Turner

in 1826 signed by John Quincy Adams, President of the

United States. This ^{document} ~~land grant~~ is written on sheepskin

and is now in the possession of Mrs. Mary Thomas, whose

mother-in-law was the sister of the said John Turner.

This grant was for 60 acres of land located about four miles north of the present town of Hager.

Certificate No. 32556 was made to George. J. Jones and signed by James Buchanan, President of the United States.

The land was located ~~about 5 miles~~ east of D'Lo on the

Georgetown-Pinola road. The grant was for 153 acres ^{and}

~~This land~~ now belongs to the Boggs Brothers, ~~and it now~~

~~in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. William Boggs.~~

b. Hager's old mill site on Strong River is in the outskirts of D'Lo. This was the first water mill in Simpson County. Here most of the lumber was sawed for building the old capital in Jackson, Mississippi.

It was hauled by ox-teams. A number of the old residences in Brandon were built of lumber from this mill. The Jaynes family moved to Brandon from this place. The settlement where this mill stood was known as Millhaven. The mill was burned in 1856, the estate was bought by Mr. W. R. May in 1874. He erected a house near this spot and reared his family and Mrs. May, being the first Post-Mistress of D'Le selected the name of this town. A list of names were sent from Washington and Mrs. May chose the name of D'Le because it was the early tea time, too. D'Le is derived from the French word D'Leau meaning beside the water, and as D'Le is near Strong River the name is very appropriate. A pink crepe myrtle marks the spot where the Jaynes house stood. The rocks still bear signs of where hewed from the foundation of the old mill.

OLD SHARON
CHURCH

The old Sharon Presbyterian Church, located near Magee, was erected in 1826. This church was built by the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, who had moved to Simpson County from ~~the Carolinas~~ the Carolinas. In 1926 the members of this church celebrated their 100th Anniversary. Dr. A. S. Kennedy had in his possession ^{at this celebration} until this time the first church records of this old church.

but they were borrowed from him and never returned. The old Sharon Lodge Hall is located near Magee.

e. The only Indian mound that we can get any date on is located on the ~~land~~ of Mr. F. E. Williams. This is known as the Old Bland Estate. ^{place.} ~~Many~~ years ago, in plowing, Mr. Bland unearthed the mound and found tomahawks, beads, arrow tips, and even ~~some~~ jaw-bones of human beings.

MENDENHALL

HISTORY OF MENDENHALL

^{The first train came to this county -}
Just thirty-two years ago, ~~down through the tall stately pines of Simpson County, there came the rushing sound of the first locomotive and where the peaceful dwellers had heard only the music of the birds calling to each other from tree to tree the shrill whistle of engines spoke of a new day dawning--a day bringing direct contact with the outside world, and progress and prosperity, but in the building of the main line of the railroad it seems that the county seat of Simpson, a village called Westville, was left eight or nine miles away from the nearest depot, so the board of Supervisors ordered Mr. J. J. Bishop, Sheriff, in July 1901, to move the records to Mendenhall~~

records were moved to Mendenhall, then called "Edna"

^{thirty-two years ago the first train came through this county, and the}
These records were placed in a two-story frame hotel, still lacking windows and doors, so hastily had it been built; ~~in the new town and~~ Mr. T. B. Durr slept on the floor with the record book for a pillow and a big 44 by his side.

At the suggestion of Mr. T. A. Dickerson, the Board of Supervisors changed the name of the town from Edna to Mendenhall, in honor of Judge T. L. Mendenhall of Westville, in 1901. People began to move from Westville to Mendenhall, ~~then~~, and the Walker Hotel was moved and located ~~just~~ to the west of the Court house, ^{now stands.} The first dwelling ~~to be~~ built in the town is ~~the house~~ now owned by Miss Jennie Ferguson. Mr. Evans ^M Magee had it built and ^{residents} ~~there~~ were living here remember that Mr. Renno dropped dead while building it. The Simpson County news office, the May Hotel, ~~a two-story~~

FIRST HOME

His long white ~~hair~~ ^{and} beard, ~~and~~ his erect carriage make him ~~very~~ distinguished looking.

The McNair Family Cemetery holds ^{the} remains of twelve McNair ^{whose ages} ancestors ~~who~~ were between ~~the ages of~~ 90 and 97 when they died. Mr. McNair's reminiscences of the Civil War and his boyhood days make very interesting reading. One of the Old slaves of this family is still living. She was Mary Catherine McNair, now married to Nelson Boggan, and lives near Jackson, Mississippi.

Mrs. J. H. Baker
 Supervisor of Historical Research

Project

Simpson County

and there came a call to the other women to join with them in a little band called "The Civic League" to work to make the town a better, more beautiful place to live.

3. Officials and ex-Officials:

(a) The canvassers as well as the supervisors and secretaries have contacted present officials of the county and as many of the ex-officials as they could find. They have searched the county records in the court house but have not been able to obtain much information from them as so many of the records have been destroyed.

(b) None available.

(c) At the October term of court, ~~in~~ 1857, Lochlin Calquhoun served two days as a juror and was given a warrant for ²³ ~~three dollars~~ on the County of Simpson. T. L. Mendenhall, for whom the Town of Mendenhall was named, was Clerk at the ~~that~~ time and signed this warrant. It is now in possession of E. L. Calhoun, nephew of Lochlin Calquhoun, (now spell ~~their name C-a-l-h-o-u-n~~) Mrs. Calhoun also has two ~~twenty-dollar~~ \$20.00 bills and a ^{\$5.00} ~~five-dollar~~ bill, Confederate money.

While this may not be a historical document, we consider it one of the most interesting things that we have found.

4. ^{an} ~~One of the most interesting interviews was the one that~~ ^{held} ~~was held with~~ ^{Mr.} Richmond McNair. ~~McNair~~ taught school twenty-one years, ~~he~~ has never married and lives in the house in which he was born on July 4, 1844. ^{He} McNair has a marvelous memory and uses the purest of English; his personal appearance is like a patriarch of old.

frame building and Hopkins Grocery Store were other buildings added to the new town in 1901.

In 1902 another hotel ~~just across the railroad~~ was built by Mr. Brown and was called "Eureka House". Walker Darr Mercantile Company opened for business in a frame building ~~on the corner where Mendenhall Grocery and Grain Co. is now~~, in the same year. Mr. Heflin also opened a store further up main street.

The buildings were very scattered and some attempts at hard sidewalks were made, but some were high and some low, and the effect was altogether unsightly. There was a little saw mill and commissary owned by Mr. Anglin, located ⁱⁿ the town, and as the mill ~~people~~ ^{hand} and railroad people began to move in, dwellings sprang up. ~~All~~ ^{and} all was going well until Westville citizens began a fight to carry the County Seat back there, and ⁱⁿ 1905 succeeded.

For two years the records were kept ~~at~~ ^{there} and in 1907, Mendenhall was made County Seat again, ~~where~~ ^{where} ~~then~~ began the movement for a new Court House - the beautiful one that stands ~~on the north end of~~ ^{on} main street today. In the meantime, the business part of the town had been growing and could boast one or two brick buildings, but not attempt to beautify streets or sidewalks had been made. There were natural beauties of course, before the trees were all destroyed, but the trees were all destroyed, and the streets were bare except for bitter weeds and trash.

It was then two or three women met one day and caught a vision of Mendenhall with paved sidewalks and shady trees

Please send letter to her 7
on Ass. 3-

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT SIMPSON COUNTY

CALLIE THAMES,
JANIE BOND
Canvassers

COUNTY HISTORY

Assignment #3

I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:

1. Pioneers:

- (a) From John La Tourette's map of Mississippi of 1839, we find Fayette Hill, ten miles NE of Westville, White Oak Springs in the NE part of the county and Millhaven on Strong River in the outskirts of D'Lo.

This was the first mill located in Simpson County and Old Jaynesville in the southern part of the county.

From the United States official register we find Harrisville in the NW part of the county and Mt. Zion in the SE, New Dublin and Old Hickory near the present town of Magee; and Westville, the original county seat, located in the W. part of the county.

At these last five places United States Post Offices were located.

(b) The Old Jones Home was built by George Jones in 1840; It is located about three miles W. of D'lo on the Pinola-Georgetown road. Mr. Jones was killed during the Civil War. His body was brought back to Simpson County and was buried in the old family Cemetery, near their home. This home is now owned by P. B. Boggan and is occupied by a tenant farmer. The huge fireplaces and chimneys were built of hand-pressed brick and the house was made of hand-planed boards.

An interview with Richmond McNair, who is 92 years of age, tells us that his home, a large two-story structure was built in 1837. This home is located in what is known as Sullivan Hollow. It is surrounded by giant oak trees and in the springtime it presents a beautiful scenery.

Mrs. McNair is a pioneer school teacher and numbers among his pupils, six prominent doctors, five lawyers, and six ministers.

The Old Louis Turner Home, located four miles N. of Magee, was erected in 1842, and is now owned by Louis Thames of Sanatorium, Mississippi, who is a great grandson of the original owner. The house is built of hand-hewed logs. In one room the original shutters are still in use. In the other rooms glass windows have been added. The house consists of four rooms and an open hall, the kitchen and dining room have been torn away.

The original owner, Mr. Louis Turner, was one of the first tax-payers. This information was obtained from records of the Ajesta Thames Family.

The kitchen of the Old Jim Hayes home at Weathersby is now standing. The immense fireplace where the cooking was done for the big house is in splendid condition. ~~This kitchen is used for a servants house, and it is now owned by hisson, Barry Hayes.~~

The Old Gibson Home on Highway 113-20, approximately five miles from Mendenhall, was built by Louis C. Gibson. The brick for the foundation were made in Mr. Gibson's brick kiln. He cut the cypress trees from his own land for the lumber and made the plaster for the walls. The mantles and fixtures were hand-carved. The house is surrounded by giant magnolia and cedar trees.

(c) Mrs. H. P. Gates of Mendenhall, has in her home a reproduction of the "Sistine Madona", which was painted by her father, Captain Lewis Saxon Terry. Captain Terry was an artist of recognized ability, and this particular Portrait was painted as his graduating work while in the University of Pennsylvania, in 1840.

Miss Emma Terry, of Mendenhall, has a mahogany table. It is about 42 inches square and has a solid pedestal. This table has been handed down three generations of the Terry family. It was a wedding gift of Miss Emma Terry's Grandmother. The exact date is unknown but it is about 150 years old.

4

(d) In the home of George Shivers, ~~in Shivers~~, we find an old walnut bedstead, spool pattern. This bedstead was owned by his Grandmother, Mrs. Phebia Berry Shivers. It was brought from Georgia on an ox wagon about 1830. There are five chairs and a table that Mr. Shivers states were given him by his Grandmother and are ~~more~~ than one hundred ~~year~~ years old. Also, there are three pictures in hand-carved frames, all more than 100 years old but they could not give the exact date. These are portraits of their ancestors. In the Shivers home there is a mantle piece that was made from an old walnut bedstead that was owned at one time by Nathaniel Traylor. This, ~~too~~, ^{bedstead} is more than one hundred years old.

Mr. Alex Hinton, cashier of the Peoples Bank, Mendenhall, has two solid walnut ladder-back chairs and a chest of Drawers, also, solid walnut that are ~~now~~ more than 100 years old. Mr. Hinton could not give the exact date.

In the Relic Department in the New Capital of Jackson there is an old hand-reel owned by Mr. Jim Hayes of Weathersby. This reel was hand-made and was used before the clock-reel was made. An old clock reel was made in Simpson County about 1848 and was owned by Mrs. Ajesta Thames. In this department we find almost a dozen coverlets, all of them made before 1870 and some of them much earlier, all of them hand-woven.

Mrs. Hugh Patterson, Mendenhall, has ~~cedar chest~~

2 in 95 year old.

5

~~She is unable to give the exact date it was made. Mr. Burkett, a pioneer citizen of Simpson County, made it when he was just a young boy, and if he were living he would be 110 years of age. Mrs. Patterson states that this chest is about 95 years old.~~

In the home of Mrs. L.H. May, Mendenhall, there is an old Secretary and from Mr. May and Mrs. Gussie May Boggan we learned that this Secretary has been in the May and Jones families for nearly 200 years. It has been handed down from one member of the family to another and is now owned by L. H. May. They were unable to give the exact date but know that it was brought to America by some of the ancestors from England. This is one of the most beautiful pieces of furniture that ~~we have used, in time the legs were sawed off but the present Mrs. Nell May has it restored to its former beauty.~~

B. J. Burkett, near Harrisville has an old copper, 100 gallon capacity Kettle that was used for making sirup. Mr. Burkett states that it is nearly 100 years old, ~~but he is unable to give the exact date.~~

Dr. A. E. Kennedy of Magee has in his possession an old clock made by the Southern Calendar Company in St. Louis Missouri, February 15, 1876. It was set to time August 1, 1876. This clock is adorned with the day of the week and months. It was handed down from Dr. Kennedy's Mother and was first owned by his Grandmother.

Mrs. Callie Williams Gibson is the proud possessor of two solid walnut four-poster beds and a cedar wardrobe. These beds and this wardrobe reached the ceiling of the modern homes of today. They were brought from Mobile, Alabama on an ox wagon in 1863, and have been kept in the Gibson family. Mrs. Gibson can not give the exact date when it was purchased and brought to Simpson County. An old Secretary, dining room table, a four poster bedstead belonging to Mr. Lewis Gibson is now in possession of Mrs. Mary Gibson Calhoun. This is part of the furniture that Mr. Gibson brought from Mobile, Alabama.

2. Historians:

a.

We have an old land grant that was made to John Turner in 1826 signed by John Quincy Adams, President of the United States. This land grant is written on sheepskin and is now in the possession of Mrs. Mary Thames, whose mother-in-law was the sister of the said John Turner. This grant was for 80 Acres of land located about four miles North of the present town of Magee.

Certificate No. 32556 was made to George G. Jones and signed by James Buchanan, President of the United States.

The land was located about 3 miles East of D'Lo on the Georgetown-Pinola road. The grant was for 153 Acres.

This land now belongs to the Boggan Brothers and is now in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. William Boggan.

- b. Jaynes's old Mill site on Strong River is on the outskirts of D'Lo. This was the first water mill in Simpson County. Here most of the lumber was sawed for building the Old Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi.

It was hauled by ox-teams. A number of the old residents in Brandon were built of lumber from this mill. The Jaynes Family moved to Brandon from this place. The settlement where this mill stood was known as Millhaven. The mill was burned in 1856, the estate was bought by Mr. W. R. May in 1874. He erected a house near this spot and reared his family and Mrs. May, being the first Post Mistress of D'Lo selected the name of this town. A list of names were sent from Washington and Mrs. May chose the name of D'Lo because it was easy to say and, too, D'Lo is derived from the French word D'leau meaning beside the water, and as D'Lo is near Strong River the name is very appropriate. A pink crepe myrtle marks the spot where the Jaynes house stood. The rocks still bear signs of where they were hewed for the foundation of the old mill.

- The Old Sharon Presbyterian Church, located about 3 miles from Magee, was erected in 1826. This church was built by the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who had moved to Simpson County from other states, the most of them from the Carolinas. In 1926 the members of this church celebrated the 100th anniversary. Dr. A. E. Kennedy had in his possession up until this time the first church records of this old church. They were borrowed from him and never returned. The Old Masonic Lodge Hall is located near Magee.
- c. The only Indian Mound that we can get any data on is located on the land of Mr. F. M. Williams. This is known as the Old Bland Estate. About thirty years ago in plowing, Mr. Bland ^{unearthed} ~~excavated~~ the mound and found tomahawks, beads, arrow tips and even found jaw-bones of human beings.

The older settlers say that this was a battle ground for warring tribes. The Chotaw Indians lived in and around here and there are two other mounds in the county but no data can be found on them. One mound is located near Mendenhall and another out from Pinola. *Miss. State Geo. Survey Bulletin 8*

d. The topography of Simpson County is hilly and the soil mostly of the red Lafayette type, which throughout the whole of the Long-leaf pine hills, has a considerable proportion of clay, giving body to the soil, the sub-soil being characteristically mottled and heavier.

Simpson is south of the Prairie Region, shows uniform condition of soil and topography. Around Mendenhall the country is very hilly and red Lafayette almost everywhere forms the hill soils. The soil is generally thin and very much of the hill lands are not farmed; where farms exist they are small and not very productive. The valley soil of the Strong River at Floyd's Bridge is dark sandy loam and produces well; towards Magee the land becomes less broken and is more extensively farmed than around Mendenhall the fields showing good-looking crops of cotton and corn. The soil is universally the red sandy loam of the Lafayette, the gravel of the lower portion of the formation coming to the surface frequently. Just above Magee is the Weathersby gravel pit of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad.

In the southern part of the County, around Pinola and Old Westville the soil is red and yellow sandy loam, and hilly. Farther east the Strong River bottom is two miles wide, the soil a rich dark sandy loam and produces excellent crops of corn, cotton and hay.

e. In 1827 the village of Westville was made the seat of Justice.

This village was named for Colonel Cato West and is located in the western part of the county.

The first court house erected (a frame building) was destroyed by fire in 1844. In 1846 a brick court house was built, which burned in 1872. In 1874 another brick building was erected at a cost of about \$13,000. In 1900 Mendenhall became the county seat. Five years ~~later~~ ^{later} the State Supreme Court ordered it relocated in Westville, until an election could be held determining the permanent location. In this election held July 12, 1906 it was decreed by a majority vote that Mendenhall should thereafter be the permanent seat of government. The present Court house was erected in 1907.

(There is nothing to mark the spot of what was the original county seat. However, the Federated Club Women of the county, have asked the Board of Supervisors for \$300.00, ~~which~~ to erect a marker where the Court House stood. This request was granted and in the fall of 1936, work will begin. This marker is to be made of native stone.)

The present County Seat of Mendenhall was called Edna in 1900, but in 1901 the name was changed to Mendenhall in honor of Tom L. Mendenhall famous lawyer and ~~pioneer~~ ^{pioneer} leader of development in Simpson county in earlier days.

SIMPSON COUNTY, FORMATION

HISTORY OF MENDENHALL

He first train came
~~Just thirty two years ago, down through the tall stately~~
~~pinetrees of Simpson County, there came the rushing sound of~~
~~the first locomotive and where the peaceful dwellers had~~
~~heard only the music of the birds calling to each other~~
~~from tree to tree the shrill whistle of engines spoke of~~
~~a new day dawning--a day bringing direct contact with the~~
~~outside world, and progress and prosperity, but in the~~
~~building of the main line of the railroad it seems that~~
~~the county seat of Simpson, a village called Westville,~~
~~was left eight or nine miles away from the nearest depot,~~
~~so the board of Supervisors ordered Mr. J. J. Bishop,~~
~~Sheriff, in July 1901, to move the records to Mendenhall,~~

Thirty two years ago the first train came through this community, and the records were moved to Mendenhall, then called Edna
~~Then called Edna.~~
~~These records were placed in a two story frame hotel, still~~
~~lacking windows and doors, so hastily had it been built,~~
~~in the new town and Mr. T. B. Durr slept on the floor with~~
~~the record book for a pillow and a big 44 by his side.~~

At the suggestion of Mr. T. A. Dickson, the board of supervisors changed the name of the town from Edna to Mendenhall in honor of Judge T. L. Mendenhall of Westville, in 1901. People began to move from Westville to Mendenhall then, and the Walker Hotel was moved and located just to the west of ^{where} the Court house now stands. The first dwelling to be built in the town is the home now owned by Miss Jennie Ferguson. Mr. Evans Magee had it built and those who were living here remember that Mr. Renno dropped dead while building it.

~~The Simpson County News Office, the May Hotel, a two-story~~

~~frame building and Hopkins Grocery Store were other~~
~~buildings added to the new town in 1901.~~

In 1902 another hotel just south of the railroad was built by Mr. Brown and was called Eureka Home. Walker Durr Mercantile Company opened for business in a frame building, on the corner where Mendenhall Grocery and Grain Co. is now, in the same year. Mr. Heflin also opened a store further up main street.

The buildings were very scattered and some attempts at board sidewalks were made, but some were high and some low, and the effect was altogether unsightly. There was a little saw mill and Commissary owned by Mr. Anglin, located in the town and as the mill people and railroad people began to move in, dwellings sprang up and all was going well until Westville citizens began a fight to carry the county seat back there, and 1905 succeeded.

For two years the records were kept out there, and in 1907, Mendenhall was made county seat again, and then began a movement for a new Court House, the beautiful one that stands at the north end of main street today. In the meantime, the business part of the town had been growing and could boast one or two brick buildings, but no attempt to beautify streets or sidewalks had been made. There were natural beauties of course, before the trees were all destroyed, but the trees were all destroyed, and the streets were bare except for bitter weeds and trash.

~~It was then two or three women met one day and caught~~
~~a vision of Mendenhall with paved sidewalks and shady~~

~~trees and there came a call to the other women to join
with them in a little band called "The Civic League"
to work to make the town a better, more beautiful place
to live.~~

3. Officials and Ex-Officials

(a) Legislators.

William Tullis..... 1826
T. N. Touchstone1892-94-96-97-98
Simon Thomas 1840
Duncan McCullum1878-41-42
T. D. Magee..... 1854

Elected November 6, 1877

D. B. Weathersby Sheriff
Green Fenn Treasurer
R. Drummonds Assessor
J. M. Mobley Surveyor
A. G. Berry Coroner & Ranger

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A. P. Moyers
H. P. Smithe
T. L. Mendenhall
B. Smith
J. T. Rogers

Justice of Peace

J. W. Ponder	J. A. Mize
James Sellers	T. Bishop
T. R. Gooder	L. B. Harper
J. R. Bush	A. P. Kern
G. H. Tucker	J. J. Hilton

Constables

C. P. Gregory	J. W. McInnis
A. C. Manning	J. M. Fuller

S. J. Miles

January---1880

D. B. Weathersby	Sheriff
W. L. Drummonds	Circuit and Chancery Clerk

G. J. D. Funchess	Treasurer
R. Drummonds	Assessor
J. M. Mobley	Surveyor
A. H. Brown	Coroner & Ranger

Supervisors

J. A. Mize	R. F. Barrett
Neal McNair	A. G. Bishop

A. J. Barrow

Magistrates

T. M. Latum	M. M. Bishop
F. E. Smith	E. Husband
T. M. Berry	H. C. Peacock
J. M. Fuller	A. P. Keen
J. J. Hilton	G. H. Tucker

Constables

C. P. Gregory	J. S. Brown
A. C. Manning	J. P. Moore
W. M. Taylor

1880

A. Q. May	Sheriff
G. J. D. Funchess	Treasurer

J. M. Bullock Assessor

J. M. Mobley Surveyor

James I. Bishop ... Coroner and Ranger

Supervisors

H. W. Kennedy Neal McNair

S. Drummonds C. H. Dorse

T. N. Touchstone

Magistrates

J. C. Kennedy M. M. Bishop

E. Hubbards A. D. Kennedy

G. W. Jones T. N. Berry

A. P. King A. B. Corley

J. W. Felts J. J. Hilton

Constables

T. N. Benton N. W. Lee

H. T. Ross Pierce King

W. M. Taylor

1882-83

Representatives

R. W. Hall

J. R. Bush Sheriff

W. L. Drummonds .. Chancery & Circuit Clerk

G. J. D. Funchess Treasurer

J. M. Bullock Tax Assessor

L. A. McCaskill Surveyor

J. S. Bishop Coroner and Ranger

1884-1885

M. A. Banks Representative

J. R. Bush Sheriff

G. J. D. Funchess Treasurer

J. H. Thompson Assessor

L. A. McCaskill Surveyor

J. D. Bishop Coroner and Ranger

Supervisors

John A. Dent Solomon Walker

Joseph May S. N. Bush

Wyatt Shorter

Magistrates

L. C. Lockley A. P. King

J. C. Kennedy T. S. Doss

A. D. Kennedy J. A. Baron

P. L. Bunn G. W. Williams

J. E. Everett

Supervisors

John A. Dent L. C. Gibson

Solomon Walker S. N. Bush

Wyatt Shorter

Constables

A. Patterson W. H. Berry

H. A. Bush H. M. Tucker

Justice of Peace

W. J. Tatum S. Hales

Joe Evans E. Husbands

G. P. Harper H. L. Lampton

A. P. King E. S. Botman

1884-1885

Constables

Dallis Little	T. R. Tullis
B. C. Phillips	Barney Smith
J. W. Slay	H. M. Tucker

1888-1889

D. C. McInnis	Sheriff
H. K. Farmer	Treasurer
L. B. Loflin	Assessor
D. M. McLaurin	Surveyor
S. V. Cataron	Coroner and Ranger
T. R. Gowan	Superintendent of Education

Justice of Peace

D. M. Ponder	W. L. Magee
H. P. Smith	W. J. Muckleworth
H. L. Hampton	G. W. Jones
Thomas Allen	T. S. Doss
D. Q. McLeod	J. W. Dear

Constables 1889

J. D. French	J. E. Buckley
On N. Magee	Thomas Lee

Supervisors

A. J. Brown	Solomon Walker
Joe May	G. W. Williams

John Barlow

1890-1891

Representative	Representative
T. H. Touchstone	

A. Q. May	Chancery and Circuit Clerk
-----------	----------------------------

1890-1891

Representative	T. H. Touchstone
A. Q. May	Chancery and Circuit Clerk
D. C. McInnis	Sheriff
H. K. Farmer	Treasurer
J. R. Bush	Assessor
D. L. McLaurin	Surveyor
H. T. Catron	Coroner and Ranger
T. R. Gowan	Superintendent of Education

Supervisors

R. T. May	W. J. Mucklewrath
H. A. Brown	T. S. Doss
W. H. Butler	

Justice of Peace

W. S. Holloway	W. D. Mahaffey
J. C. Kennedy	Jerry E. Mosre
H. P. Smith	T. J. Scarborough
G. W. Jones	C. H. Doss

S. J. Stamps

Constables

G. B. May	W. T. Lee
G. W. Barlow	

1894-1895

Representative	T. H. Touchstone
J. T. Thames	Chancery Clerk
J. I. Bishop	Sheriff
J. M. Bishop	Treasurer
G. P. Harper	Assessor

T. W. Clark Surveyor
 J. R. Williamson .. Superintendent of Education
 G. W. Williams Coroner

Supervisors

T. G. Ponder H. P. Smith
 John Calquhoun Elijah Lee
 J. J. Hilton

Justice of Peace

W. R. Holloway H. C. Kennedy
 P. L. Brown J. C. McInnis
 F. P. Berry W. S. Harper
 W. T. Lee J. G. Harris
 W. D. Mahaffey N. Sandifer

1898-1999

1920-21-22-23-

J. F. Grubbs Circuit Clerk
 T. B. Durrm..... Chancery Clerk
 D. W. Duckworth Sheriff

This information was secured from the
 State Library.

1924

Representative..... W. M. Lefton

T. B. Durr.....Chancery Clerk

L. F. Stephens.....Circuit Clerk

M. W. Willis.....Sheriff

Monroe Ball.....Superintendent of Education

L. D. Bush.....Tax Assessor

Supervisors

T. W. Bishop W. A. Lee
 R.S. Magee J. W. Garrett
 G. M. Welch

Justice of Peace

W. J. Kennedy H. D. D. W. Benson
 A. W. Brewer J. L. Phillips
 J. R. Kennedy J. N. Slay
 T. M. Herrinton J. A. Hedgpeth
 H. D. Sullivan O. J. Barron

Constables

J. D. Thames J. H. Sanders
 D. J. Rankin W. B. Womack
 John P. Jones C. T. Morris
 A. G. Brown A. G. Lee
 E. W. Bell J. J. Harris

reading. One of the old slaves of this family
is still living. She was Mary Catherine McNair
married Nelson Boggan.

Evelyn J. Baker
Supervisor of Historical Research

Project

Simpson County

1

Written

Copy
sub file - 2

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
SIMPSON COUNTY

GALLIE THAMES, JANIE BOND
Canvassers

COUNTY HISTORY

Assignment #4

I. WATER-SHEDS

(a) There are some seventeen principal streams in the county, namely; Pearl and Strong rivers, Bowie, Okatoma, Benks, Vaughn, Riels, Sellers, White Oak, Campbell, Dabbs, Sanders, Big Line, Goodwater, Lime Stone and Silver Creeks.

Pearl River received its name, Pearl, ^{from} the early French settlers along the gulf coast on July 14, 1738. Mr. Regis du Roulelt made the first map of the mouth of the river, in 1798 Mr. Ellicott descended the river for some distance. The word, Pearl, was given to the river from the large number of pearls taken by the early French explorers from the muscles found in the river, Pearl.

Strong River, the Indian Conginto, received its name from the Indians because of the speed and strength of the water.

Bowie Creek received its name from a family of early settlers, the Bowie Family. No information can be obtained on this family.

Okatoma Creek was named by the Choteau Indians. "Oka-" means water. Toma- means radiant or sparkling water.

Vaughn Creek received its name from the early settlers, Vaughn. No information on this family can be secured.

2

Benks Creek gets its name from early settlers, Benks.

A number of descendants of this early family of Benks are now residents of Simpson County. *Insert paragraph on margin.*

Riels Creek gets its name from an early settler whose name was Riels.

Sellers Creek named for early settlers, Sellers. One family who claim to be descendants of this early Sellers now live near Harrisville in Simpson County.

Campbell Creek was named for early settlers. No information has been found on this family.

Lime Stone Creek derived its name from an unusual amount of lime stone located on its bank.

Sanders Creek was named for early settlers, Sanders.

Dabbs Creek was named for early settlers. Dabbs, there is no information on this family.

(b) Pearl River flows from the NE to the S, on the W side of the county. This river is about 300 miles long and drains about 7000 square miles. Pearl River is considered one of the most beautiful streams in America.

Strong River flows ^{in a southeasterly direction} from the NE to the SE into Pearl River, and drains ^{about} one-third of the county. This river has a tremendous fall; so much that it is difficult to handle small skiffs up stream, even at low water tide.

(In 1925 this river over-flowed its banks at D'Lo, completely covering Highway 49, partially destroying the new bridge that was being constructed on the highway. Traffic was held up about forty-eight hours.)

Bowie Creek drains a small area of the ^{southeastern} SE part of the county and flows into Leaf River.

Riels, Sellers, Campbell, Dabbs, Sanders and Dabbs Creeks all derived their names from early settlers.

SIMPSON COUNTY, WATER SHEDS

Oktoma Creek drains a small area of the SE end of the county and flows SE into Bowie Creek.

Vaughn Creek is a small stream in the SW end of the county and flows into Pearl River.

Banks Creek is a small creek in the SW part of the county and flows into Strong River.

Rials Creek is near the center of the county and flows N into Strong River.

Sellers Creek is a small stream that flows N into Strong River.

Campbell Creek is in the northern part of the county and flows S into Strong River.

Lime Stone Creek is in the NE part of the county and flows SW into Pearl River.

Sanders Creek is in the north central part of the county and flows S into Strong River.

(Other creeks are too small to be of any importance.)

- (c) It is hard to determine the effects these streams would have on the county or on the health, but ^{their effect on} ~~from a soil~~ standpoint ^{is} they are detrimental. Once the land is brought into cultivation, erosion is hard to control.

II. ELEVATION

- (a) Authorities do not agree on what is the highest point in the county. Some say the State Tubercular Sanatorium and some think that in all probability it is to be found somewhere in the Northeastern part of the county on a high dividing ridge which runs throughout the county from the NE to the SW.

In looking for a high point on which to place the central tower for the Civilian Conservation Corps, a peak about

one mile from Finola on the ^{Magee} Finola-Georgetown road was selected. This is a very high point.

- (b) The lowest point to be found is in the extreme South western part of the county along the basin of Pearl River.
- (c) Bottom lands represent a very small per cent of the county. As a whole, such land is to be found in only narrow strips along the streams.
- (d) There ^{are} ~~is~~ no prairie lands in this county.
- (e) The largest single rugged regions to be found in the county are in the ^{Northwestern} NW part along the headwaters of Lime Stone and Big Creeks. There ^{is} ~~are~~ also a considerable area of rugged country in the ^{Northwestern} NW part of the county beginning at Weathersby and running ^{Northwest} ~~SE~~ around Magee, ^{West} of Smith county, are some fine rugged regions.

III. LAKES * MARSHES * BAYOUS

- (a) There are no lakes, marshes or bayous of consequence in the county.

IV. SPRINGS, WELLS, AND MINERAL WATERS

- (a) There are any number of springs to be found throughout the county. On the G. W. Johnston place in East-I there is a spring, the water ^{of which} ~~was~~ analyzed by a State Chemist and the contents were the same as Rawls Springs near Hattiesburg.

The springs found near ⁱⁿ Sarasota, what is known as Sullivan's Hollow, are claimed to be of benefit to the health but we have no authority on this.

- (b) Wells.

1. Ordinary wells are to be found at all rural homes throughout the county. The water is considered as pure as any in any county. In the tests of the water

specimens were taken from every section, big dug-wells and open springs. The tests show there ^{was} ~~was~~ no pollution ^{now} ~~not~~ contamination, having a grand subsoil and ~~strata~~ ^{strata} of gravel and sand, a condition most favorable for percolation and purification of water.

Simpson County may never expect diseases of any kind will grow rife as a result of the natural water of the homes and schools becoming unwholesome.

2. There are no artesian wells in the county.

(c) Mineral waters.

1. With the exception of the spring on the G. W.

Johnston place, there is no mineral water in the county and just what the analysis of this shows, we are unable to say.

(This information was obtained from Mr. Bruce Van Zandt, who for a number of years, was Surveyor for the Finkbine Lumber Company, who had timber all over the county. Mr. VanZandt is one of the best posted men in the state on the topography of Simpson County. He is now a member of the State Tax Commission.

The information regarding the mineral spring on the G.W. Johnston place was obtained from Mrs. Gussie May Boggan.

Mrs. J. H. Baker
Supervisor of Historical Research Project

Simpson County

SUPPLEMENT TO ASSIGNMENT 4 *Simpson*

This information was taken from a Geological Survey by E. N. Lowe in 1919.

Saratoga	340 feet above sea level
Magee	425 feet above sea level
Weathersby	355 feet above sea level
Mendenhall	319 feet above sea level
D'lo	290 feet above sea level
Braxton	347 feet above sea level
Star	414 feet above sea level
Jackson	294 feet above sea level
Raliegh	583 feet above sea level

From these figures you will note the high point in Simpson County has not been determined but will be, somewhere in the NE part of the county. Magee being 426 feet high and Raliegh 583 feet hig are both on the same chain of ridges running NE to SW which pass through the NE part of the county.

When the high point is definitely determined it will, in all probability, range around 500 feet.

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2/23/39
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4/7/39

Simpson

Chapter II.

~~Topography, Soils and Minerals.~~

~~Topography, Surface Appearance~~

Simpson County is known as one of the "Hill Counties". This does not necessarily mean that Simpson has any hills of great height, that would classify with the hills of the states which have mountains. Simpson has hills and hollows, with ridges that consist of twenty to thirty acres. Upon these ridges some of the best farms in the county are located. The bottom lands of the county are located on Strong River and Pearl river, and the numerous creeks which transverse the county. Up until a few years ago, Simpson County could boast of one of the most beautiful forests of pine timber in the State. All of this timber has been cut, in the place of this timber we have thousands of acres of barren hills and hollows, growing up in bushes. A small amount of this cut over land is being utilized as pasture land. Occasionally we find a small farm in the "Cut Overs." A few years ago Simpson County had many farms, whose value was totally destroyed from erosion, that is large gullies washed in the fields, the top soil washed away, leaving only the barren clay. This condition has largely changed. To-day Simpson County has many beautiful farms terraced, so as to hold the soil, instead of the soil being washed away, the land is replenished with new soil and the productivity is increased. The productivity is further increased by the planting of cover crops, such as vetch, winter peas, which puts a new supply of nitrogen in the ground.

Simpson

Highest and Lowest Points

Simpson County has no bayous. She has several hills but none of them has a distinct name. One of the highest places in the county is "The Mound", which is supposedly an old Indian mound, about two miles north of the town of Mendenhall. This mound is so high that one, upon reaching the highest point, is indeed ready to find a comfortable nook and rest awhile. There is no road whereby vehicles can climb to the top. It must be done on foot. Another hill is at Pinola, where is located the Central State Fire Protection Tower. There are five of these towers in the county. All of them being located on high elevations. Possibly the highest of these is in the extreme northern part of the county. The highest point in the county is three miles west of Braxton in Section 8, Township 2 N, Range 3 East, and the elevation at this spot is 560 feet above sea level. Yet this spot is not given a name or called a hill by the residents around it.

Another high point in the county is two miles west of the town of D'Lo and is known as the "Gravel Pit." From the peak of this rise can easily be seen three surrounding towns Braxton, with the Water Tower at Piney Woods School (in Randolph County), D'Lo, and Mendenhall. So much gravel has been taken from this hill that there is left a cavity of nearly one hundred feet, creating a dangerous precipice.

Other high points in the county are the other four State Fire Protection Towers located at Martinville, in the northern part of the county; Buckley Fire Tower, in the extreme southern western corner of the county;

SIMPSON COUNTY, SOUTH

Saratoga Tower, in the Southern, and Rock Hill Tower, in the northeastern part of the county. Exact heights of these elevations seem to be uncertain but the fact remains that all of the Fire Towers are located at the highest available points. While any of the elevations are, to all purposes, hills they are not known as such in the county's topography.

The lowest points in the county are located in the river bottoms, Strong and Pearl Rivers.

Streams

Pearl River received its name from the early French settlers who were impressed by the large number of pearls taken from the mussels found at its mouth. It flows from the Northeast to the South, marking the western boundary of the County, and emptying into the Gulf of Mexico. This Stream is about three hundred miles long and drains about seven thousand square miles.

Strong River flows from the Northeast to the Southeast into Pearl River and drains the Northwest third of the county. It is supposed to have received its name from the speed or strength of the water. The Indian name for this stream was Engika Congito, possibly a variation of Couechitou, meaning "Village of the Great Chief," of Conchichatou, meaning "Big Reed Drake." Both are prominent as Choctaw place names.

W.F. Mahaffey, County Forester, Mendenhall, Miss.

Vaughns Creek, Located in the Southwest corner of the county flows into Pearl River. This stream was named for one of the first settlers in this section.

Limestone Creek, in the Northwest part ^{PART} of the county, flows Southwest into Pearl River. It gets its name from the unusual amount of limestone found on its banks.

Campbell Creek, in the North central part of the county flows South into Strong River. On the 1824 tax roll for Simpson County are listed a Beasley ~~Campbell~~ Camel and Jno. Camel. These names are found in subsequent tax rolls, ^{USUALLY APPEARING} usually appearing as Campbell. Lowry and McCauley say the creek was named for Beasley Campbell.

Dabbs (Dobbs) Creek in the North central part of the county, flows into Strong River. Evidently this stream was named for William Dabs, who is listed on early tax rolls, previously mentioned.

Sellers Creek, near the center of the county, flows North into Strong River. It is believed this stream was named for William Sellers, an Early tax payer.

Rials Creek, in the central part of the county, flows North into Strong River. It was likely named for an early resident, Gideon Ryals, listed in 1824 and other early returns.

Sanders Creek, in the North Central part of the county, flows South into Strong River. This stream, likewise, was named for pioneer residents, ^{LO} Sanders, being listed as an early tax payer.

Bowie Creek drains a small area of the Southeast part of the county and flows into Leaf River. It is supposed to have been named for early resident.

5

As this stream runs further south it becomes much larger and stronger, being known as Bowie River, and empties into Leaf River some sixty miles south of this county, where the two rivers become one of the mightiest streams in South Mississippi.

Okatoma Creek drains a small area of the Southeast corner of the county and flows Southeast into Bowie Creek. The name, Okatoma, of the Indian word OKA and TOMI of TOMMI. OKA means water and Tommi or Tomba means radiant.

Sinkler Creek, in the Southwestern part of the county, emptying into Pearl River, received its name from the Sinclair family, who were in the early days of the county called "Sinkler".

Banks Creek, in the Western part of the county and flowing into Strong River; its name was received from a prominent pioneer resident, Mr. Charles Banks.

Harper Creek, in the Western part of the county and flowing into Strong River, was named for early settlers in the county.

Westville Creek, (also the old town of Westville) in the central part of the county, was named for Cato West, one of the county's most prominent pioneer citizens. This creek also empties into Strong River.

Opasha Creek, in Southeastern Simpson County, flows into the Okatoma Creek, and received its name from the Indians.

6

Dry Creek, Okatoma Creek mentioned above, branches in Section 17, Township 1 North, and becomes Dry Creek, evidently so called because of the scarcity of water in that section of the county, as there is no other stream near. Also the altitude of the county is higher at that point.

Silver Creek. There are three prongs of Silver Creek which touch the county. West Prong, Middle Prong and East Prong, so called because of their respective locations. All have their source in Simpson county and all cross the Simpson Lawrence county line, flowing into Silver Creek in the latter named county. It is thought the name was derived from the number of Silver leaf Maple trees along its banks.

Goodwater Creek, in the south central part of the county. It is named for the purity of the water. The creek flows into Okatoma Creek.

Wild Cat Creek, in the northern part of the county, flowing into Strong River, it is so called because of the flat country through which it flows, thereby overflowing its banks readily following rains which, ordinarily, would not fill the banks of a stream. (1)

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

~~Mineral Springs and Wells~~

7

There is a great many springs in Simpson County. On the G. W. Johnson place in beat 1 there is a spring, the water was analyzed by a State Chemist and the contents were the same as Rawls Springs near Hattiesburg.

The springs found near Saratoga, what is known as Sullivan's Hollow, are claimed to be of benefit to the health, but we have no authority on this. In the preceding chapter we discussed M. Nair Springs, which is the water supply for the town of Magee.

There has been seven oil wells drilled in Simpson County, showing of oil and gas has been found at each of these places, but no well has been brought in. (1)

~~Soils and Minerals~~~~Soil Forming Material~~

The upland soils of Simpson County, comprising about 75 to 80 percent of its total area, are derived chiefly from sedimentary materials of late Coastal Plain formations.. that is, from beds of sand, sandy clays, and heavy clays, with many local beds of gravel, consisting mainly of chert and quartz.

Since the accumulation of this material, changes have been brought about through the influence of vegetation, leaching and oxidation, and

(1) Bruce Vanzandt, D'Lo, Miss.

8

and probably also, through deoxidation in the more poorly drained situations, where an excess of moisture has prevented aeration.

The upland soils are derived from the beds of sedimentary sand, gravel, sand, and heavy clay. The Ruston and Orangeburg series are derived from the sandy and gravelly material and the Susquehanna from the heavy clay beds. The Caddo soils are derived from silty material containing considerable sand. In the northwestern part of the county there are some small areas of Grenada silt loam, a soil which contains very little sand but much silt and clay, and is derived from a mantle of material that may have been deposited by the wind.

The bottoms and ^Ssecond bottoms consist of alluvial material washed ^D from the uplands of the region. The soils consist chiefly of silty and fine sandy types, differing from each other chiefly in color, the result of the difference in drainage conditions. They contain considerable organic matter, and generally show a less marked difference between the soil and subsoil layers than do the upland soils.

As material is deposited over the bottoms at nearly every overflow, there has been no opportunity for leaching and working out of the fine material from the surface portion or for advanced oxidation, as there has been in the old soils of the rolling plains. In the case of the older alluvium that on the terraces or second bottoms, where overflows occur no longer or only at long intervals... the material has undergone more change, and much of the soil on these terraces approaches in characteristics certain upland types. The poorly drained soils of the upland, bottoms and second bottoms contain considerable amounts of dark-colored and rusty brown concretions

material in the deeper subsoil, which is in most places compact, often having the nature of hardpan.

There is a certain relationship between the physiography and the soil distribution, but this is not everywhere definite or pronounced. The principal types have a rather wide distribution and a varying topography in the uplands. The more sandy soils are confined to the country of more rolling topography and to the steep slopes. In the small flat areas of ridge-top-land, where drainage lines have not yet encroached, the silty soils of the Ruston and Caddo series are encountered. In many cases the Busquehanna soil areas occupy the higher portion and tops of the ridges. There are several exceptions, however, in which the Orangeburg soils occupy the top of the ridge, while the Ruston Soils occur on the gentle slopes. In the eastern part of the county, in areas where the topography is not so rugged, the Ruston occupies both ridges and slopes, in places merging into Caddo or poorly drained Ruston near the base of the slope.

The first-bottom soils are considerable mixed along the smaller streams which are subject to frequent heavy overflows. In the broader bottoms, lying along the larger creeks and streams, the lighter sandy soils generally occupy areas adjacent to the uplands.

Soil Types and Their Value to Agriculture

In Simpson county 20 soil types were mapped. These are grouped into 12

(1) Professor James McLendon, Mendenhall, Miss.

series. The Ruston soils are characterized by the grayish color of the surface soils and the reddish-yellow to yellowish-red subsoil. The subsoil is generally friable, though in places the lower part is somewhat compact, even where there is a higher content of sand, as is in many places the case, than in the upper subsoil. These soils are derived from sedimentary materials of the Coastal Plains.

The types in the Orangeburg series have friable, mellow grayish-brown to light-brown surface soils and a red friable subsoil, which in some places is more sandy in the lower than in the upper part.

The Caddo series includes types characterized by the gray to ashy-gray color of the soils and by the mottled gray and yellow color of the subsoil. As a rule the lower subsoil is compact, and in many places it contains a considerable quantity of ferruginous material, which gives it somewhat the character of hardpan. In Simpson County these soils are found in flat, poorly drained upland areas or on slopes adjacent to streams and around stream heads.

The Grenada series includes types having a light-brown surface soil underlain by reddish-yellow to yellow silty clay or silty clay loam, generally passing below into silty clay to clay. The lower subsoil is yellowish, with mottlings of gray and contains rusty-brown concretions and concretionary material. The mottled stratum is compact, in places resembling hardpan. The lower subsoil contains noticeably less sand than that of the Coastal Plain soils. The Grenada series occupies the tops of the knolls and ridges. The material consists of a comparatively thin layer of what is believed to be loessial material deposited over the Coastal Plain sediments.

The areas mapped in Simpson county represent remnants of the loess deposits that have not been removed by erosion. Aside from the higher silt and lower sand content, the Grenada silt loam resembles the Ruston soils.

The types included in the Tusquehanna series have gray to light-brownish surface soils, change to yellow below, and grade into a subsoil of mottled red and gray, plastic, heavy clay. These soils are derived from beds of heavy clay of sedimentary origin.

The surface soils of the type included in the Cahaba series are brown to reddish brown, and the subsoils yellowish red to reddish brown or dull red. The series occupies stream terraces lying largely above overflow, and represents in this county the best drained lands of such terraces. The material giving the series consists of wash from the Coastal Plain uplands, and is relatively old, having been deposited when overflows covered the occupied areas.

The Kalmia series includes types having gray to grayish-yellow soils underlain by a yellowish friable subsoil, which in the lower part is in most cases mottled yellow and gray. These soils occupy second bottoms which are rarely overflowed. They are closely related to the Cahaba soils, differing essentially only in their poorer drainage and consequently less advanced oxidation of their subsoils. The surface is usually flat, and the drainage in most cases inadequate.

The types in the Myatt series have gray to dark-gray surface soils and gray to bluish-gray subsoils, mottled with yellow. The lower subsoil is usually bluish gray, compact and impervious. The soils of this series represent the more poorly drained parts of the stream terraces.

These soils now lie above overflow, but are so flat that water often stands on the surface for long periods after heavy rains. Occurring in close association with the Cahaba and Kalmia soils, they are composed of about the same material and they differ principally in their poorer drainage and lighter and more mottled color, the result of that condition.

The soils of the Leaf series are of a gray to light-brown color. The subsoil characteristically consists of mottled gray and yellow silty clay, which grades into mottled red and gray or red and yellow plastic clay. Iron concretions are of common occurrences on the surface. These soils are developed on the stream terraces.

The Ocheekee soils are dark gray to brownish, with a light-brownish or mottled brownish, yellowish, and grayish subsoil. These soils occur in the first overflowed bottoms of the streams. They are composed of wash from the Coastal Plain soils. The areas are subject to overflow, but between overflows the drainage is good.

The Bibb soils are light gray to almost white in the surface and almost white or mottled gray and yellow in the subsoil, the lower part of which is usually compact and impervious. These soils occur in the first bottoms of streams and are subject to overflow and to intermittent wet and dry stages. The material is derived from the Coastal Plain soils.

The Annanitchee series includes soils of brown to reddish-brown color with subsoils of a red color. The soils are well drained between overflows. The material is derived largely from Orangeburg soils, representing wash from the hills occupied by soils of that series. (1)

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISS.

All of the preceding named soils will grow commercial crops to good advantage, except where it is too hilly or broken. All will grow timber to good advantage, more particularly pine timber. There are two classes of pines, the longleaf and shortleaf, both of which thrive throughout the county on all classes of this land, except the low bottom soil along the creeks, which is known as Bibbs silt loam and Ochlockonee fine loam, which in most cases is rich low and fertile and is the home of the hardwood timber. (1)

"There is no part of the country that grows a greater variety of crops than does Simpson County. The principal crops are cotton, corn, cane, potatoes, oats, rice, peanuts and truck. Since the soil is adapted to almost any growth of vegetation and climate here will permit cultivation and growth the entire year. The soil is easily cultivated, and the advantages of this county are unsurpassed. This county is especially adapted to hog raising, because of the wild grasses and weeds that afford them food." (2)

The fact has been before that Simpson County has many thousand of acres of cut-over-land. This land is being utilized for pasture and Game Reserves. The type of cattle in the county has changed the last few years from that of the "scrub" to the Hereford and other ~~kindred~~ throughbred types. Other parts of this cut-over-land is being reforested. This work is being promoted by the Civilian Conservation Camp located close to Mendenhall. Their work will be discussed in detail, in another part of this history.

(1) Bruce Vanzandt., D'Lo, Miss.

(2) Miss. Builders, Official Magazine of the State Chamber of Commerce.

Commercial Formations

There are no stones listed in Simpson County of Commercial value. However, one very beautiful home has been erected on highway 49 about half way between D'Lo and Mendenhall. This home belongs to Mr. L.H. Burnham and is built of rocks gathered from the hillsides of Simpson county. The house is built on the top of a small hill; consists of six rooms and is one of the show places of the county. The most of these rocks were on Mr. Burnham own property. The grounds are being beautified by planting trees and wild flowers brought in from the nearby woods. The natural ~~weekend~~ setting makes this home a place of beauty. (1)

Simpson is blessed with many gravel pits. The gravel is used for the building of roads. Simpson has taken advantage of this gravel. To-day the county has a fine a system of gravel roads, which would be a credit to any county in the State.

At one time there was a red clay that was used for making brick as we find traces of two old brick kilns in the county. One, about three miles from Mendenhall located on the old Thames place and the other on the M. McLendon place. These kilns have been out of use for a number of years. There was not enough clay to justify their operation. (2)

(1) L.H. Burnham, Mendenhall, Miss.

(2) Professor James McLendon, Mendenhall, Miss.

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISS.

Simpson

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L.H. Burnham., Mendenhall, Miss.

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISS.

HISTORIC RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL CONSULTANT
ALICE B. TERRY, HISTORIAN
IDA T. FITZHUGH, SENIOR TYPIST
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 13

ASSIGNMENT 25

TREE SURVEY

HISTORIC TREES

- (1) WHITE OAK, on N. B. Boggan Homestead, five miles south of Mendenhall.
- (2) HICKORY, on Westersby-Pinola road, eight miles south of Mendenhall.
- (3) MAGNOLIA, on D'Lo-Pinola Highway, on Sanders' Creek, southwest of D'Lo.

LARGEST TREES

- (1) WATER OAK, on McNair old Homestead, Saratoga.
- (2) WILLOW, on L. H. May's property, Mendenhall.

FLOWERING TREES

- (1) MAGNOLIA TREES, on Gibson old Homestead, three miles south of Mendenhall.
- (2) RED BUD, on N. B. Boggan's place, five miles south of Mendenhall.

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Alice B. Terry, Historian
Historic Research Project
Area # 13
Simpson County.

November 26, 1937

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Unfortunately many of the choicest trees of Simpson County have been utilized for lumber for building, bridge work, etc. The writers have been unable to identify many old trees which once made distinctive history, as they no longer exist. However, we have definitely located a few which, through their history, make them of paramount interest, particularly to the owners thereof. Following is a brief sketch of all of which information is available.

1. HISTORIC TREES

- (a) Mr. Jesse Boggan moved to this county from North Carolina in 1830, and settled on the present Boggan Homestead. On this place were growing two young trees, a Red oak and a White oak. Two years after moving here with his family, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Boggan. When this son was five years of age he was told that the Red oak might be claimed by him.

Some time after that a young man of the community "came a courting" an older daughter in the home. He rode a mule and hitched this mule to the Red Oak tree. During the course of the afternoon the mule, growing restless at his long period of incarceration, proceeded to bite the top out of the tree. The lad was so heartbroken over the

SIMPSON COUNTY, TREES

tragedy to his beloved tree that he was told that the other tree should be his from that time forward. Through this particular incident is known the age of the two trees, each being, at least, one hundred seven years old.

A few months ago lightning struck the White oak tree, damaging but not totally destroying it, while the Red oak, standing some twenty feet away, died immediately, although the lightning did not strike it at all.

For preservation of these trees fertilization and cultivation have been amply provided and both were of healthy growth until lightning struck the one referred to above.¹

(b) A Hickory tree grows on the Weathersby-Pinola road, standing less than a mile west of Macedonia church, which tells a tragic tale. During the Civil war a negro named Andrew Johnson was caught stealing from his master and a small group of citizens who were friends of the owner of the home hanged the negro from this tree. The hill upon which the tree grew and from which the negro was hanged was thereafter called "Andrew Hill", and is so known until this day. It is almost a superstition that the limb from which the negro hanged died soon thereafter, leaving the rest of the tree growing.²

(c) On the D'Lo -Pinola Highway on the bank of Sanders creek there stands a Magnolia tree and the casual observer will instantly see that at some date the entire top was taken

1. Information from Mr. N. B. Boggan
2. Information from Mr. N. B. Boggan

out of it. It is said the land on which the tree grows originally belonged to Mr. Andrew Howell, an ancestor of the Howell family of Mendenhall. He owned a plantation of approximately one thousand acres during the years preceding the Civil war, and had numerous slaves to till this land. Having a "wee bit" of Scotch blood in his veins, he operated the plantation in the most economical manner, so in order to lessen his expenses on services of his overseers as well as to satisfy himself that the work was done in efficient and thrifty manner he had this tree topped - it being the tallest on the plantation - had a platform erected therein, and taking his most comfortable chair, mounted his "throne" and viewed his many acres while the slaves labored thereon. That was more than seventy years ago. The tree was full grown at that time. It still stands and, apparently, is as healthy as it was nearly a century ago. The trunk measures about two feet in diameter.³

(2) LARGEST TREES

There stands in the yard of the McNair old home at Saratoga a magnificent Water oak, the age of which is reckoned by the following story as narrated by Mr. Richmond McNair, who is now in his ninety fifth year. When he was a small boy he, together with a little negro slave, drove a wagon and team of oxen over a young oak sapling which his father had carefully taken up and transplanted in the yard. His father saw the boys commit the deed. Although the young tree was not injured seriously he thought his young son lacking in appreciation of nature's beauty and disobedient in that he knew his father wished the

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SIMPSON COUNTY, TREES

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- (3) On property belonging to L. H. May, in Mendenhall, there stands a willow tree which is thought to be the largest of its kind in the county. It stands approximately sixty feet high, the trunk measures two feet and seven inches in diameter and the spread of the branches is sixty four feet. Diameter and spread were secured by actual measurements.⁵

FLOWERING TREES.

In the yard of the Gibson old Homestead, three miles South of Mendenhall, three magnificent Magnolia trees tower above the two-story house, dwarfing other growth around them. These trees are reputed to have been planted there in 1860, at the time the home was established. Information is not available as to whether these trees were growing at the time the home was built but as there are no others of this species growing on the place it is presumed that Mr. Gibson planted them in order to further beautify the stately old Colonial home. The trees are approximately sixty feet high and two and a half feet in diameter. In the springtime their beauty and fragrance are enjoyed by the entire country side.⁶

NO MORE beautiful flowering tree is to be found in the county than a Red Bud growing at the home of N. B. Boggan some five miles South of Mendenhall. Exact date of its planting is indefinite but it is

4. Mr. Frank M. Grubbs.

5. Historian.

6. Historian

known to be more than sixty years old. The Red Bud tree grows, ordinarily, in more or less a bush form, being low and bunchy. However it rivals in beauty even the stately Magnolia. The tree owned by Mr. Boggan has, through cultivation and nurture, become the largest of its kind of which we have obtained information. It measures some eighteen inches in diameter four feet above the ground, is estimated at fifty feet in height and spreads about sixty feet, many of the limbs being thirty feet long. In its flowering season it is indeed an object of beauty and tree lovers often go for miles to view it.

Mr. Boggan is one of the county's Nature lovers and has given the tree the utmost care. It seems to possess almost a miraculous power of appreciation and responds heartily to every effort to further perfect its loveliness.⁷

7. Historian.

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4. Information from Mr. Frank M. Grubbs, Magee, (Information given him by Mr. Richmond McNair.)
5. Information secured by Historian.
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TREE SURVEY

1. Information from Mr. N. B. Boggan, Mendenhall.
2. Information from Mr. N. B. Boggan, Mendenhall.
3. Information from Mr. N. B. Boggan, Mendenhall.
4. Information from Mr. Frank M. Grubbs, Magee, (Information given him by Mr. Richmond McNair.)
5. Information secured by Historian.
6. Information by Historian.
7. Information secured by Historian.

Alice B. Terry
Alice, B. Terry, Historian
Historic Research Project
Area # 13
Simpson County.

November 26, 1937

HISTORIC RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI

SUSIE V. POWELL CONSULTANT
ALICE B. TERRY, HISTORIAN
IDA T. FITZHUGH, SENIOR TYPIST
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 13

ASSIGNMENT 25

TREE SURVEY

HISTORIC TREES

- (1) WHITE OAK, on N. B. Boggan Homestead, five miles South of Mendenhall.
- (2) HICKORY, on Weathersby-Pinola road, eight miles South of Mendenhall.
- (3) MAGNOLIA, on D'Lo-Pinola Highway, on Sanders' Creek, Southwest of D'Lo.

LARGEST TREES

- (1) WATER OAK, on McNair old Homestead, Saratoga.
- (2) WILLOW, on L. H. May's property, Mendenhall.

FLOWERING TREES

- (1) MAGNOLIA TREES, on Gibson old Homestead, three miles South of Mendenhall.
- (2) RED BUD, on N. B. Boggan's place, five miles South of Mendenhall.

Alice B. Terry
Alice B. Terry, Historian
Historic Research Project
Area # 13
Simpson County.

November 26, 1937

SIMPSON COUNTY, TREES

2nd copy

Simpson

Chapter 3

FLORA

Forests and Their Economic Value

(a) Soil Conserver.

In the forest, the crowns of leaf covers of the trees check the mad rush of the raindrops, during a heavy rain. When the drops do soak through the thick carpet of dead leaves and other spongy matter, this acts like a real sponge. The moisture goes on soaking through until it reaches some open space in the earth through which it can seep until it finds a passage to the surface again.

When trees are left growing on hillsides the soil remains. Trees may be cut leaving stumps 12 inches high and sod as well as seed are beneficiary remains, which holds the soil. When the sod becomes firmly rooted the stump may be removed and the soil is maintained.

Fire destroys low plants and shrubs whose seeds or fruits are the food of many birds. Until fire is kept out of the places where they live and care for their young, birds and animals will be fewer and fewer.

Fires rob the soil of nature's fertilizer and kill the palatable wild legumes and grasses, such as lespedeza, beggar lice, bermuda grass, and carpet grass.

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(b) Soil Erosion.

Fertile soil is the accumulation for centuries of vegetable matter. Good forestry, like good farming, builds up the soil.

Therefore, fire destroys trees and plants whose sheltering leaves and network of roots protect the soil and hold it together. The water holding leaf mold is destroyed, the soil alternately washes and bakes, gullies form, and streams dry up.

The value of forests in relationship to floods lies not so much in storage of water in the forest floor as in their ability to prevent erosion.

Of all vegetable covers, forests are most useful in preventing erosion on slopes and the silting up of ^rstreams, and they are therefore an important factor in flood control.

The relation of forests to floods is more directly a matter of soil control than of water control in our county.

(c) Shelter against temperatures, (extreme)

Trees for windbreaks will grow in nearly all farming districts; yet, there are many farm homes which stand blank against the horizon because the owner fails to realize that trees may grow in certain parts of the land. Why are the efforts of some who would have a windbreak crowned with success while do many others experience failure? Failure usually follows an unfortunate choice of trees or the lack of proper care in planting and cultivation. Evergreen trees, like pines are especially desirable because their foliage protects against the cold blasts of winters. The ideal windbreak includes several trees, which may grow tall and live for many years.

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Eventually they may be cut to serve as building material, fencing or fuel, but the primary purpose is to protect the farm home and other buildings.

(d) Increasing farm income.

Many farmers are getting a part of their yearly income from timber grown on their farms. In hard years, due to short crops of food or cotton, the sale of crossties, pulp wood, poles, firewood, or saw logs has kept the family from financial distress and the banks and other business institutions from closing their doors.

The growing of timber on farm land not suitable or not needed for field crops or pasture is now generally recognized as a profitable enterprise.

Timber will grow on the less fertile soils and does not require fertilizer or labor. It is the net profit that counts, and more and more farmers are coming to realize that wood and timber rank high as cash crops.

The right use of the ax and saw is an important part of good woods management. If managing the farm woodland successfully means anything, it means using or marketing the product wisely. Owners of timberland will be interested in the experiences of farmers who by good methods of cutting, using, marketing, have made their woodlands profitable.

(1) Edgerton's, Our Southern Forests, PP,

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I have just reviewed four ways in which forests have a real economic value to Simpson County, especially to the land in the county. I will now review some of the many products from the home forest.

There is no substance in common use about which so little is really known as wood. No one invented or discovered wood. It has always been with us. We take it as a matter of course, yet wood is one of the most remarkable substances in the world. No other substance gives rise to a greater variety of products or meets more diversified needs. It provides fuel, building material of all kinds, furniture, vehicles, implements, and an endless list of accessories to our daily wants. Reduce it to its component fibre, and you have the basis for the great paper industry.

Through processes of extraction, there are obtained tanning material dyes, mordants, resins, gums, and many other useful things. Through distillation there is obtained gas, wood alcohol, acetic, wood tar, and charcoal, while resinous woods produce in addition turpentine and oils.

There is no better measure of civilization than the extent to which wood is utilized, for which our forest have made possible. (1)

In regard to the marketing of farm timber. The local price is \$20 (twenty dollars) per thousand.

Cooperative Marketing is \$25 (twenty-five dollars) to \$40 (forty dollars) per thousand. This is the market of pine timber, sold to different people and large business corporations, by Mrs E.D. Ponder of Weathersby

(1)

Southern Forests.

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Mississippi.

There are many other small farm sawmills located over the county. they are better known as portable sawmills. The majority of the lumber from these mills are consumed on the local market. That is the building of local homes, barns and the general improvement of the farm. (1)

In the chapter on Industry will be found ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a fuller discussion on the timber industry, especially in regard to that of the sawmills.

Conservation Agencies

Money made available from a protection tax of two cents an acre on the woodlands of the county. This includes 88 (eighty eight) per cent of the 300,000 acres of Simpson County which is woodlands.

The county protection organization is composed of a County Ranger, two Smoke Chasers and ten forest wardens.

The CCC Camp P-70 was established July 26, 1935. This establishment provides forest protection, in fire suppression, construction of protective improvements, such as Lookout Towers, Telephone lines connecting towers with rangers, wardens and smoke chasers.

When the work of Camp P-70 was completed in this county there were five
Ponder, E. D., Weathersby, Miss.

towers; one located at Pinola, one at Kennedy school, one NW of Harrisville, one south of the Sanatorium and one in the SW part of the county. There is 153 miles of telephone lines, 75 miles of forest roads, and the five towers have living quarters for the men who are in charge. (1)

A number of farmers are allowing eroded areas, formerly in cultivation to reseed and mature into forest of the second growth; longleaf pine, short leaf pine, post oak, red oak, black jack oak, red oak, sycamore, sassafras, hickory, and cedar.

The areas from which the original growth of the long leaf pine has been removed, have been reseeded largely, by different varieties of oak, and the numerous types of pines.

To supplement this reforestation on the part of individual owners. The Fire Control Department of the Civilian Conservation Corps, located near Mendenhall, Mississippi assist in preventing and stopping the forest fires, which are highly destructive to woodlands growth. (2)

Types of Forest Trees

The following types of forest trees are found in Simpson County. Pines; under pines we have the long leaf and the short leaf. The first, long leaf, forms a wood that is heavy and strong as well as hard, tough, durable and very resinous. It has smooth bark and long needles, which turns brown and sheds these in the fall of the year. This type of pine bears beautiful

Sidney H. Bufkin, Connected with the CCC Camp, Mendenhall, Miss.
McLendon, James Professor, Mendenhall, Miss.

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burrs. It is used for general building and heavy construction purposes.

The second, short leaf, is heavy, hard, and fine grained, but has less resinous than that of the other pine. This type has short needles.

A third pine is the loblolly. This type is usually short and dumpy, but has a wide range of uses, where durability is not important.

Cypress, wood is light, soft and easily worked, it is especially durable in contact with the soil. A characteristic which makes it greatly in demand for green houses planking; boat and ship building, shingles, posts poles, and cross ties.

Red cedar. The wood is aromatic soft, strong and of even texture. These qualities make it useful in the manufacture of masonry art, from cedar chest to cedar pencils.

The following kinds of hardwoods are found in the county.

Oaks: White-Pest- Water-Black Jack-Turkey-Red- and Live.

Maples: Silver Leaf and Red Maples.

Locust: Black Locust.

Elm:

Magnolia:

Sycamore:

Buckeye:

Holly;

Dogwood:

Persimmon;

Poplar:

Sweet Gum: Red Gum.

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Fruit Bearing Trees

We find the following fruit bearing trees in Simpson County.

Oaks: Acorns, food for animals.

Sweet Gum: Balls, Sycamore. Food for birds.

Junipers, Black Gum, Basswood, Dogwood, Holly, Sassafras, trees bear berries.

The holly is used for decorations around Christmas time. each year and make beautiful christmas trees.

Pines, Cypress, Cedars, produce cones or "burrs".

Black Walnut, Beach, Hickories, and Pecan trees bear nuts. These nuts are used by the inhabitants of the county as well as furnishing food for animals and birds.

Willow, Redbud, and Locust trees produce pods.

Magnolia, The rounded head contains red berries.

Elms, Maples, and Ash trees produce Samaras (key of the winged fruit.)

Dogwood, Red Cedar, Red Mulberry, Sugarberry, and Pine produces a fruit that is much prized by birds.

Wild Plum, has a fruit, or plum, which ripens in summer, is red or orange colored, about an inch in diameter, contains a stone or pit that is flattened and about as long as the pulpy part, and varies rather widely in its palatability.

Black Cherry produces a fruit that is a dull purplish black, about as

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large as a pea, and is borne in long hanging cluster.

Crab Apple bears a fruit resembling a flattened globe, pale yellow-green three-fourth to one inch in diameter, and is used for preserves.

Persimmon produces a pulpy, round, orange-colored or brownberry, and an inch or more in diameter and containing several flattened hard, smooth seeds. It is much relished by children, and by dogs, "possums" and other animals.

Mayhaw produces a berry of a yellowish-orange color, and is used for making preserves. (1)

Historic Trees

Unfortunately many of the choicest trees of Simpson County have been utilized for lumber for building, bridge work, etc. The writer has been unable to identify many old trees which once made distinctive history, as they no longer exist. However, we have definitely located a few which, through their history make them of paramount interest, particularly to the owners thereof. The following is a brief sketch of a few historic trees we have information of.

(a) Mr. Jessie Boggan moved to this county from North Carolina in 1830, and settled on the present Boggan homestead. On this place were growing

Edgerton's, Our Southern Forests (Miss. Text book) pp.

two young trees, a Red Oak and a White Oak. Two years after moving here with his family, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Boggan. When this son was five years of age he was told that the Red Oak might be claimed by him.

Some time after that a young man of the community "came a courting" an older daughter in the home. He rode a mule, and hitched this mule to the Red Oak tree. During the course of the afternoon the mule, growing restless at his long period of standing still, and inactivity, proceeded to bite the top out of the tree. The lad was so heart broken over the tragedy that had happened to his beloved tree, that he was told that the other tree should be his from that time forward. Through this particular incident is known the age of the two trees, each being, at least one hundred and nine years old at the time this is being written.

A few months ago lightning struck the White Oak tree, damaging but not totally destroying it, while the Red Oak, standing some twenty feet away, died immediately, although the lightning did not strike it at all.

For preservation of these trees fertilization and cultivation have been provided and both were of healthy growth until lightning struck the one referred to above. (1)

(b) A Hickory tree grows on the Weathersby-Pinola road, standing less than a mile west of Macedonia Church, which tells a tragic tale. During the Civil War a negro named Andrew Johnson was caught stealing from his master, and a small group of citizens who were friends of the owner of the negro, hanged the negro from this tree. The hill upon which the tree grew and

Boggan, N.B., Mendenhall, Miss.

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from which the negro was hanged was thereafter called "Andrew 'ill", and is so known until this day. It is almost a superstition that the limb from which the negro hanged died soon thereafter, leaving the rest of the tree growing. (1)

(c) On the D'Lo-Pinola Highway on the bank of Sanders creek there stands a Magnolia tree and the casual observer will instantly see that at some date the entire top was taken out of it. It is said the land on which the tree grows originally belonged to Mr. Andrew Howell, an ancestor of the Howell family of Mendenhall. He owned a plantation of approximately one thousand acres during the years preceding the Civil War, and had numerous slaves to till this land. Having a "wee bit" of Scotch blood in his veins, he operated the plantation in the most economical manner, so in order to lessen his expenses on services of his overseers as well as to satisfy himself that the work was done in the most efficient and thrifty manner he had this tree topped-it being the tallest on the plantation-had a platform erected therein, and taking his most comfortable chair, mounted his "throne" and viewed his many acres while the slaves labored thereon. That was more than seventy years ago. The tree was full grown at that time. It still stands and, apparently, is as healthy as it was nearly a century ago. The trunk measures about two feet in diameter. (2)

¹ Boggan, N.B., Mendenhall, Miss.

² Boggan, N.B. Mendenhall, Miss.

xxsargax

Largest Trees

There stands in the yard of the McNair old home at Saratoga a magnificent Water Oak, the age of which is reckoned by the following story as narrated by Mr. Richmond McNair, who is now in his ninety fifth year. When he was a small boy he, together with a little negro slave, drove a wagon and team of oxen over a young oak sapling which his father had carefully taken up and transplanted in the yard. His father saw the boys commit the deed. Although the young tree was not injured seriously he thought his young son lacking in appreciation of nature's beauty and disobedient in that he knew his father wished the tree protected. He saw, further, that the act was deliberately committed in a spirit of mischief. After a brief but somewhat painful session with the two boys in the wood shed the tree was straightened, propped upright, and its bruises treated. It stands today a "Mighty Monarch of the Forest," magnificent in its majestic beauty, a monument to the home and a heritage to the descendants of a nature loving family, whispering through the rustling of its leaves the story of a century gone by. (1)

On property belonging to L.M. May, in Mendenhall, there stands a Willow tree which is thought to be the largest of its kind in the county. It stands approximately sixty feet high, the trunk measures two feet and seven inches in diameter and the spread of the branches is sixty four feet. Diameter and spread were secured by actual measurements. (2)

Grubbs Frank, M., Mendenhall, Miss.
(2) Historian

We get the following information in regard to some large trees Simpson county produced in days gone by, from the files of the Simpson County News.

Timber

"Two of the finest pieces of timber we have heard of being cut in the county were taken off the land of Wiley G. Bell, near Braxton. Four sixteen feet "cuts" aggregating 8,326 feet were taken from one tree while a second one aggregated 5,320 feet, making a total of 13,646 feet of lumber in two trees, both of which were Poplars. The timber can be seen at Braxton if anyone doubts the accuracy of this statement. Who can beat it? (1)

Flowering Trees

In the yard of the Gibson old Homestead, three miles south of Mendenhall, three magnificent Magnolia trees tower above the two story house, dwarfing other growth around them. These trees are reputed to have been planted in 1860, at the time the home was established. Information is not available as to whether these trees were growing at the time the home was built, but as there are no others of this species growing on the place it is presumed that Mr. Gibson planted them in order to further beautify the stately old Colonial home. The trees are approximately sixty feet high and

(1) Simpson County News, Mendenhall, "Iss., June 19, 1902.

* two and one half feet in diameter. In the springtime their beauty and fragrance are enjoyed by the entire country side.

No more beautiful flowering tree is to be found in the county than ~~xxred~~ a Red Bud growing at the home of N.B. Boggan some five miles south of Mendenhall. Exact date of its planting is indefinite but it is known to be more than ~~xx~~ sixty years old. The Red Bud tree grows, ordinarily, in more or less a bush form, being low and bunched. However it rivals in beauty even the stately Magnolia. The tree owned by Mr. Boggan has, through cultivation and nurture, become the largest of its kind we have obtained information. It measures some eighteen inches in diameter four feet above the ground, is estimated at fifty feet in height and spreads about sixty feet, many of the limbs being thirty feet long. In its flowering season it is indeed an object of beauty, and tree lovers often go for miles to view it.

Mr. Boggan is one of the county's nature lovers and ~~xx~~ has given the tree the utmost care. It seems to possess almost a miraculous power of appreciation and responds heartily to every effort to further perfect its loveliness. (1)

Street and Highway Trees

The State Highway Department is sponsoring a project of beautification along the new Highway no. 49, (Jackson to Gulfport). In regard to Simpson

(1) Boggan, N.B., Mendenhall, Miss.

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County the kind of trees are as follows:

Pines, if the place is suitable, varying from 50 to 100 feet apart. Sometimes rocks are placed between, to serve as a scenic beauty.

Magnolias, the state flower, and a few cedars are being used for beautifying the roads, as well as dogwood, Red Bud, and Honeysuckle. Where the road is cut down on either side, running roses are planted, as the Cherokee, and Pink roses.

Pulbs are being planted, in places that need filling in, for an outstanding scenery.

Red Bud and Grape Myrtle are being planted, between the larger trees. Leaf mold is used for fertilizer.

No plan has been worked out for cultivation as this is a new project that is being put on by the State Highway Department. (I)

Flowers

Wild Flowers. No county in the state has a wider variety of wild flowers than Simpson. From the early days of spring when the daisies and the white violets cover the ground, till late in the fall when the nigger heads and golden rods make the woods, the highways and byways, a thing of beauty. The stately Magnolia, the state flower, with its lovely green foliage and gorgeous white blossoms is found in all parts of the county.

Sykes, J.B., Mendenhall, Miss.

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The lovely dogwood, a small tree, grows in every part of the county. The beautiful white blossoms with greenish tinted tips, when in full bloom look like a bridal array.

The red bud, a small tree, grown in the woodlands abounds in the county. The lavender pink flowers make it one of our most beautiful trees.

The huckleberry, the summer and winter variety has white flowers and the fruit is prized for making pies.

The buckeye grown in swampy places has a big red blossom.

The mountain ivy, grown in swamps near the river, is a tall bush, the flowers are pink with reddish specks.

The honeysuckle, a form of azalea, is found in all parts of the county, and is a small bush with pinkish flowers, with a sweet odor.

The vine honeysuckle grows nearer the farms. This has a white bloom and also, has a very sweet odor.

The yellow jasmine, a vine, is found in all woody places throughout the county. The yellow flowers lend to the woods desired beauty.

The elder has heavy clusters of blooms, a fruit that can be used for making jellies or for wine.

The crab apple, a fruit bearing tree, has a flower of a pale pink color. This is another one of our sweetest wood flowers.

The three different kind of haw trees has white blossoms. The may haw has a red fruit shaped like a very small apple, this fruit makes delicious jelly, also pies. The birds feed on the fruit of parsley haw. Birds and hogs

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feed on the hog haw. The may haw grows in wet marshes, ponds and streams. The parsley haw and hog haw grows in the wooded sections.

The thistle, a weed bush, grows in low places and has lavender flowers.

The wild iris grows in wet marshy places. the flowers range from lavender to dark purple and white.

The golden rod, grows from two to six feet high, in all parts of the county, and has a bright yellow flower.

The buckeye susan is yellow with a dark brown center.

The water lily and water hyacinth are found in lakes, ponds, and still waters. The water hyacinth is lavender in color.

The water lily is white, yellow, lavender and pink. Along highways we find a number of these. The leaves of the water lily or hyacinth are dark green and when the flowers are in bloom these ponds or marshes are umxxx beautiful.

The wild rose, a single rose, pink in color, grows in every part of the county.

The wild verbena is beautiful. The purple plant grows in abundance on hilly places. The white grows in open places and is not so beautiful.

There are three varieties of violets. The hillsides are covered in early spring with the big light blue, with a yellow center. The children enjoy gathering these and call them "rooster violets", grown in damper places and the small white violet grows in or near the swampy places.

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The modest primrose is another familiar flower, shaped like a single poppy, pink in color, grows in abundance in open places and along the road side.

The bugle weed, a tall plant, with heavy blooming tops leaves grow in circles with four leaves about every six inches. The flowers is heavy with a feathery bloom and grows in low bottoms.

The buttercup, canary colored, a low plant, grows in old fields and along roadsides, but is most often found where land has been cultivated.

The blue daisy, a low plant from two to four inches high is usually the first flower to open in the spring and grows almost every where.

Lupin- a plant that grows from six to eighteen inches high, is found principally in low places. The flower is lavender.

Asters are found, both, blue and lavender, The plant grows from one to one and one half feet in height, usually found in hilly places.

The yellow daisy or nigger head, grows to about three feet is found all over the county.

The cherokee rose, is cultivated more than any of the wild flowers.

Sweet william, a flower generally found on hillsides, rose pink in color and very attractive.

The morning glory, in a variety of colors are one of our favorites. We find them in the fields and woods but they are usually in protected places. They are used extensively for a shade on porches or summer homes. They vary in size from the very small to the large moonflower or trumpet morning glory.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
SIMPSON COUNTY

Janie Bond, Canvasser

COUNTY HISTORY

Assignment # 9

Subject: INDIANS

1. Early Inhabitants

a. Major and Minor tribes.

Man probably originated in, and the races have spread from, Asia. The American Indian, a Mongolian in type, is related to the Mongolians of eastern Asia. A number of these Asiatic Mongoloids became isolated from their native land, without doubt by crossing the Bering Strait which separates northeastern Asia from Alaska and the North American mainland. This distance is approximately fifty miles and could be covered with crude craft under favorable weather conditions. The civilization of the American Indians, by this isolation, was six thousand years behind that of the old world when the earliest European explorers came.

The pine-clad hills and fertile bottom lands which now constitute Simpson County were inhabited by the Choctaw Indians. The "National Capital" of this tribe was at Nanah Waiya, near the source of Pearl River and approximately eighty miles northeast of the center of Simpson County. Nanah Waiya is located near the Meshoba-Winston

county line and was known among the Choctaws as the "Mother of their race." Located there is a massive Indian mound which is the subject of several curious legends; the most favored is that the Chickasaws and Choctaws traveled together in their migration from the west, being guided in their wandering by a pole which, planted for the night would indicate by the way it was leaning the next morning the direction they should follow on their march during that day. At Nanah Waiya the pole settled, indicating the site for permanent settlement, but the Chickasaws had become separated from the Choctaws because of swollen streams between their camps and wandered on. The Chickasaws settled and held the northern part of the present State of Mississippi. The Choctaws spread from Nanah Waiya to all parts of the "immense territory extending from the Mississippi River. The Choctaws owned nearly all of southeastern Mississippi, much of the central portion of the state, and nine-tenths of the 'delta of the Yazoo', which embraces the most fertile and productive soil in the world..."

"The Honorable Charles Gauraxre (Author, History of Louisiana, 1903) has the following in reference original proprietors of the magnificent territory to which attention has just been called.

"....They (the Choctaws) owned more than fifty important villages, and it was said at one time, they could have brought into the field twenty-five thousand warriors. Chaate, Chatka or Choctaw, spelling it as-

according to the various pronunciations, means charming voice in the Indian dialect. It appears that the Choctaws had a great aptitude for music and singing, hence the name was given them. Very little is known about their origin... It is said that they suddenly made their appearance, and rapidly overran the whole country. That appearance was so spontaneous that it seemed as if they had sprung up from the earth like mushrooms....'

(This information was secured from Rowland, Mississippi, The Heart of the South.)

b. Customs and Characteristics.

"The accounts given of the Choctaws and other Indians by the early European travelers are largely tinged by national prejudices. The Choctaws were far more friendly to the French than the English and Adair, (James Adair, an English trader who spent forty years among the Indians, writing in 1775), therefore characterizes them as 'of a base, ungrateful and thieving disposition---fickle and treacherous---ready witted and endowed with a surprising flow of smooth, artful language on every subject within reach of their ideas; in each of these qualities they far exceed any society of people I ever saw. ...Except the intense love they bear their native country and their utter contempt of any kind of danger in defense of it, I know of no other virtue they possess.'

"On the other hand, Mons. Bown, captain of the French Marines, who traveled through Louisiana (territory) at even an earlier date than the period described by the Engli

Englishman discovered not a few virtues interspersed with vices not uncommon to various members of the white race. He spoke of the Choctaws as 'entirely the friends of the French.' Captain Bessu continues:

" 'The Choctaw love war and are acquainted with stratagems. 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.' "

"Though the Choctaws were said to have been very uncleanly, they were described by the French officer as affectionate and truthful.

"It may be said that the friendship ^{ex-} ~~subsisting~~ among the relatives, (a thing uncommon in Europe), is worthy of imitation. The mutual love of the Indians toward each other inclines them to assist each other when they are infirm. This sincere love they pay to their friends and relations by their tears and grief, even when they exist no more.

Almost all the assemblies of the Choctaws are held in night-time, though they are barbarous and ferocious, it is necessary in order to gain their confidence to take great care to keep your promises to them; without which they treat you with the greatest contempt, proudly telling you that

you are a liar." "

"The Choctaws milder in their savagery than other tribes, has some customs that were more barbarous than any of them. One of these was the compressing of the heads of infants. The young child was placed in a recumbent position with a weight upon its forehead, which was kept there until the shape of the growing skull was affected. On this account the Choctaws were often called Flat Heads."

These first residents of this section were peaceably inclined though brave, eloquent, and were generally uncivilized, but held tenaciously to certain honorable and admirable principles.

c. Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances.

The Indian traditions, legends, myths and romances that are found in most counties, we fail to find in Simpson.

"Much has been written about the gift of oratory of the American Indian, but many of the speeches attributed to him and their origin in the highly poetic imagination of local historians, and much wit and humor have been directed at the fancy of these imaginative gentleman. In spite of this, however, there is official documentary evidence that the American Indian was an orator of no mean parts and that he did deliver eloquent speeches, which were interpreters employed for the purpose of recording the full proceedings of congresses and conferences and treaty discussions between the Indians and the French, English,

Spanish, and Americans. All the speeches given here were really delivered and recorded as translated into English by the official interpreters....

"You Favre have always heard me speak in every assembly, since you were a boy, but now I am old, without teeth, half blind, and all the race convened to give their sentiments, perhaps it may not be proper for me to speak. Nevertheless, I feel myself so fired with the occasion that I cannot refrain.

"I am of the great race of Ingulota, I am master of the whole Choctaw Nation by birth, by long employment and and by long experience it is to me to give instructions to the rest, I have made alliance with the other race of Imongulacha, and we have agreed that our talk should be one, I heard the words of the chiefs with great attention, and when I really found they came here make any brothers happy I wished for my eyes and ears and my teeth again.

"When I was young the white man came amongst us bearing abundance along with them, I took them by the hand and have ever remained firm to my engagements, in return all my wants and those of my warriors and wives and children have been bountifully supplied. I now see another race of white men come amongst us bearing the same abundance, and I expect they will be equally bountiful which must be done if they wish equally to gain the affection of my people.

"I and my men have used the guns of France these eighty winters back. I wish I was young to try the English guns and English powder both of which I hope will flourish and

and rejoice the heart of the hunters through the land and cover the nakedness of the women.

" 'With respect of the land I was consulted in it, if I was to deliver my sentiments evil disposed people might impute it to motives very different from those who have given it away; that the words which were spoken have been written with a lasting mark, the Superintendent marks every word after word as one would count bullets so that no variation can happen, and therefore the words have been spoken, and the eternal marks traced I will not say anything to contradict, but, on the contrary confirm the cession which has been made. What I have now to say on that head is, to wish that all the land may be settled in for years that I may see it myself before I die.

" ' I listened to all parts of the talks and liked them exceedingly well, except that part from the superintendent, where he reported that those medal chiefs who did not behave well should be broke and their medals given to others. The conversation I have held with Favre, in private, had rung every night in my ear, as I laid my head on the bear skin and as I have many enemies in the nation, I dreamed I should be the person, which would break my heart in my old age, to lose the authority I have long held.

" ' I cannot imagine that Great King could sent the Superintendent to deceive us. In case we deliver up our French medales and commissions and presents, but the worthy cannot bear to be disgraced without a fault, neither will the generous inflict a punishment without a crime.

" 'There was one thing I would mention though it cannot concern myself, and that is the behavior of the traders toward our women. I was told of old by the Creeks and Cherokees, wherever the English went they caused disturbances for they lived under no government and paid no respect either to wisdom or station. I hoped for better things, that those old talks had no truth in them. One thing I must report which has happened within my own knowledge, ~~report with has happened within my own knowledge~~, that often when traders sent for a basket of bread and the generous Indian sent his own wife to supply their wants instead of takin the bread out of the basket they put their hand upon the breast of their wives which was no to be admitted, for the first maxim in our language is that death is preferable to disgrace.

" 'I am no of opinion that in giving land to the English, we deprive ourselves of the use of it, on the contrary, I think we shall share it with them, as for example, the house I now speak in was built by the white people on our land, yet it is divided between the white and the red people.

'Therefore we need not be uneasy that the English settle upon our lands as by that means they can more easily supply our wants.'

d. Mounds.

Simpson County, being in a remote section of the Choctaw nation, has not the Indian relics and remains of some sections of the State, but evidence remain of their having dwelt here. There are at least two unexplored Indian mounds in the county. Chipped stone arrow-heads, spear points, and bird points have been found in all sections of the county. It is likely that many skirmishes and battles of the Choctaws with the Natchez tribe to the southwest, the Pascagoula, the Biloxi, and other tribes to the south, took place in this region. An important Indian trail crossed Pearl River near the southwestern corner of the county and lay across the county, following a northeasterly course and leading to an Old Agency in the east central part of the State. The later Westville-Raleigh- or Pinola-Goodwater roads lay along the same general course as that followed by this trail. The old Patterson settlement, formerly Six Town, is said to be the site of an Indian village. (The Six Towns Choctaws, the southernmost division of the tribe, and from which Six Town may have received its name, had a number of villages in Smith and Jasper counties, lying to the immediate east.) There have been reported locations of other village sites but none of these have been done in the county, as far as this writer can find. Therefore, dependable information is rare.

e. Prominent Indian Men and Women.

" 'At a congress held at Deak's Stand, October 8, 1820, between Generals Andrew Jackson and Thomas Hinds and the Choctaw chief, Pushmataha, known as the greatest friend to the whites among the Indians of the Mississippi section:

" 'Brother Push, you have uttered some hard words. You have openly accused me of misrepresentation and indirectly of the desire to defraud the red people in behalf of my government. These are heavy charges, charges of a very serious character. You must explain yourself in a manner that will clear them or I shall quit you.

" 'Pushmataha arose, took the speakers' stand very deliberately and casting his eyes, which were now beaming with the light that fired his great soul, upon his audience, said:

" 'As men grow older, especially great men, enthraling themselves with much business on the field of growing fame, they become impatient and irritable. They dare not stop on the path of their rushing and varying necessities to parley with the ignorant. They must make short work with all such obstructions, there is no honor in permitting the feeble or the foolish he may meet in his precipitate course to pass. No allowance is to be made of forgiveness offered for him. He must yield to the mere say so for the warily moving seeker of fame or be crushed. I have been making observation on that cast of character a long time, and find but little difference in their public action, In their private intercourse the whole thing is changed.

"My great friend, General Jackson, who familiarly calls me brother, whom my inner soul loveth, and in whose presence I always felt myself a mere boy, has become excited at some of my remarks, and has hastily called on me to explain them, and that explanation must be satisfactory or he will "quit us", the meaning of which, as I suppose, is that should I fail to take the amends honorable he returns to his government and informs them that an honorable treaty cannot be negotiate with them. Then comes the horrors of war against us. All I have to say about it is that I hope they will have the good sense and the justice to put it upon those only who have raised the furs to do the fighting. It would indeed be a great error in the justice of any government to involve the innocent inhabitants of two nations in the ruinous consequences of war on account of a misunderstanding betwixt two of their ministers.

"You gentleman, General Jackson and General Hinds, are filling as I understand from the letter you read before the council yesterday, the place of commissioners from the government of the United States to hold a treaty for certain purposes with the people of the Choctaw country. Am I right?" and both the generals nodding assent, Pushmataha resumed and said: "I informed you in the outset, which I here repeat, that I occupy the same position. I, too, have been appointed by my government as commissioner to hold a treaty through you gentlemen with your people. I am therefore your equal, as far as appointment can make

us so. I have already recognized your appointment and authority as being in all respects on an equal basis with my own. You, gentlemen, must reciprocate." And he seated himself on the bench with the commissioners, looking remarkably sedate.

"General Jackson, in a remarkably good humor, rose and said: 'General Pushmataha, in all respects in this treaty we acknowledge you to be vested with powers equal to ourselves and precisely on the same footing in relation to your country that we are to ours. You shall have no complaint to make against us in that respect. And now, as we are all equals, not of our own creation, but by the appointment of our respective nations, your are in a condition to go on and explain wherein I have misrepresented any fact in the propositions I have made in the name of my government. The nature of our position demands it, and we expect it from you.'

"Pushmataha said: 'I shall take much pleasure in my explanation to render a plain and irrefutable interpretation of what I have said, and I will present in a very clear light the misrepresentations in relation to the quality of the country west of the Mississippi and the size of the country outside of the great river by my highly esteemed friend.

"In the first place he speaks of the country he wishes to obtain in the swap as "A little slip of land at the lower part of the present Choctaw nation," where-

as it is a very considerable tract of country. He had designated the boundaries of it himself, and I am very familiar with the entire tract of land it will cut off from us. In the second place, he represented the country he wishes to exchange for the "little slip of land," as being very extensive country of tall trees, many water courses, rich lands and high grass, abounding in game of all kinds--buffalo, bear, elk, deer, antelope beaver, turkeys, honey and fruits of many kinds, I am also well acquainted with that country. I have hunted there often, have chased the Comanches and the Ovashasahi over these endless plains, and they have sometimes chased me there. I know the country well. It is indeed a very extensive land, but a vast amount of it is exceedingly poor and sterile, trackless, sandy deserts, nude of vegetation of any kind. As to tall trees, there is no timber anywhere except on the bottom lands, and it is low and bulky even ~~there~~ the grass is everywhere very short, and for the game it is not plenty, except buffaloes and deer. The buffalo in the western portion of the tract described and on the great plains into which it reaches are very numerous and easily taken; antelope, too, are there and deer almost everywhere except in the dry, grassless, sandy deserts. There are but few bottom lands. Turkeys are plentiful on all the water course, there are, however, but few beavers, and the honey and fruit are rare things. The bottoms on the rivers are generally good soil, but liable to inundation during the spring season, and in

summers the rivers and creeks dry up or become so salty that the water is awful for use. It is not at these times always salt, but often bitter, and purge a man like medicine. This account differs widely from the description given by my friend yesterday and constitutes what in my reply to him I styled a misrepresentation and one gregious error that he is entirely ignorant of the geography of the country, he is offering to swap, and therefore I shall acquit him of an intention at fraud. The testimony that he bears against himself in regard to his deficiency of a knowledge of the geography of that far off country manifests itself in the fact that he has offered to swap to men and undefined portion of Mexican territory. He offers to run the line up the Canadian River to its source and thence due south to the Red River. Now I know that a line running due south from the source of the Canadian would never touch any portion of Red River, but would go into the Mexican possessions beyond the limits even of my geographical knowledge."

We find no record of any prominent women in Simpson county but Pushmataha, who was head of the Choctaw tribe when Mississippi was purchased, from time to time was in Simpson county.

2. Now Living in Your County.

Today not a single Choctaw Indian resides in Simpson County, apart of that vast domain their fathers ^{ruled} ruled with kingly power and defended with unsurpassed valor. They have long since again marched into new territory to find homes and bountiful hunting grounds-- this time, toward the setting sun, beyond the mighty "Father of Waters."

This information was given by Professor James Mc-
London, teacher of Mendenhall High School. He obtained
his information from Rowland, Mississippi, the Heart of
the South, and Lowry and McCardie, History of Mississippi.

Although this has been published it still makes in-
teresting reading for the number in Simpson County, who
possibly have not had the advantage of reading these
histories.

Mrs. J. H. Baker
Supervisor of Historical Research Project

SIMPSON COUNTY

Sup Ant Reclaim Days

1

Simpson County Residence Constructed of Hand Hewn Logs in 1837

M'NAIR HOUSE 100 YEARS OLD

The McNair home is located in the southwestern part of Simpson county. It was built in 1837, the year the Clarion came into existence, by Richmond McNair's grandfather, with the aid of a carpenter, Richmond McNair, a Civil War veteran, was active in service.

The old McNair home is made of hand-hewed logs, hewed by Ruford McNair. The foundation of this home was made of pine blocks, which still remain. The kitchen and dining room were originally built off from the main part of the house, but have been torn away. There is a stairway leading from the front porch to the upstairs. The windows have hand-made shutters erected around them.

This McNair family was among the first tax-payers of Simpson county.

Daily Clarion-Ledger, December 31, 1937, Jackson, Miss.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
SIMPSON COUNTY

REFERENCES
ASSIGNMENT- # Fifteen

"OLD HOMES"

- 1- Simpson's Pioneer days in regard to Old Homes.
by Mr. W. W. Fox, Mendenhall, Miss.
- 2- The "Old Gibson Home", by Mrs. Mollie Gibson from
Mendenhall, Mississippi.
- 3- The "Old Hubbard Home", by ~~Hugh~~ Hubbard, Mt. Olive
Mississippi.
- 4- The "Old Turner Home", by Mrs. Mary E. Thames, Wea-
thersby, Mississippi.
- 5- The "Old Thurman Hotel", by Mrs. V. C. Williams, of
Mendenhall, Mississippi.
- 6- The "Old Weathersby Home", by Mr. E. A. Howell, Pres-
ident of First National Bank, Canton
Mississippi.
- 7- The "Old Albritton Home", by Mr. John Albritton,
Mage, Mississippi.
- 8- The "Old Bishop Home", by Mrs. Ben Banks.
- 9- The "Old McNair Home", by Mr. Richmond McNair.
- 10- The "Old Dickson Home", by Mrs. Gus Dickson of Pinola
Mississippi.
- 11- The "Old Dickerson Home", by Mrs. Polk Dickerson, New-
Hebron, Mississippi.

Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames
Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Simpson County

SIMPSON COUNTY,
OLD
HOMES

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Among the old homes in Simpson County, that was built in the early settlement of this country, we find about ~~ten~~ residence of historical interest.

One of the oldest homes is the "Old Gibson Home" located on highway 13-20 near Merit, about five miles from Mendenhall, the county seat. The "Gibson Home" is a beautiful two-story structure, built by Lewis C. Gibson about 1860. Mr. Gibson cut the trees from his own land for the lumber in this house. The frame of the home was built of pine timber except the large white columns adorning the front porch, which were hand-planed from cypress, thus, giving the erection an old-fashioned appearance. This magnificent old home has a brick foundation of which Mr. Gibson burned the brick in his own brick kiln, he also made the plaster for the walls. Mantels, window sashes, and other fixtures were hand-carved. There were originally seven rooms to this home, and a kitchen and dining room that were standing several yards away from the main building that have been torn away. The huge cedar and magnolia trees that surround this resident add to give it a background for a historical setting.

Mr. Gibson completed this home in 1861, and moved his family into it, where they resided for a number of years. He went to Mobile, Alabama on an ox-wagon and brought back furniture for his home, the furniture is said to be more than one hundred years old. Mrs. Callie (Williams) Gibson now owns two bedsteads, and one wardrobe that was in this wagon load of furniture brought from Mobile. Mr. Gibson came from Darlington, South Carolina and homesteaded in Simpson County. He rode horse-back on his way to Mississippi and sold furs as well as hides to make money to reach his destination. His first posi-

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tion was at the Old Jaynes Mill, south of D'Lo, where he hauled lumber, he hauled most of the lumber that was used in the Old Capitol, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Lewis C. Gibson was married twice, his first wife was; Polly Powell, they lived at Old Westville and were the parents of fourteen children. His second wife was Caroline Murray, they had three children. He died in 1888.

Mr. A. D. Stewart, executive Vice-President of Mississippi Cooperative Cotton Association, of Jackson, now owns this home has had it reworked and repainted, which draws attraction to all eyes of the public who see it.²

Another of Simpson's "Old Homes" is the Hubbard Home,³ located at "Old Jaynesville", Mississippi. This home is a beautiful two-story structure with huge oak trees in the front, giving it a scene of historical interest to the eyes of all who pass it.

This resident of historical importance is said to be about one hundred and twelve years old. Duncan McLaurin, Probate Judge of Simpson County in 1824, is said to have built the back part of the house, consisting of four rooms, and a porch, this being the home for the McLaurin family. Later it was owned by W. J. Hubbard, who made an addition to this house, consisting of seven rooms, one hall, and a screen porch downstairs; with an eighteen step stairway leading upstairs to two large rooms, one hallway and a small porch. This house was built of hand-dressed lumber and was completed in 1872. It has a rock foundation which has remained throughout these years. This homestead is equipped

² Information given by Mrs. Mollie Gibson, Mendenhall, Mississippi. Le C. Gibson's daughter-in-law.

³ Information given by ~~Hubbard~~ Hubbard, son of W.J. Hubbard.

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with Delco Lights but are not in use at the present date.

The Hubbard Family is one of the most outstanding families of the county, and Eugene Hubbard the fifth child of W. J. Hubbard is greatly remembered for his fine character, to all people who knew him. He was sheriff of Simpson County in 1904 and was killed by a negro man about three months after he was serving Simpson as Sheriff.

In our search we found an old book case at this ante-bellum home that was made December 26, 1866; this date being written in black letters on the case and also the name of Serentha A. McLaurin.

At the time when this house was built there were 2000 Acres in this homestead, and we find several land grants concerning this home. One was signed by James Monroe in 1821, three years before Simpson County was organized, for 160 acres of land. Another was signed by James Monroe in 1824, the same year that Simpson County was organized. There were ten land grants signed by John Quincy Adams, in 1825; six signed by Martin Van Buren in 1840 and seven signed by Martin Van Buren in 1841.

Adding to our list, we find the Old Turner Home,⁴ located four miles north of Magee. It was built by Louis Turner more than one hundred years ago. The exact date is not known. This home is now owned by Louis Thames of Sanatorium, Mississippi, a great grand-son of the original owner. The house was built of hand-hewed logs and in one room the original shutters are still in use. The kitchen having been torn away several years

⁴ Information, Turner Home, given by Mrs. Mary E. Thames, Weathersby Mississippi.

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ago, but the remainder of the house is in very good condition.

Mr. Turner came to this section of the country from South Carolina and settled on Okatoma Creek in the Southwest corner of the county, but a few years later settled this place; remaining there until his death in 1874; his wife Ajesta Turner died in 1886. Mr. Turner is listed among the first taxpayers of the county. Two of his daughters lived alone there for years. They were known to most everyone as "Aunt Lissa and Aunt Harlie", neither of them ever married but always seemed happy and contented in the old Home cherishing memories of their "Pappy" and "Mammy", as they usually spoke of them. Both lived to be very old. Aunt Harlie was ninety-three years of age at the time of her death in 1926 and Aunt Malissa was ninety-seven at the time of her death in 1927.

In the relic Department of the New Capitol in Jackson, there will be found several coverlets all hand-woven that are more than sixty years old.

They often spoke of knitting socks for the soldiers during the Civil War.

Another among the most interesting and widely known Historical erections of Simpson County is the Old Thurman Hotel, located at Old Westville, Mississippi.

This building was erected of hand-sawed and hand-hewed lumber about the year 1890, by William Thurman whose nickname was "Bill." Many years before this hotel was built William Thurman was married to Miss Addie Dampier, daughter of Old Colonel Dampier of the present town, Shivers Mississippi, however, Shivers was at that time a wooded section in this state.

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OLD HOMES

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The Old Thurman Hotel⁵ is an outstanding two-story structure consisting of 10 rooms, with hand-carved shingles adorning it. This hotel grew in name, size and fame, and was known as the best hotel between Jackson and Hattiesburg, Mississippi. There were no railroads in this section at this time and the mail was carried to Old Westville by means of a cart and horse from Hazlehurst Mississippi. Great distress came to this family in the year of 1901 when Jeff, the son of Bill Thurman ran away with the mail carrier on the cart. Jeff reached a railroad and was gone for several years before his return to this section.

The scenery around this Historic Old Westville is and has been beautifully arranged. The evergreen pine trees surround this place and the landscape has changed most completely since the Court House was moved to Mendenhall and the railroad came through Pinola, thus the Hotel being moved there, and the old building still remains at Old Westville.

In and around Old Westville huge gullies have grown large enough to conceal two-story buildings. In these huge gullies are layers of clay, chalk, and sand where no vegetation at all is found growing on their banks. They were at the time the busy streets of a busy town."

In addition to our "Old Homes", we find the "Old Weathersby Home⁶." The names of Isham Weathersby and William Weathersby are set down by Lowry & McCardle Mississippi, historians, as early settlers in Lawrence County, and Owen Weathersby in Simpson county. As I gathered from Judge J. B. Chrisman in his

⁵ Information from Mrs. V. C. Williams of Mendenhall.

⁶ Information secured from Mr. E. A. Howell, President of the First National Bank, Canton Mississippi.

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life time, William Weathersby settled on Crooked creek in Lawrence County, and had a large family of eight sons and several daughters. One of his sons Johnathan W. Weathersby married Mary Jane Thames and settled in North Simpson County on the divide between Dabbs creek and Sanders Creek. He and his slaves, two of whom I remember Isham and Jerry, and he built the most substantial and pretentious residence in the north end of the county, in fact as much so as any in that whole section of the state.

"It was located just to the west of the Brandon and Westville public road, and near the site of the Gum Springs churches. The building was on hewed sills and framing, erected on sand stone pillars some four or five feet above the ground, was two stories high, had four large rooms on each floor with stack chimneys and fire places to each of the eight rooms, had wide halls and porches or gallery to each floor with high plastered ceilings and plastered walls, was weatherboarded and floored with long-leaf pine hand-dressed shingles with cypress. The lower floor had a long wing on the west side, providing for a large dining room, kitchen store room, and basement underneath. The ceilings being high and the rooms being well lighted and ventilated with large windows rendered it cool and comfortable even in the warmest weather. The builder had children, members of the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches, and was liberal in his support of the churches.

"The Old Weathersby Home," stood high above the ground, a tall and large building, painted white with green blinds, and was in full view of the public road leading from Brandon

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to Westville, situated about four miles south of the Rankin County line, and was known to the people of Rankin as well as to Simpsonites. Johnathan W. Weathersby, the builder died in this home soon after the Civil War. His widow lived to be past ninety years old, and both of them are buried in the cemetery in sight of their old home. He had ten children, and three of his sons gave their lives in defense of the South fighting as volunteer soldiers in Virginia under the imperishable General R. E. Lee. One son, Daniel W. Weathersby, afterwards was Sheriff of Simpson County. His youngest child Julia Ann, my mother born in 1799, are now taking their rest from lives of honor and usefulness, in the cemetery in sight of this grand old home. No more outstanding and widely known home was to be found anywhere from Brandon to Westville than this one built by my grandfather, Johnathan W. Weathersby and his slaves.

"On the site of the Old Gum Springs Baptist Church, in sight of the railroad there now stands a cement pedestal about three feet high erected by L. H. May of Mendenhall, and on the leveled top of this pedestal rests a bronze plate with this wording, "This marks the site of Old Gum Springs Baptist Church, Simpson County Mississippi, and was erected in memory of all the ministers and members of this church, by E. A. Howell." The old Church is gone, the old home is fast decaying and being pulled down, the paved highway does not follow the old public road in front of the church, and the railroad has cut the front yard of same in twain, the mocking bird in the morning and the thrush at eventide sing requiems to the dead

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of this sacred place, and the horns of the autos and busses as they speed over the paved highway, and the ringing of the bell as the trains cross this highway, ~~and~~ the departure of older and former generations, but it was the desire to have present and future generations remember and revere this hallowed ground, that inspired two of Simpson County's native sons, to place there a lasting marker and memorial. May all who look upon it and read its record, remember the exalted character and the noble and sacrificing deeds of those now gone, and resolve to carry on the splendid civilization there planted and maintained."

Another of our historical homes in Simpson we find the Albritton home,⁷ located on the Pinola-Braxton road.

John Albritton's family moved to this country in 1812 from Great Britain and settled in Atlanta, Georgia, where he lived for two years, and then moved to Pinola, ^{Mississippi} where he died in 1877. Mr. Albritton reared eight sons and four daughters. He went to war in 1861.

On the present Pinola-Braxton road, Mr. Albritton homesteaded 750 Acres of land, where he started erecting a beautiful brick home in 1859. In this year he started burning the brick for this home, in a kiln located about one-fourth of a mile from the present home. This home was not completed until 1865, and was built by Mr. John Albritton with the help of twelve slaves. The "Albritton" Home consisted of four rooms, two fireplaces, one on the east side and one on the west;

⁷ The information secured from Mr. John Albritton, Magee Mississippi. He is the son of the Mr. Albritton who built the Albritton home.

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plastered walls gave the rooms a gorgeous setting when entering the picturesque house. The front porch is very long and a large china-berry tree, that is growing in the southwest corner of the yard makes a refreshing shade in the late afternoons. The foundation of this historical residence is brick and a kitchen built of wood has been added to this home since the completion of the brick structure in 1865; thus, the house is of historical interest, as it was the only brick home in the county until 1900.

This 750 Acre homestead is now divided into about seven different farms at the present, however, the old home is now in possession of Mrs. I. A. Williamson.

In addition to the historical home sites of the county we find the J. I. Bishop home, located at Old Westville. Mr. G. H. Webster who came from the north is said to be the first man to have lived in this house in 1865.

This home was built of sash-sawed lumber with no sap or no knots in this beautiful framework, consisting of seven spacious rooms, a large hall, a front porch and back porch. Since the changing of the road the back of the house is used for the front, which gives a setting of a huge cemented dug well with a depth of about sixty feet. This well is still in use and was dug before the house was built. On this same porch, there is a large cellar with the door of this cellar used as a part of the porch.

In the yard of this ante-bellum home, we find large cedar trees in the front yard and one large pecan tree in the back yard. This pecan tree was planted by the father of Dr. R. E. Giles, who is now our County Health Officer.

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Mr. Bishop was one time Sheriff of Simpson County.

This home is now owned by Mr. Ben Banks who resides there.⁸

The McNair home⁹ is located in the southwestern part of the county. It was built by Mr. Richmond McNair's grandfather in 1837, with the aid of Malcome Smith, a carpenter. He made the window frames, and the lumber came from the Old Jaynesville mill. The old McNair home is made of hand-hewed logs, hewed by Ruford McNair, with one room upstairs and four rooms downstairs. The kitchen and dining room were built off from the main part of the house but have been torn away. The foundation of this home was made of pine blocks, which still remains. There is a stairway leading from the front porch to the upstairs, the windows have hand-made shutters erected around them.

This McNair family was among the first tax-payers of Simpson County. Mr. Richmond McNair is a Civil War Veteran and was in active service, but was never wounded in any way.

Another of the Old Homes in the county is the Old Dickson Home. It is located five miles south of Pinola on highway 20. This homestead included 734 Acres of land, and the house was built by Frank Bolin and Tom Berry, Carpenters; before the Civil War. The exact date is unknown.

Mr. Jim McCaskill was the original owner, then it became heir to Amanda Ainsworth, daughter of Mr. McCaskill. Mr. Gus Dickson of Pinola bought this place from Amanda Ainsworth, where the Dickson's resided for a number of years and it is now in

⁸ Information secured from Mrs. Ben Banks.

⁹ Information secured from Mr. Richmond McNair.

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possession of a Mr. Turnage.

The lumber that was used in the erection of this home was sawed at a mill on Big Creek by an old sash-saw and the lumber was also hand-planed.

This home¹⁰ consists of two large rooms on the front and two small ones on the back, and a hallway. There being one large room upstairs, and the back porch has a large dug-wall on it.

The Dickerson Home¹¹ is located in the extreme southeastern part of the county. This home was built for Mr. John Dickerson by Mr. Ataway.

Mr. Dickerson was born in Virginia, April 17, 1816. He married Jane Mullins who was born March 30, 1826. To them were born twelve children; six girls and six boys. The oldest and youngest sons were prominent doctors. The old Dr. Caleb J. Dickerson who was born in 1824. The youngest was Lewis D. Dickerson who was born in 1869. No member of this family is living at the present.

Mr. Dickerson came from Virginia and settled in Lawrence County, Mississippi, and was Judge of that county for fourteen years. When the Civil War began he moved from Fair River near Monticello to Simpson County and settled on the homestead of several hundred acres. This was done for security and protection of his cattle in the cane brakes from the Union Soldiers.

A beautiful home was built on this homestead and it is now one of the most outstanding historical homes in Simpson County. It is built of sash-sawed and hand-planed lumber, all

¹⁰ Information secured from Mrs. Gus Dickson, of Pinola, Mississippi.

¹¹ Information secured from Mrs. Polk Dickerson, New Hebron, Route #2.

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Heart-wood and mortaced together. Mr. Dickerson cut the timber from his own land and sawed the lumber at a small mill, which he owned himself. It has forty-nine brick pillars and the brick were burned in his own brick kiln. The house consists of seven rooms, six fireplaces, a wide hallway, a front porch and a back porch, twenty-four windows and blinds to each window. The old kitchen that set off from the house has been torn away. This home was completed in 1865, and has been well cared for through all these years and is still in good condition.

Mr. Polk Dickerson, son of John Dickerson, fell heir to this historical old home. After his father's death he and his wife reared a family of nine children, four of whom are still living. Mrs. Polk Dickerson and her daughter live alone in this home even though Mrs. Dickerson is in the seventies, she is still active, and striving with that pioneer spirit to carry on. Thus, the Dickerson family is numbered among the most prominent families of Simpson County.

In this home is an old teister bedstead, then called the George Washinton bed; a marble top-table and three chairs; all beautiful antiques. They do not know how old they are, but are thought to be more than one hundred years old.

Callie Thomas
Supervisor, Historical Research Project

Assignment 18

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-DIRECTOR

Lelah Ross, & Dimple Slay
Canvassers

Simpson County, District #5
REVISED ASSIGNMENT #5

W A R S

World War-

I. Army UNITS FROM YOUR COUNTY:

- a. NAME of each unit.
- b. History of each unit, emphasizing overseas engagements.
- c. 155th Regiment information.

When War was declared on April 6, 1917, Simpson County was ready with her man power. Many teachers and college boys hurried to the officers Training Camps to begin service.

Mississippi with all the other states of the Union was ready to do her part in the World War, against tyranny and autocracy and for Democratic principles of Government.

"On the 18th of June 1916, Woodrow Wilson issued his call for troops to quell the Mexican Border Troubles. In response to it, Mississippi offered for the service five battalions and several companies of the State National Guard, which were formed into the first Regiment of Mississippi Infantry a regiment that has been famous in the history of the State on March 19, 1917.

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"They were mustered out of service. But at one O'clock March 27, 1917 they were hurriedly called into Federal Service again in the World War and became the 155th Regiment."¹ Simpson County furnished a few boys for this famous regiment but thus far we have been unable to distinguish only two of them. Namely; Corporal Bennie Harrison and Private Jimmie Thompson.

II. NAMES OF ENLISTED MEN:

- a. List by companies, battalions, regiments, and give military rank of each soldier.

Since Simpson County had no special Companies, Battalions, or regiments, we will name them and give the military ranking of each.

ROSTER OF NAVY

Allbritton, Leslie	Machinist
Ates, Leonard Chester	Seaman
Ammons, Frank	Fireman
Ashley, John Eroy	Seaman
Barron, Ernest J.	Seaman
Box, Jim Shipp	Cook
Berry, Buford	Yeoman
Boggan, Thomas	Seaman
Calhoun, John Lewis	Fireman
Caraway, Porter Myres	Seaman
Carrole, Charles	Chief Machinist

¹ Extracts from Mississippi, the Heart of the South, pages 363-64. Dunbar Rowland.

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Chappell, John B.	Electrician
Coleman, Lem. Louis	Apprentice Seaman
Crawford, Robert	Seaman
Dickey, Wm. Malcolm	Hospital Apprentice
Everett, Anslem Sylvester	Baker
Everett, Thomas Lafayette	Apprentice Seaman
Everett, Tom Harrison	Storekeeper
Garrett, James	Seaman
Giddeous, Daniel Jefferson	Electrician
Green, Everett Whitfield	Fireman
Hedgepeth, Butler	Seaman
Hemphill, Wm. Thomas	Fireman
Hill, Dewey	Water tender
Johnston, William Clyde	Seaman
Jones, George Samuel	Aviation
Jones, Percy Paul	Fireman
Lee, Cobe Shatus	Pharmacist
Little, Lawrence Lafayette	Seaman
Little, Martin Franklin	Seaman
Mangum, Ethel Franklin	Electrician
Mason, Charles Ike	Ship Cook
Matthews, Auguston	Apprentice Seaman
Moore, Daniel Luther	Fireman
Myres, Albert	Carpenter Mate
Myres, William Jefferson	Coleswain
Mangum, Ira Jefferson	Medical Survey
McInnis, Robert Paul	Apprentice Seaman

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McKinley, John Franklin	Seaman
McLeod, Daniel Luther	Seaman
Neely, John George	Pharmacist Mate
Patterson, Archie	Yeoman
Pope, Thomas William	Seaman
Ryan, Lamont	Seaman
Sheppard, Pervous House	Gunners Mate
Smith, Barron Ahalone	Chief Boatswain
Smith, St. Clair Ewart	Hospital Apprentice
Smith, Zebeldeen Dorsey	Fireman
Stephens, Anse McLaurin	Seaman
Slay, James Walker	Private
Thomas, Gladys	Yeoman
Toland, Jessie Lewis	Fireman
Wallace, Idus Wesley	Seaman
Weathersby, Homer Enos	Apprentice Seaman
Welch, Hinds Osborne	Seaman
Wilson, John Oliver	Seaman
Yates, Alfred Lee	Apprentice

Note: This information secured from
Adjutant-General's Office, Jackson
Mississippi.

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ROSTER OF ARMY²

Ainsworth, Otha	Private
Aldridge, Elsie	Corporal
Allbritton, Emanuel	Private
Allen, Thomas Perry	Private
Allbritton, Enos L.	Private
Allbritton, Roy E.	Private
Ammons, Luther	Private
Anderson, Lee M.	Private
Andrews, Elige	Private
Andrews, Ollie	Private
Ates, Oscar	Corporal
Badgett, Eddie	Private
Badgett, Estus	Private
Badgett, Sylvester	Private
Bailey, Will	Private
Ball, Jewel	Private
Banks, Walter	Private
Banks, Wayne	Private
Barlow, Charlie J.	Sargt.
Barlow, Corley M.	Private
Barnett, Charlie F.	Private
Barnett, Thomas	Private
Barr, Irad	Private
Barrett, Andrew	Private
Barrett, James T.	Private

² Information for Roster of Army and Navy secured from Adjutant-General's Office-

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Barrett, Otis	Private
Barron, John D.	Private
Barron, Davis N.	Captain
Bass, Estus	Private
Bass, Lem	Private
Bass, Robert E.	Sargt.
Batson, Roscoe C.	
Baugh, John D.	Private
Blatty, James A.	Private
Bell, Henry M.	Sargt.
Benton, Charles W.	Private
Berry, Alex	Private
Berry, Lawrence	Private
Berry, Sidney	Private
Berry, Simp	Private
Berry, Walter D.	Private
Bethay, Mosie	Private
Bishop, Jesse James	Private
Blackwell, Henry C.	Private
Blackwell, Wallace	Private
Boggan, Robert L.	Private
Bounds, Elson W.	Private
Boggan, Estis	Private
Boggan, George S.	Private
Boyanton, William J.	Private

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Braddock, Nathan	Private
Brant, Leon	Private
Braxton, Benjamin W.	Private
Brent, Ranson	Private
Bridges, John	Private
Bridges, Luther	Private
Bridges, Shelby L.	Private
Bridges, Wyatt	Private
Brisco, William	Private
Brook, Carl W.	Private
Brook, Robert L.	Private
Brook, Walter C.	Private
Brown, Alonzo	Private
Brown, Bark J.	Corporal
Brown, Charley	Private
Brown, Estus A.	Private
Brown, Joe	Private
Bryant, Thomas S.	Private
Buckley, Bishop L.	Private
Buckley, Ellis C.	2nd Lieutenant
Buckley, Leon S.	Private
Buckley, Robert Earl	Private
Burkett, Duke	Private
Burkett, Frank	Private
Busch, Barksdale A.	Private

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Busch, Charley	Private
Busch, William S.	Private
Burnham, Clifton C.	Private
Butler, Elsie	Private
Byrd, Oscar L.	Private
Byrd, Anslem	Private
Cade, Clemus J.	Private
Calhoun, Clarence C.	Corporal
Colman, Henry	Private
Camper, Vernie	Private
Camper, Pleas	Private
Carter, Arter	Private
Chappman, Barney L.	Private
Chandler, William J.	Private
Chapman, Willie Stevson	Private
Chappell, Morris Winford	Private
Cockrell, Leman	Private
Cockrell, William	Private
Cockrell, Willie Charlie	Private
Coke, Charles H.	Private
Coleman, John Alvie	Private
Colman, Louis	Private
Corley, Harley P.	Corp. Sargt.
Courtney, Doubert E.	Private
Covington, Benjamin	Corp. Sargt.
Cook, Noah R.	Private

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Cook, William	Corporal and Private
Corley, George	Private
Craft, George L.	Private
Currie, James E.	Private
Currie, Scott	Sargt.
Curtis, William	Private
Davis, Ruben	Private
Dent, Fred C.	1st Lieut.-&-2nd Lieut.-
Dent, James R.	Captain
Dickerson, Levoster	Private
Dickson, James	Private
Different, Henry Edgar	Private
Drummonds, Ernest-	Private
Dukes, Harvey R.-	Private
Durr, Haley	Private
Durr, King	Private
Dye, James	Private
Davis, Ruben	Private
Esterling, Rhodes	Private
Edmonson, John M.	Private
Edmonson, Henry G.	Private
Edmonson, Annaniss	Private
Epting, John	Private
Eubanks, Charlie L.	Private
Everett, Clarence F.	Private
Everett, Howard W.	Private
Everett, Joseph V.-	Corporal

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Everett, Robert Freeman	Private
Everitt, Anse	Private
Everett, Robert	Private
Finley, Rufus	Private
Fisher, Luther	Private
Floyd, Elvin	Private
Floyd, Joe	Private
Ford, Ernest	Private
Fortenberry, Conley	Private
Fortenberry, Marshall P.	Private
Fortenberry, Quitman G.	Book
Fortenberry, Matt Riley	Private
Franklin, Arlis John	Private
Funchess, Manuel	Private
Gardner, Wilson W.	Corporal
Garner, George A.	Private
Garrett, George W.	Private
Gates, Jones William	Private
Gates, William Bryan	Private
Gill, John H.	Private
Graham, Thodius Lee	Private
Graves, McKinley	Private
Gray, Charles	Private
Gray, Benjamin B.	Private
Gray, Luther W.	Private- Corporal

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Grantham, Leroy	Private
Grantham, Ray	Private
Gregory, George Ed.	Private
Griffith, Wilson L.	Private
Grubbs, Ernest	Private
Grubbs, William T.	Private
Hinson, Drewey Lonzo	Private
Hinson, John Anderson	Private
Holcomb, Daniel C.	Private
Holloway, Add K.	Private
Holmes, Frank J.	Private
Hopkins, Clyde C.	Corp. & Sargt.
Hopkins, Elmer R.	Corp. & Sargt.
Hornsby, Andrew R.	Private
Hubbard, Lee	Private
Hughes, John W.	Private
Ingram, Oscar L.	Private
Hall, Alex	Private
Harper, Frank	Private
Harper, Lee Jr.	Private
Harper, Luther	Private
Harrington, Charles R.	Private
Harris, Jasper G.	Private
Harris, John	Private
Harris, Julius	Private
Harris, Leonard Van	Private

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Harris, Robert E.	Private
Harris, Silas Allen	Private
Harrison, Bennie	Corporal
Harrison, James W.	Private
Harrison, John C.	Private
Hayes, Lambert	Private
Hayes, Jim	Private
Hempill, Ike V.	Private
Herrington, John E.	Corp. & Sargt.
Hicks, Lonnie	Private
Hilton, Grover C.	Private
Jennings, Marvin McLain	Private
Jones, Dan	Private
Jones, Hardy Clifton	Private
Jones, Hines W.	Private
Jones, Ira L.	Private
Jones, Jesse A.	Private
Jones, Jim	Private
Jones, Lim	Private
Jones, Sam	Private
Jones, William	Private
Jones, Quincy Frank	Private
Jones, Robert	Private
Jones, Rudolph	Private
Jones, Willie B.	Private
Jones, Walter E.	Private
Johnson, George H.	Private

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Keister, McFaelton	Private
Kennedy, Henry Webster	Private
Kennedy, Kiley	Private
Kennedy, Jim	Private
Keyes, John Edgar	Private
Kimbrell, William H.	Private
Kline, David A.	Private
Kline, Obed K.	Private
Knight, Roy R.	Private
Knott, George	Private
Leddis, Landry	Private
Langley, Monroe	Private
Lee, Crit	Private
Lee, Elijah	Private
Lee, Ellis	Private
Lee, Obed	Private
Lee, Samuel S.	Private
Lee, Tommie	Private
Lewis, Fred	Private
Lewis, Lon V.	Private
Lewis, Joe	Private
Lewis, Walter	Private
Little, Alonzo J.	Private
Lofton, Simon	Private
Loposer, Otto D.	Private
Lovett, Barney	Private
Luckly, George	Private

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Luckey, Sam M.	Private
Lyon, William F.	Private
May, William Albert	Private
May, William	Private
Middleton, Stafford Overton	Private
Millis, Ernest L.	Private
Mobley, Houston A.	Private
Montgomery, Marshall B.	Private
Moore, Charlie B.	Private
Moore, Charlie E.	Private
Moore, Charles R.	Private
Moore, Eddie	Private
Moore, Jesse C.	
Moore, Vernon A.	Private
Morris, Webb	Private
Mott, Artist L.	Private
Myres, Houston	Private
Myres, Ivan C.	Private
Myres, John H.	Private
Myers, Luke P.	Private
Myers, Sylvan H.	Private
Myers, William P.	Private
Myrick, Edward S.	Private
Myrick, Ellis M.	Private
Myrick, John C.	Private
Maddox, Ethel Mathew	Private
Maddox, James C.	Private

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Magee, Edd R.	Private
Mahaffey, Charles R.	Private
Mahaffey, Delos B.	
Mahaffey, Floyd	
Mahaffey, Hollie	
Mahaffey, Sidney A.	Private
Mahaffey, John J.	
Mangum, Aaron A.	
Mangum, Charlie M.	
Mangum, Cody	
Mangum, Dailey	
Mangum Emery C.	
Mangum, Ethel Franklin	
Mangum, Hessie	
Mangum, Jesse M.	
Manning, Edgar	
Martin, Leroy	Private
Martin, Robert H.	Private
Martin, Roy R.	Private
Mathews, Riley	
May, James Richard	
May, Lish	Private
May, Lish	Private
May, Walter	Private
McAfee, Robert	Private
McCollum, Jerry	Private

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McCollum, Lawrence	Private
McCollum, Alonzo	Private
McCune, Will	Private
McGee, Nick	Private
McIntosh, Johnnie	Private
McIntosh, William H.	Private
McLain, Melvin	Private
McLendon, Walter- D.	Private
McNair, Scott	Private
McWilliams, Lonnie (slightly wounded)	PRIVATE
Neely, A. C.	Private
Neely, Robert David	Private
Neely, Tom	Private
New, Ben Elijah	Private
Newell, Harmon	
Newsom, Charlie F.	
Newsom, John	Private
Nichols, William H.	Private
Norris, Grady	Private
Norwood, Lonnie	Private
Owens, Fred	Private
Oversby, Elijah	
Page, James Hezekiah	
Parrett, Archie B.	Private
Patrick, Herbert F.	
Patterson, Joe W.	
Patterson, John	

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Pendleton, Ernest	Private
Phillips, Gus	Private
Pollock, Eugene	Private
Pollock, George E.	Private
Ponder, David T.	
Ponder, Ellis G.	Private
Ponder, Ernest David	
Ponder, Joe W.	Private
Ponder, William Henry	
Ponder, Clifton	Private
Pope, Jim Louis	
Posey, Ernest Leonard	Private
Posey, James Virgil	
Powell, Charlie Jr.	Private
Price, Bob Jr.	Private
Pruitt, Samuel D.	Private
Quinn, Joe S.	Private
Rankin, Esties	
Rankin, Leonders	
Reid, Austin D.	
Rhine, Mel	
Robbins, Sim F.	Private
Roberson, Andrew	Private
Roberts, Thomas M.	
Roberson, Archie	Private

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Roberts, Thomas M.	Private
Roberts, William R.	Private
Robinson, Lee	Private
Robinson, George	
Rogers, Plummer	Private
Rogers, Virgil	Private
Ross, James R.	Private
Ross, Wm. T/	
Ross, John H.	Private
Royals, Guy	
Runnels, Alonzo A.	
Rush, Vandy Will	
Russell, Anslem B.	Private
Russell, Earl Watkins	
Russell, Lena K.	
Sandifer, Earl	
Sandifer, James W.	
Sanford, Killie M.	
Scott, Benjamin T.	
Scott, Gabe	Private
Scott, George	
Richard, Sebron	Private
Sebron, George N.	Private
Shelby, Ance	
Sheppard, Joseph	
Shorter, Jesse W/	
Shorter, Johnson O	Private

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Shotts, Otis K.	Private
Shotts, Silas Lee	Private
Sibby, James	Private
Sinclair, Silas R.	
Slay, John	
Smith, Earl	Private
Smith, Hiram M.	
Smith, James Henry	
Smith, John Day	Corporal
Smith, Lawrence	Private
Smith, Leddrew	
Smith, Luther	
Smith, Meddie	
Smith, Prentiss P.	
Smith, Plummer	
Smith, St. Clair	Sergeant
Taylor, Cary	
Tasley, Malcolm	
Thames, Dewey Richard	
Thames, James Ellis	
Thames, James R.	
Thompson, Dave Traxler	
Thompson, James H.	
Thompson, Richard A.	
Thompson, Willie Roscoe	

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Thurman, Lem D.	
Thurman, Robert T.	
Thurman, William	
Tillis, Leroy	
Tillie, Fred	
Toney, Joe	
Touchstone, Thompson Nolan	
Traxler, Humie A.	
Traylor, Estus	Private
Traylor, George	
Traylor, Guy C.	
Traylor, Roy O.	
Tullos, George C.	
Tullos, Henry Sims	
Tullos, Vernon M.	
Vance, James	
VanZandt, Anse	
Williamson, Louis M.	
Wilson, John David, Jr.	
Winstead, Robert H.	
Womack, Richard H.	
Womack, Love B.	(colored)
Woods, Billie	(colored)
Ware, Anslem F.	
Walker, Ben	
Walker, Harry	

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Walker, Knox A.
 Walker, Marion C.
 Walker, Robert D.
 Wallace, Clarence
 Womack, Nuraee (colored)
 Ware, Mitchel E.
 Washington, Mathew (Colored)
 Waters, Luther James
 Watkins, Eddie (colored)
 Watts, Dave (colored)
 Watts, Leon (colored)
 Weathersby, George (colored)
 Weathersby, Clarence E.
 Weathersby, Walter
 Webb, Oscar (colored)
 Wells, Charles M.
 Welch, Jackson D.
 Welch, Samuel Donnell
 White, Joseph C.
 Williams, Archie L.
 Williams, Ed (colored)
 William, Edward C.
 Williams, Francis Marion Lieutenant
 Williams, Gideon D.
 Williams, James Harris

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Williams, John
 Williams, Med
 Williams, Robert E. L.
 Williamson, John S.

b. Records and exploits of individuals.

No county in the State and no State in the Union gave to its country a braver son than Simpson County, in the person of, Thomas Jerome Williamson, Private in the United States Marine Corps, Regiment Six, Company 97; who enlisted June 10, 1917 and was discharged August 13, 1919.

After going through two years of the War; on October 28, 1920 while in school at Quantico, Virginia, one of his school mates, mistaking a bucket of pure creosote for a bucket of water threw it on Jerome and after four days of intense suffering, he died. His body was brought back to his native county for burial. The county, as a whole, is proud of this brave son. His mother, Mrs. Stella Williamson, was sent a letter commending her son. Mrs. Williamson has since died, so has his father, Mr. Willie Williamson.

His sisters, Mrs. Marshall Montgomery, 203 North Prentiss street, Jackson, Mississippi, and Mrs. J. W. Crout of D'Lo, have in their possession, a certificate of War Service of the United States Marine Corps signed by George Barnett. This certificate shows that Thomas Jerome Williamson performed honorable and active service in the U. S. Marine Corps from

SIMPSON COUNTY, WARS

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June 10, 1917 to August 13, 1919, in the following organizations and on board the ships of the Navy, Parris Island, South Carolina and Quantico, Virginia; 4th Brigade, 2nd Division; A. E. F., France.

They have a victory medal sent by Thomas S. Clark, Major-Assistant-Adjutant and Inspector of U. S. Marine Corps. The following letter, signed by Major Clark, was sent to Mrs. Williamson, June 13, 1928.

"My dear Mrs. Williamson:

I am directed by the Major-General Commander to forward to you the enclosed Victory Medal, Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne and Defensive and sector clasps to which you are entitled as mother and next kin of the late Private 1st Class, Thomas Jerome Williamson of the U. S. Marine Corps.

Very sincerely yours,

Thomas S. Clark

They have a medal that was given him as an Expert Rifleman. He was recommended for this medal May 26, 1919, at Hennigan, Germany. He had a good conduct Medal, also.

In a diary kept by Private Williamson during the War, the 97th Co., 6th Marines went aboard the U. S. S. Von Stuben October 27, at Philadelphia Navy Yard at 11 P. M., sailed to New York October 28, stayed one week; left New York for the 1st American convoy for France. The U. S. S. Von Stuben was rammed

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By one of the Convoy's 500 miles from Brest, France; tearing the front end off. Sixty men experienced death but did not die, arrived at Brest, France November 12. Then went to Bordeaux in Southern France, left 97th Co. December 6, for La Courtine with 20 men for M. P. duty. Left La Courtine January 6 and joined a Company for training; stayed in a French Vaccination Hospital for two weeks; Went to trenches March 5, 1918 with the First American to hold a sector of their own, Verdun Sector. They experienced many bombardments and much gas and had very little to eat. He states that he saw his first dead Marines and Germans at this time; left trenches May 15. In his diary he states; "I saw my first real warfare June 1, 1918 at Chateau-Thierry, where two Regiments of Marines helped turn the tide of the war. On June 6, we went over 8000 strong. In two days 2600 of them were wounded or killed, the remainder of the men holding the line, 29 days against repeated attacks of 10 German Divisions. New men came to replace us. July 14, finds us at Soissons, 87 per cent of our men were wounded and killed in two days. We drove the Germans 10 kilos...relief 23rd. August 9 found us in a quiet sector. September 13, the 4th Brigade Marines went with the French to Champagne; October 2nd to 10th, St. Mihiel advance, several miles in the Hindenburg Line; November 1st to 11th, the Meuse-Argonne. The latter part of November and first of December found us marching to the Rhine, was with the Army of Occupation from December 13th to July

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19th, 1919." On August 16, 1919 he reached home.

Among papers of Private Williamson, we find a letter signed by Commander-in-chief, General John Pershing; thanking him for the splendid service during the war. This, of course, was a letter sent out to all men who took active part in the war. Also, a letter signed by Major-General, John A. La June. A letter sent out to men of the Marine Corps, who served during the World War. We find a letter to Mrs. Williamson signed by Eli K. Cole, Major-General of the U. S. Marine Corps, sending Mrs. Williamson a program and an account of the unveiling at Parris Island, who gave their lives during the World War. This memorial was unveiled by Mrs. Nellie Glen of Atlanta, Georgia, the mother, of two sons who died at Belleau Woods. The principal Address made by General John A. La June, who commanded the famous division. This letter to Mrs. Williamson was closed by saying. "With expressions of esteem and of the debt we, of the Marine Corps, owe you.

I am sincerely,

Eli K. Cole

The Notices of Citations of which we have copies; Lieutenant Colonel Lee.³

The Fifth Regiment under Command of Colonel Wendall C. Neville.

The Sixth Regiment of Marines, Colonel Albertus W. Gatlin.

³ These Citations were all sent from general Headquarters signed by Commander and General-in-Chief, Petain.

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The Sixth Machine Gun Battalion, under Major Edward W. Cole.

The Fourth Brigade under James G. Harbord.

The Sixth Regiment Marine under Colonel Harry Lee;

Among his papers, we also find a picture taken by an American Aviator, one picture shows Marines going over the top near Chateau-Thierry. One man has been fatally wounded and is shown as he falls. Another man is down already. Private Williamson is thought to be on this picture.

We also have a picture showing 51 U. S. Marines; 260 strong when they left the U. S. A. in October, 1917. Only seven of these men were never wounded. (Private Williamson was one of them). He went over the top twenty-one times. At one time sixty men were together, all killed except 12. Ten of these were wounded, Private Williamson and one other were not.⁴

Jerome Williamson was a young man of sterling qualities. (It was said of him by the Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. int D'LO) at the time of his death, he was a shining christian character and had an influence for good among the younger members of the Y. M. C. A.

⁴ This information came from papers belonging to Mesdames Montgomery and Crout, sisters of Private Williamson. These papers were given to them by their mother at her death.

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Private Williamson was loved by all who knew him and lived up fully to the motto, of the U. S. Marine Corps, "Semper Fidelis." These soldiers of the sea are in the Marine Corps parly, "Devil Dogs" are the bravest of soldiers and Private Williamson numbered among them. WE, of Simpson County are proud of him.

d. We can find no instance of any Simpson County men who were members of the First Mississippi Regiment except during the World War. The only two that we find who were in the 155th Regiment of the World War are Private Jimmie Thompson and Corporal Bennie Harrison.

III LETTERS FROM THE FRONT:

(Letter from Red Cross Nurse)

a.

"Somewhere in France.

Mrs. Laura W. Berry
Pinola, Mississippi

Dear Sister:

My letters I fear will not be interesting, but hope they will be somewhat satisfactory.

I enjoyed the sea voyage very much; was not sick one minute, I was the only one of the nurses who was not sick. Some were sick night unto death. They say they prefer walking when we start back to America. Miss Colquilt, one of the nurses who was dreadfully sick, said she had rather plow a mule in a new ground than to take a sea voyage. This has appealed to me as being very funny, in fact, it made a

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good tonic for me.

"We have been lucky in stopping at various places, London, and other places to have the opportunity of remaining long enough to go around and see places of interest.

"The good Lord has blessed us. We have had plenty to eat. Everyone is well. We are treated with courtesy and kindness and are made to see that we are very welcome. All the nurses seem perfectly satisfied and I might say, delighted to be here. Lots of fun it is trying to count English money. No one cheats us though.

"We can't speak for French people yet. Most all women smoke cigarettes here same as men do in America. It seems an ugly sight to us but guess we will soon get used to it. We see very few men here dressed in civilian clothing and these are mostly old gentlemen. The women here work a great deal, they do men's work. Carl has my sympathy; in fact, all who are privates. In comparison my part is palaces, luxuries and feasts. I have no complaint to make. There is so much I would like to write, but will remember and tell you when I come home.

"Don't wonder about date of letters or my place of destiny, as I'm not allowed to tell where I am, when I came, when I leave or where I go.

"I feel, or hope at least a big letter from you will

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drop into our quarters soon. Give my love to all my friends there.⁵

Lovingly
Your sister,
Etta Williamson,
U. S. Army Nurse Corps,
"Unit P" American Exp. Force"

Soldier's letter

"Somewhere in France,
July 31, 1918

My dear Mother:

Will again write you a few lines this evening, am feeling fine and dandy. Mother you would not know me now if I stay over here very long and I gain like I am gaining now. I am in the very best of health and having a good time every day and night. I am learning to speak French pretty good now and I can talk to the girls and enjoy myself more now. Now believe me, there are some good-looking girls over here too.

"Well mother I have not heard from Jimmie T. yet. I have written to him but no _____ come so far. Well, how is everybody now and everything over there? Write me all the news. I have not received a letter from over there yet. Now I am looking every day for one sweet letter to come from my dear sweet mother. Now write me often, real often, and write me all the news from home, write me and tell me where you have received any letters or not. I write you

⁵ This letter came from the Simpson county News Issue, February 21, 1918- Vol XLVI.

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real often for I am sincerely thinking of you all at all times. Will have to say good bye now, write me real soon, give my love and best regards to brother and sister and tell them to write, tell father hello.⁶

Always your soldier boy,
Richard

Address: Pvt. Richard H. Womack,
Co. C. 116th Field Signal Battalion,
A. E. F. France, Via New York"

Private Womack was gassed during the war while in active service. Soon after his return home, he developed Tuberculosis and lived only a few years.

"LETTER FROM SIMPSON CO. BOY IN FRANCE"

"Somewhere in France

Dear Homefolks:

Received your letter of recent date and was proud to have news from home and loved ones. Letters are few and far apart since in this part of the world and we have very little and sometimes no time to answer the letters we get.

"I have received several letters from friends that I have not been able to answer, and they don't seem to understnad. But if any of them should ever experience any thing like this they will find out that there is something else to besides write, while I only wish we could answer them all.

⁶ This letter secured from Simpson County News, issue- Thursday August 22, 1918- Vol XLVII.

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"It is spring time over here, the climate is about the same as in God's country now, but the winters are much colder here. We almost froze during the past winter while undergoing our intensive training which consisted of many things too numerous to mention. But we all stood it the very best kind, only a few were sick and none died. I was in the hospital a couple of weeks from a French vaccination, guess it was too strong for me.

"Well, I guess I can tell you all where I am without giving information to the enemy. I am not where I was the last time I wrote. Have moved to where we are now, and I will not mention the name of the next place for fear I have forgotten how to spell it. But my address is always the same no matter where we are and if any of my friends wish to write me you may give them my address. I will be glad to hear from any of them at any time, for a letter is very consoling after returning to camp from a tour duty which might have been almost any thing imaginable and sometimes things that are imaginable.

"I guess the censor wont care if I tell a little of the experience we have had. I have been through more than one gas attack and came out perfectly safe. Have been where the shrapnel shells were falling thick and fast and have been fortunate enough to escape unhurt so far.

"And the rats, rats, rats! They cannot be numbered, they

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grow awfully large and the most of them are very easy to become acquainted with all of them are your "comrades" when you have eats stored away anywhere.

"Oh, I guess I will have quite a lot to tell when I return about my experiences over here. Part of the Marines have been exceedingly lucky in seeing a great part of France, and I happened to be with that part of them at the time.

"I have not seen any of the boys from home since in this part of the country, but have met several boys from Mississippi. This country was a great place when we first came, only we could not talk to the people, but it is not so difficult now to make them understand you. There are very few French people who speak English.

"The American Y. M. C. A. is doing a wonderful work in every place where there are soldiers.

"Guess we will not know what to do with American money if we should ever be lucky enough to handle any more of it, we have been using these francs so strong.

"This letter is being written on several kinds of paper for it is very scarce in some places here and this happened to be one of the places, so guess I had better stop before my paper gives out. News is plentiful but not permissible.

"I am expecting an answer soon?

Thomas Jerome Williamson
A. E. F. France, Co. 97
Reg. 6 U. S. Marine

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SIMPSON COUNTY, WARS

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"IN HONOR TO OUR BOYS ACROSS THE SEA"
(By an old Rebel Soldier at D'Lo, Miss.)

"As we were marching, to Berlin Town,
The Drums were loudly beating,
And Americans were gaining ground
And the Germans were retreating.

"The Kaiser now has lost his crown
And he must go bare headed,
As he goes wandering round and round
And hates the things he's dreaded.

"Now the war is all over and we'll turn back.
No more shall friends be parted,
We have changed the scene and take another in
To relieve the broken hearted.

"Now comrades we will go for home,
To see Dad, Mam and Mandy.
Where everything just shines like gold
And the girls are sweet as candy."⁸

IV. INTERVIEWS-

a. Talk with outstanding local veterans.

'In interviewing the World War Veterans we find the number very few who care to talk about the part they took

⁸ Simpson County News- Thursday, November 14, 1918 Vol. XLVII.

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in the War. However, we find that Simpson County was by no means behind in sending brave soldiers to the front.

In an interview with Private Jimmie Thompson, who was born and reared one mile east of D'Lo, we gained very interesting information regarding his experience in foreign countries during the World War.

Private Jimmie Thompson, enlisted in Company A First Mississippi National Guard, in June 1916 for service on the Mexican Border during the villa uprising. He was informed that State Troops could not be carried out of the United States. As he was anxious to see service in Mexico. Mrs. Lena Thompson, his mother, secured his release from the State Troops. He immediately enlisted in the regular army Company B, 28th Infantry; 1st Division, New Orleans, and was sent at once to join his outfit. He remained on the Mexican Border until the World War was declared April 6, 1917. At once a call was issued throughout the rank and files of the regular Army for volunteers to form America's advanced guard to the battle fields of the Western Front of France. There being only 60,000 men in the regular army, his number 56924; 12,000 regulars were assembled at Fort McClellan, Texas in May 1917. The first day of June they entrained for New York Harbor. They were in Washington D. C., June 5th, the first day of registration for the draft. The War Spirit was high at this time at the National Capitol. Private Thompson states that great secrecy was maintained at this time. The German Sub-Marines were making traveling at sea

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very dangerous. His company was joined at New York by the United States Marines where they embarked and were held in harbor for three days until battleships and destroyers arrived to convoy the troop ships across the ocean. After fourteen strenuous and nerve-wracking days they landed at St. Nazaire, France, June 26 and the next day they left the ship and received hearty welcomes.

The 15,000 men; 12,000 soldiers and 3000 marines were sent to the principal cities of France. Everywhere they went they received a hearty welcome and landed at Gondrecourt Training area and went into intense training for modern warfare. They had been trained for open warfare on the Mexican Border but trench warfare was different. They were placed under French Officers and Soldiers and remained under them until October 20th. They went into trenches October 20th at La Neuville and stayed until November 21, 1917. Here the first American casualties were reported. They withdrew from the front, had several air bombardments behind the line and went into their trenches January 15th at Toul where they remained until April 3, 1918. Snow, mud, rain, and hardships almost unendurable, shells and diseases were taking a heavy toll of American lives at this time. The German's started their drive to the English Channel and the American's were again thrown into lines April 24 to July 7. Private Thompson states that the Commanding Officers at this time wanted to test the Mettle of the United States soldiers and the 28th Infantry was chosen to make the attack and the 26th Infantry as reserve.

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On May 28, 1918 the 28th Infantry, after the long bombardment of the enemy lines with French tanks in advance, went over the top into victory (Private Thompson among them.) The Germans made a furious stand and had to be killed with guns in their hands for it hurt their pride to lose their first fight with American soldiers. They counter attacked three times daily for three days. We held our ground and showed the world that we were a match for the seasoned German Veterans.

General said that he had noticed in the First Division, a special pride that was never broken by hard ships or battle. July 18, found us at the front again at Aisne-Marne. This battle-ground was mostly wheat fields. The Germans machine guns at this time took heavy toll but we pushed forward to victory. In this we had French Negroes, Algerians and Morroccans. These Morroccans fought like American Indians or red men, (instead of scalping victims they cut off their ears as souvenirs) they, also, took their rolling kitchens along with them or they would not fight. The other kitchen stayed miles behind the lines. Private Thompson says: that at this time we ate once a day, that being at night when it could be brought under cover of darkness. If gassed at night, we did not eat as the food might be contaminated with gas. We often went two or three days without food.

August 6, found us at the front at Sazarie. We remained there until August 21; the front was quiet, at this time. All of the above action up to this time was under French Officers. The first of September, St. Mihiel, under personal Commander of General

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Pershing, October 1, found us at a battle of Argonne, after 12 hard days of fighting the danger was increased here because of the trees. The shells would strike trees and scatter them in all directions. We traveled slowly but like snails always on the move. Hardships here were almost unbearable but the courage of the Americans pushed the Germans back.

"The second phase of Argonne-Forrest, November 5, found us on the front when Armistice was signed November 11, 1918.

"Private Thompson states that he served 233 days; was never wounded enough to go to the hospital and had a number of narrow escapes. My unit served 220 days.

"As soon as Armistice was signed we moved into Germany and lived in the homes of soldiers that we had fought.

"I saw four years of service in the army; after the war I served two years in the United States Marine Corps and four years in the Navy."

Private Thompson now lives at home with his mother, where he is helping her on the farm.

All the battles and dates were taken from the stamped remembrances on Private Thompson's arm.⁹

Another Simpson County Boy who was in active service was Corporal Bennie Harrison. His serial No. was 1593709, Co. B, Seventh Infantry, Third Division.

He enlisted August 11, 1916 in the 155th Infantry, stationed at Vicksburg during the Old Soldiers Reunion 1917 where he served

⁹ An interview from Private Jimmie Thompson, who now resides in D'Lo, Simpson County, Miss.

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guide.

He sailed from New York June 12, 1918, and landed at Liverpool England, June 26 where he stayed for a period of six days. He sailed from England through the English Channel to France.

Corporal Harrison was active in four battles overseas.

Champagne-Defensive, July 17th to 18th, 1918.

Marne- Offensive, July 19th to 29th, 1918.

St. Mihiel-Offensive, September 12th through 16th.

Meuse-Argonne, September 26th through 31st, 1918.

Marne-Offensive- July 26th, 1918 Corporal Harrison was gassed in action. He spent two months in the Hospital in a Summer Resort in France. His brother was in the same hospital at the same time and neither of them knew anything about this event until after their return home.

Corporal Harrison and J. C. Boone were the only members of the 155th Infantry that remained together in service until Boone was shot in the presence of Harrison in the Champagne-Defensive. He never knew that Boone was not killed until after his return home, and they met on the streets of D'Lo.

On the night of the 4th of the same battle their kitchen was bombed; killed all the cooks except one; destroyed all food and mail. The next day letters were found scattered all over the hill sides nearby.¹⁰

William H. Kimbrell was also an active member from Simpson County. He enlisted May 24th, 1917. He was a private and later a Corporal. Kimbrell sailed April 6, 1918 from New York and was on

¹⁰ An interview from Mr. Bennie Harrison, now a resident of Mendenhall, Mississippi.

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Sea 14 days and nights. They were attacked by German Sub-Marines and one ship was struck but was not sunk, then landed in England; remaining about thirty-six hours.

Kimbrell was active in three active battles:

1st Battle- Frappelle Vosges August 17, 1918. Thousands of soldiers were killed in this battle.

2nd Battle- St. Mihiel-Offensive September 12, continued through 16th. France was making an effort to maintain possessions, while Germany fought to capture it.

3rd Battle- Meuse-Argonne-Offensive, October 13, 1918 and continued until November 11th.¹¹

Mr. J. C. Moore gives in his own words his experience in the World War. He joined the army in Jackson, Mississippi, July 19th, 1917 and on July 20th he was sent to Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, Louisiana where he stayed two weeks and was transferred to Co. C. 62nd Infantry, Chickamauga Park, Georgia, afterwards becoming Camp Forrest, Georgia. We stayed there until June, 1918, and transferred with my outfit to Camp Upton, Long Island, where we remained until the night of July 4th, 1918. We were sent to the 42nd Street Pier, New York, where we embarked, beginning our voyage on the British freighter, The Belgic, to Liverpool, England. From there we were sent to Camp Winchester, England, then to Southampton, England, where we loaded for the passage to Le Havre, France. We were sent to a rest camp and then to the Vosges Mountains, on the Alsace-Lorraine front, relieving a French Division. We returned to a rest camp at Vaux, France, and later

¹¹ An interview from Mr. William H. Kimbrell.

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placed in the final drive through the Hindenburg Line, stopping near Verdun. On the night before Thanksgiving I was given a platoon of picked men from my Battalion and directed to take it to Chamonix, France, for the parade on Thanksgiving Day. This parade was reviewed by President Wilson, King George, Marshall Foch, General Pershing, and other Allied leaders. Later, I was sent to the American University, Beauce, France, and took a commercial course while there. I embarked on the Columbia on June 16, 1918, at Marseilles, France, and landed at New York, on July 2, 1919. I was finally discharged from Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on July 19, 1919.¹²

Mr. Lish May of Weathersby, Mississippi, A world war veteran gives the following experiences of service in active battle.

Mr. May states that he was a member of Company B, First Battalion, 20th Engineers. This company was sent to the American University, Washington D. C., where it was stationed for about seven months in training and preparation.

His company sailed for France about 8 o'clock on the night in November, 1917.

He engaged in two active battles while in France; the Chateau-Thierry drive and the Battle of Argonne Forest, being sent to the front three times in the latter. Mr. May states that most of his Company was Kentucky boys and two of his best friends were killed; one, a shrapnel taking almost one side of his head off.

When the battle took place in a densely wooded sector, it was

¹² an interview from Mr. J. C. Moore of D'Lo, Mississippi.

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but a few minutes until the leaves were stripped from the trees by the bullets as if by hand.

The hottest weather was experienced while in active service. It was often necessary to stand in the rain for hours, this causing the health of many soldiers to be injured. Mr. May feels that this is the cause of the bronchial trouble he has today.

He sailed from Bordeaux, France, May 19, 1919, on the ship, Martha Washington.¹³

V- DISTINGUISHED COUNTY SOLDIERS OR OFFICERS:
There is none to note in this county.

VI. ORGANIZATIONS THAT DID WORK AT HOME:

a. Names, such as Red Cross, etc.

The Red Cross was well represented in Simpson County.

Both men and women did their bit when drives were put on for funds, "Kits" and clothing.

Mrs. Williams, daughter of Captain Smith of Magee was County Chairman of the Womens Division. She visited every community in the County enlisting women and children in the work. Serving rooms were to be found in every school building in the larger towns and the country churches served the same purpose where there were no large school buildings. The Singer Sewing Machine Company donated or lent machines to be used in these rooms the ladies made clothing for the Belgian's and others. These garments were sent from the local chapters to State Headquarters where they

¹³ an interview with Mr. Lish May of Weathersby, Mississippi.

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were sorted out and sent away.

Young women were busy in the Red Cross rooms under the supervision of a Red Cross nurse making bandages for the hospitals. Also they knit sweaters. The older women knitted socks by the hundreds, and taught the younger women to help them. Here in D'Lo especially there were so many knitters they could hardly get yarn fast enough to satisfy the women who had learned the art during the Civil War.¹⁴

"Each county was given a quota for funds for Liberty Loan drives. Be it said to the credit of Simpson County she always filled her quota. Sometimes we would have to write to citizens who had once lived here to help but we sold our bonds just the same. There was one instance here in D'Lo when it looked as if we were lagging, we wrote Mr. A. Q. May of Jackson, a native son of Simpson County and whose body now rest in the May Cemetery as it was called then, who sent us one thousand dollars (\$1,000) with which to purchase bonds.

School teachers bought from banks paying out their bonds monthly. School pupils bought thrift stamps til they had enough to have a baby bond five dollars (\$5.00). This was done by the school children and local postmaster here and in other places.

Special collections were taken for the Red Cross, benefit plays were sponsored by the schools, lunches sold, and

¹⁴ Written by Mrs. Gussie May Boggan of D'Lo, Miss. taken from our old manuscript, when our office was in D'Lo.

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all proceeds were given to the Red Cross.

"Of course the men did the larger part. Many of the saw mills, the one at D'Lo, I remember would give an entire days pay to the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Many individuals would give as much as a hundred dollars to raise required funds. Merchants and other business men gave freely to the fund.

"The Boy Scouts made gardens in their respective towns. In D'Lo Finkbine Lumber Company set aside several acres for which the Scouts called their "War Garden."

"The Y. M. C. A. was open at all times for any thing that was to be given that would help in any way."¹⁵

RED CROSS REPORT

Magee, Miss. June 18th, 1918.

Final Report Second Red Cross War Fund Campaign

Simpson County's Quota	\$2100.00
Total Cash Collected	6130.00
Total Pledges Outstanding	395.75

AMOUNT BY PRECINCTS

Mendenhall	1058.27
D'Lo	821.44
Braxton	384.81
N. W. Magee.....	\$821.37
S. W. Magee.....	636.58..... 1457.95
Pinola	536.61
Harrisville	328.15
Coat	256.56
Pearl	199.35

¹⁵ Information given by Mrs. Gussie M. Boggan

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Weatherby	AMOUNT BY PRECINCTS \$ 171.36
Touchstone	157.50
Bowie	181.80
Shivers	115.99
Bridgeport	121.15
Fork Church	91.66
Everett	66.72
Sumrall	63.91
Martinville	116.77

Total Number Cash Contb's.....2848

Pledges for North and South Ward Magee will be paid to Dr. W. L. Walker, Saratoga and Coat to Gl W. Tullos; Weathersby to Dr. C. A. Kennedy; Pinola to W. J. McCant; Fork Church to J. P. Keen; D'Lo to Dr. R. W. Burnett.

All pledges should be paid on or about the 25th of each month in order that I may be able to make my report about the 1st following.

I want to thank the good people of Simpson Again for this magnificent showing.¹⁶

Sincerely,
E. L. Walker, Chr'm.

¹⁶ Secured from Simpson County News, Thursday, June 20, 1918- Vol. XLVII.

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1. BATTLES AND SKIRMISHES IN COUNTY: CIVIL WAR

"To enter into a discussion of the Civil War, or to attempt anything like an extended account of the part borne in that great struggle by Mississippians, nor to enter into a discussion of the causes that led to the most gigantic War of modern times. The differences, whether of great or little moment, had the effect not only wrecking thousands of happy households, but for a time after the cessation of hostilities, of striking down what our ancestors esteemed constitutional liberty. A quarter of a century has passed since arms were stocked, tents folded and brave men returned to peaceful pursuits. The people of the southern States were subjected by the victors to a species of tyranny and oppression, that today can scarcely be realized, even by those sought to be humiliated."¹

"The County being out of line of march of hostile forces and far from the great thoroughfares of travel, escaped the destruction property from which other parts of the country suffered. Simpson County had no personal grievance against their Northern neighbors save that the citizens held in common with the south. Upon their return from the war in 1865 the Confederate soldiers from Simpson County found their homes, almost in ruin from neglect. Although there were no war depredation, direct, in this county we have much indirect. The greatest evil of the war came, however, in the Reconstruction

¹ Ref. Lowry, McCordle History, Mississippi p.637-

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Period and continued until the general election in 1889.

While we have no records to show to what extent taxes really increased before 1872, much land had been forfeited for taxation. Land and every other form of wealth had declined. All of this loss added to the freeing of the slaves, left the people in a deplorable condition. To see faithful soldiers return to their ruined homes, to see their wives and daughters do work that slaves had been accustomed to do and to note the men who had fallen on battlefield, brought heart pangs that cannot now be known to any save the few who survive to tell the story of war and ruin."²

II NAMES OF FIGHTING UNITS FROM COUNTY:

- a. List by companies, battalions, regiments.
A complete list of the Westville Guards, Company B.

16th Miss. Regt. On the 29th day of May 1861 together with their rank then and their rank on August, 9th, 1863.

Officers-

Captain.....G.J.D.Funchess. Cft.service April 26, 1862.

1st Lieutenant...Sam N. Caston Cft. Service April 26, 1862.

2nd " ..C.B.Banks resigned Aug. 1861.

3rd " Wm. J. Douglas left service April 26, 1862.
Noncommissioned Officers.

1st Sergt. Harry Smith, Now Capt. wounded Sharpsburg, Md.

2nd " I. F. Alexander Now private

² Extracts from Thesis written by Professor F. M. Ball. Published in Simpson County News- Vol.39 January 26, 1911

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Westville Guards

3rd Sergt. A. B. Caston Private wounded at Crosskeys, Va.
 4th " E. C. Sandifer died at Warrenton Hospital, Va.
 5th " R. H. Harper died at Charlottesville " Va.
 1st Corporal H. S. Arnold now lieut.
 2nd " G. G. Jones discharged 1861 disability
 3rd, " G. W. Weathersby died at Manassas, Va.
 4th " S. W. Robinson Private wounded at Chancellorsville, Va.
 Col " H. C. Gibson Now lieut. wounded at Crosskeys, Va.
 Privates A. F. Bettesworth
 B. F. Brown wounded 2nd battle Manassas, Va.
 James D. Bishop, wounded at Battle Sharpsburg, Md.
 J. N. Bishop now sergt.
 J. H. Bishop, killed at Sharpsburg, Md.
 H. J. Bands wounded at Chancellorsville Va.
 R. L. Bridges
 Wm. Barsset discharged 1861 disability
 D. D. Benson Sergt. wounded Sharpsburg, Md.
 Sebron Bush
 J. A. Bush died at Richmond, Va.
 Condy, Burns discharged 1862
 Jasper Bass, died at Warrenton Hospital Va.
 Tom W. Bass, wounded 1st. Battle Fredricksburg, Va.
 George Box, killed at Chancellorsville Va.
 C. G. Brinson Corporal

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J. A. Barber, wounded in battle Richmond, Va.
 D. J. Barron killed " " " "
 W. J. Berry, wounded battle Sharpsburg, Md.
 A. G. Berry, discharged 1861
 J. P. Bullock
 J. R. Bridges killed in battle Sharpsburg, Md.
 J. E. Buckley wounded in skirmish between Hazle-run & River Rapahannock, Va.
 J. M. Buckley, killed battle Sharpsburg, Md.
 T. D. Bush, Discharged under 18-
 H. H. Berry " " "
 V. P. Chandelers, Corpl. wounded battle of Sharpsburg, Md.
 W. J. Crain " " 2 " " Manassas, Va
 John Conley " " " " " "
 D. W. Dampeer, Sergt. " in skirmish Kellysford
 Raphanrock River, Va.
 J. R. Drammonds, Lieut Killed Battle Sharpsburg, Md.
 J. F. Dear " " " " "
 S. T. Dampeer discharged under A 18
 E. F. Everett
 W. J. Everett, discharged
 J. P. Ford killed in battle Sharpsburg, Md.
 Wm. Giles
 W. J. Gibson died at Corinth, Miss.
 Joseph Garrett discharged.
 H. R. Gibson

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F. B. Gipson Westville Guards
discharged 1861

W. N. Gipson, wounded 2 battle Manassas Va.

At. T. Gerreard discharged 1861

F. M. Grubbs, Sergt. wounded at Spotsylvania,
Courthouse, Va.

G. G. Hilton discharged.

Alex Hilton

J. W. Hilton

G. W. Hilton died at Hospital Richmond Va.

J. Z. Hicks wounded in battle, Chancellorsville, Va.

G. T. Hemphill discharged

Wm. Johnson, wounded 2 battle Manassas, Va.

W. H. Jones

Sam Hennigan killed in battle Sharpsburg, Md.

Sam B. Howell

A. D. Keen

A. J. Lee Sr.

A. J. Lee, Jr. killed at 2 battle Manassas, Va.

Wm. Lucas, wounded in skirmish Hazlerun & Rappahannock
River Va.

John Lucas

J. A. Lamb discharged 1862

R. J. Morris

D. W. C. Murray, died at Centerville, Va.

A. A. Murray

R. S. Magee, discharged April 26th 1862

Joe May " " " "

50 Simpson County

Robt. Mangum Westville Guards
discharged April 26th 1862

S. E. Millis killed in battle Chancellorsville, Va.

J. F. Massey, wounded at Richmond, Va.

A. M. Massey, " " Chancellorsville, Va.

Isham McLendon discharged 1861 disability

S. J. McBride wounded in Battle Chancellorsville, Va.

G. J. McIntosh discharged 1861 disability

I. H. Newsoms

D. L. Newson, wounded in battle, Sharpsburg, Md.

J. F. Newson discharged under 18.

J. M. Norwood died at Corinth Miss.

J. E. Norwood " " Centerville, Va.

German Peakok, killed at 2 battle Manassas, Va.

Dan Peacock

F. L. Riley, wounded in battle Sharpsburg, Md.

D. L. Rushing discharged, disability

B. F. Robinson

C. H. Robinson, killed in battle Richmond, Va.

J. D. Rogers

J. T. Shorter, wounded in battle Gettysburg, Pa.

A. G. W. Smith, died at Manassas, Va.

Joe Sandifer

Wm. Taylor

H. B. Taylor

W. H. Turner, wounded in battle Sharpsburg, Md.

E. C. Shivers, discharged 1861

John Spurlock, killed at Sharpsburg, Md.

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Westville Guards
H. H. Telor wounded in battle Chancellorsville, Va.
D. J. Waltman, killed " " " "
Owen Weathersby discharged under 18.
T. B. Weathersby " " 18.
Joe C. Ward wounded, Chancellorsville, Va. Sharpsburg, Md
P. A. Walker, Lieut. wounded at Richmond, Va.
Willis Walker, killed in battle Chancellorsville, Va.
J. B. Walker died at Manassas, Va.
E. T. Yelverton, wounded in Battle Sharpsburg, Md.
R. C. Yelverton killed " " " "

S. L. Young Sergt

Elijah Young killed in battle Richmond, Va.

Colen Floyd and Ervin Floyd, conscript came to Company
after this date.

The above shows the changes made in two years and 2
months in this company, B. 16 Rgt. Miss. Volunteers a mem-
ber from the first, F. M. Grubbs, Sr.....

No. killed 18- died 12- No. wounded 32- total, 62³

LIST OF SIMPSON COUNTY FENCIBLES⁴

"Company H. Simpson Fencibles of Simpson County, Mis-
sissippi, mustered into State service at Westville July,
1861.

Captains- Enoch R. Bennett, elected.

Lieutenant-Colonel; John S. Hubsbands, to reorganization.

³ Information of Westville Guards given by Mr. Bee
King, who has the original copy. This was given to
him by Mr. F. M. Grubbs, who carried the original
all through the war.

⁴ Fencibles- secured from Mississippi Official and
Statistical Register, 1908- pp.557-558- from De-
partment of Archives and History.

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First Lieutenant...Warren G. Magee, resigned, 1861.
Second Lieutenant...Willoughby T. May, resigned, 1861.
Third Lieutenant ..German Walker

Co. H- 6th Infantry Mississippi- Simpson
Fencibles

	Company	Ranking
Ballentine, J.A.....	H	Private
Bennett, E. B.	H-	Captain
Berry, Henry	H	Private
Berry, Joseph	"	Private
Berry, Williamson	"	"
Bishop, Stoncil	"	"
Blair, Robert M.	"	"
Boggan, Alexander	"	Private-Sergt.
Boggan, James J.	"	" "
Boggan, P.	"	Private
Box, John W.	"	Private
Brown, J. H.	"	"
Brown, P. L.	"	"
Brown, J. J.	"	"
Brown, W. H.	"	"
Butler, Samuel E.	"	"
Byred, S. D.	"	"
Chancellor, S. F.	"	Corp-Pvt.
Clark, Calvin	"	Private
Clark, David	"	Sergt-Pvt.
Clark, Felix W.	"	Private
Cookrell, Robert	"	"

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Coke, J. T. H.	H.	Private
Covington, John A.	H	Pvt-1st Sergt.
Crawley, Alfred	H	Private
Crawley, J. W	"	Pvt-Sergt-
Crisco, Robert	"	Private
Deer, J. M.	"	Private
Dossett, William	"	"
Eggleston, P. A.	"	"
Everett, John E.	"	"
Everett, Thomas	"	"
Everett, William J.	"	Corp-Sergt.
Findly, S.	"	Private
Finlay, Jeptha	"	"
Floyd, F. J.	"	"
Floyd, K.	"	"
Floyd, Samuel R.	"	Private
Floyd, William E.	"	"
Fortenberry, John	"	"
Frasier, E. A. B.	"	"
Gardner, Stephen	"	"
Grady, J. E.	"	Private
Grantham, A.	"	"
Grantham, D. J.	"	"
Gregory, C. P.	"	"
Gregory, John	"	"

54 Simpson County	Company	Ranking
Gurdin, John H.	H	Private
Gunthorn, Johnson	"	"
Hall, Rowland	"	"
Hays, William	"	"
Hays, William B.	"	"
Hilton, W. J.	"	"
Hogg, A.	"	"
(See S. L. Chancellor)		
Hogg, John	H	Private
Holbrooks, F. V.	"	"
Howell, W. G.	"	Pvt-2nd Lieut.
Husband, John S.	"	Captain
Jenkins, G. W.	"	Private
Keen, A. P.	"	"
Keen, M. William	"	"
Kennedy, H. W.	"	"
Kennedy, W. M.	"	"
King, R. B.	"	"
Layton, Joseph	"	"
Layton, R; V.	"	"
Layton, Thomas	"	"
Magee, J. N.	"	"
Magee, W. G.	"	1st Lt.
Mangum, H. L.	"	Private
Mangum, James	"	"
Mangum, J. C.	"	"

55 Simpson County

	Company	Ranking
Mangum, S. E.	H	Private
May, Joseph	"	Jr. 2nd Lt. 2nd Lt.

(See Joseph May Jr. 39 Miss. Inf.)

May, W. T.	H	2nd Lt.
McLendon, Elias	H	Private
McLendon, Needham	"	"
McLendon, W. B.	"	"
Mangum, Arthur	"	"
Morgan, Frenalin	"	"
Murray, L. M.	"	"
Neely, D.	"	"
Patterson, Arclay	"	"
Patterson, Ingram	"	"
Patterson, R. J.	"	"
Patterson, W. T.	"	"
Peacock, William L.	"	Pvt. Sergt.
Peacock, W. M.	"	Private
Powell, William	"	"
Quinn, J. R.	"	"
Rankin, C. R.	"	"
Rankin, C. W.	"	"
Read, James	"	"
Read, Jasper	"	"
Read, John	"	"
Robb, James	"	"

56 Simpson County

	Company	
Robberts, Jacob	H	Private
Roberts, John W.	"	"
Robberts, Philip	"	"
Rankins, D. V.	"	"
Ross, James	"	"
Runnels, G. W.	"	"
Rutherford, V. H.	"	"
Scott, John S.	"	Pvt. 1st Sergt.
Sellers, James	"	Sergt. 1st Lt.
Smith, A. P.	"	Private
Stevens, J. C.	"	"

(see 15 Miss. (Consol.) Inf.)

Stevens, William	H	Private
Stubbs, J. M.	"	"

(See 39 Miss. Inf.)

Stubbs, W. M.	H	Private
Thames, W. W.	"	"
Thurman, A.	"	"
Therman, Elihah	"	"
Therman, George	"	"
Thompson, W. C.	"	Ensign- Capt.
Vickus, A. J.	"	Private
Vintzant, G. F.	"	"
Waldrop, J. L.	"	"
Walker, D. W.	"	"
Walker, G.	"	3rd-Lt.
Walker, G. W.	"	Sergt-1st Sergt.

57 Simpson County

Walker, John A.	H	Private
Walker, Robert J.	H	Private
Walker, Solomon	H	Pvt-Corp-
Ware, James	"	Private
Ware, L. B.	"	"
Ware, Thomas M.	"	"
Ware, W. E.	"	"
Webster, Peter R.	"	Sergt-
Weissinger, J. M.	"	Private
Welch, Thomas	"	"
Welch, Nathan	"	"
White, J. R.	"	"
Williamson, Alex	"	"
Williamson, E.	"	"
Williamson, H.	"	"
Williamson, J. Mike	"	"
Williamson, Madison	"	"
Williamson, S. M.	"	"
Waldrop, F. M.	"	"

Company A- Simpson Greys, of Simpson County,
organized 8 March, 1862.⁵

Captain- R. J. Durr

1st Lieutenant J. Hoskins

⁵ Secured from Mississippi Official and Statistical
Register of 1908.

58 Simpson County

2nd Lieutenant

J. Clower

3rd Lieutenant

T. E. Dyson

1861-1865

	Company	Ranking
Albritton, B. F.	A	Private
Barnes, J. C.	A	2nd Lieut.
Bass, Clinton	A	Private
Beasley, A.	A	"
Beasley, Elias	"	"
Berry, A. G.	"	Sergt.
Berry, A. W.	"	Corp.
Berry, H. C.	"	Pvt.
Berry, J. J.	"	"
Berry, P. T.	"	Sergt.
Berry, T. J.	"	Pvt.
Berry, William	"	"
Berry, Willis	"	"
Blatt, Robert	"	"
Box, J. W.	"	"
Boyanton, H. R.	"	"
Boyanton, J. A.	"	"
Boyanton, M.	"	"
Boynton, Michael	"	"
Brown, Hitson	"	"
Brown, Jesse A.	"	"
Brown, J. H.	"	"
Brown, P. L.	"	"

SIMPSON COUNTY, WARS

59 Simpson County

	Company	
Brown, T. J.	A	Private
Brown, W. M.	"	"
Buckley, A. J.	"	"
Bush, A. H.	"	"
Bush, James R.	"	"
Bush, T. D.	"	"
Byrd, James	"	"
Cooksey, James L.	"	"
Cooksey, John	"	"
Cross, William J.	"	Lt.
Dampier, S. T.	"	Private
Davis, B. F.	"	"
Drummonds, D. J.	"	"
Drummonds, J. A.	"	"
Drummonds, Leroy	"	"
Drummonds, S.	"	"
Drummonds, William	"	"
E. A. Durr	"	"
Durr, R. J.	"	Mjr.
Farlow, G. W.	"	Sergt.
Farmer, G. H.	"	Pvt.
Farmer, S. A.	"	"
Fortenberry, Asa	"	"
Fortenberry, Irwin	"	"
Frazier, J. W.	"	"

60 Simpson County

	Company	
Gardner, J. F.	A	Private
Gowan, G. R.	"	Sergt.
Gowan, J. C.	"	Pvt.
Grubbs, J. D.	"	"
Harper, S. J.	"	Corp.
Hemphill, W. B.	"	Pvt.
Herrington, I. D.	"	"
Hogg, H. M.	"	"
Husbands, J. G.	"	"
Johnson, A. J.	"	"
Johnson, S. L.	"	"
Johnson, William	"	"
Jordon, Allen	"	"
Kennedy, W. W.	"	"
King, Arthur	"	"
King, T. W.	"	"
Lane, J. M.	"	Sergt.
Layton, J. M.	"	Pvt.
Lee, H. F.	"	Corp.
Lee, N. J.	"	Pvt.
Lee, Wilson,	"	"
Lucas, A. A.	"	"
Magee, W. G.	"	1st Sergt./
Malone, D. F.	"	Pvt.
McCaskill, L. A.	"	1st Sergt.

61 Simpson County

	Company	
McLendon, Isham	A	Private
McLendon, N.	A	"
Millis, J. M.	"	"
Millis, William H.	"	"
Moore, Anthony	"	"
Moore, Jesse	"	"
Morris, A. F.	"	2 Lt.
Morris, J. R.	"	2 Lt.
Murry, J. T.	"	Pvt.
Myers, Byrd	"	"
Myers, Isham	"	"
Myers, Michael	"	"
Mewan, J. A.	"	"
Newsom, J. F.	"	Sergt.
Owens, G. W.	"	Pvt.
Peacock, James	"	"
Pope, A. W.	"	"
Ragland, William R.	"	"
Ragsdale, S. H.	"	"
Randall, J. A.	"	"
Randall, John	"	"
Randall, M. J.	"	"
Riley, E. M.	"	"
Rogers, A. A.	"	Corp.
Shell, Robert	"	Pvt.

62 Simpson County

	Company	
Shivers, E. C.	A	Pvt.
Shivers, G. B.	A	"
Shivers, G. W.	A	"
Shivers, Robert	"	"
Shows, N. R.	"	"
Smith, A. W.	"	"
Smith, Daniel	"	"
Smith, D. J.	"	"
Smith, Enander	"	"
Smith, Henry	"	"
Smith, James	"	"
Smith, J. N.	"	"
Smith, John	"	"
Spikes, A. J.	"	Corp.
Spikes, Willis	"	Pvt.
Spurlock, Allen	"	"
Stubbs, J. M.	"	"
Sutton, M. L.	"	"
Thames, R. H.	"	"
Thames, G. A.	"	"
Thames, T. M.	"	"
Thurman, Elijah	"	"
Thurman, F. M.	"	"
Thurman, R. H.	"	"
Toler, R. H.	"	"

63 Simpson County	Company	
Traylor, G. W.	A	Private
Wages, James	"	"
Wages, John	"	"
Walker, Asa	"	Sergt.
Walker, C. D.	"	Pvt.
Walker, Richmond	"	1st Lt.
Wattman, E. P.	"	Pvt.
Westersby, William	"	Capt.
White, Adam	"	Pvt.
Wilkerson, Theophilus	"	Capt.

Co. F. Pearl River Guards of Simpson
County, organized 29, March, 1862.⁶

Captain.....C. B. Banks
1st Lieutenant.....A. T. Gerard
2nd Lieutenant.....T. J. Murray
3rd Lieutenant.....J. A. Smith

	Company	Ranking
Aaron, John	F	Private
Allbritton, Amos	"	"
Allen, J. E.	"	Sergt.
Ashley, T. A.	"	Pvt.
Ates, J. W.	"	"
Banks, C. B.	"	Capt.

⁶ List of Pearl River Guards of Simpson
County secured from Mississippi Official
and Statistical Register of 1908. p.721-
Department of Archives and History, Courtesy.

64 Simpson County	Company	Ranking
Barlow, C. C.	F.	---
Barron, Davis	F.	Pvt.
Blair, James B.	F.	"
Brian, T. T.	"	"
Bridges, Franklin	"	"
Bridges, Green	"	"
Bridges, P. P.	"	1st Sergt.
Brock, John	"	Pvt.
Brock, W. T.	"	Corp.
Brown, A. G.	"	Pvt.
Brown, D. W.	"	"
Buckley, T. P.	"	"
Burt, T. L.	"	"
Burt, J. H.	"	"
Butler, J. B.	"	"
Butler, S. S.	"	"
Butler, J. L.	"	"
Callahan, J. S.	"	"
Chandler, J. M.	"	Corp.
Clark, Daniel	F	Pvt.
Clark, J. C.	"	"
Cochron, John	"	"
Cockrel, Robert	"	"
Cockrel, J. N.	"	"
Cook, Aaron	"	--

65 Simpson County	Company	Ranking
Cook, Abram	F	Pvt.
Cox, Melephron	F	"
Crane, J. P.	"	"
Dampier, L. M.	"	"
Davis, G. H.	"	"
Dilmore, Wesley	"	"
Douglas, W. J.	"	"
Easterling, W. B.	"	2 Lt.
Ennis, A. E.	"	--
Ferguson, S. P.	"	Pvt.
Gardner, Lazerus	"	"
Garrard, A. T.	"	1st Lieut.
Garret, J. B.	"	Pvt.
Garrett, W. T.	"	Sergt.
Gates, T. M.	"	Pvt.
Grabbs, B. H.	"	"
Grubbs, David	"	"
Hales, W. G.	"	"
Harper, Samuel	"	"
Harney, Isaac	"	Pvt.
Harney, William	"	"
Hilton, L. M.	"	"
Hilton, T. R.	"	"
Hilton, W. J.	"	"
Hagg, H. H.	"	"

66 Simpson County		
Holcomb, Madison	P	Private
Howell, B. F.	"	"
Hubbard, J. A.	"	"
Hubbard, Peter	"	"
Husbands, Elijah	"	Corp.
Hutson, Abram	"	Pvt.
Hutson, William	"	Corp.
Irby, N. G. H. C.	"	Pvt.
Johnson, George	"	"
Johnston, James	"	"
Jones, J. C.	"	Sergt.
Kelley, Lloyd	"	Pvt.
Layton, J. W.	"	"
Mahaffey, J. B.	"	"
Mahaffey, W. D.	"	Corp.
Massey, P. E.	"	"
May, G. B.	"	Sergt.
May, Joseph, Jr.	"	1st Sergt.
May, Richard	"	Pvt.
McAfee, J. R.	F&S	Asst. Surgn.
McCaskill, Sam	F	Pvt.
Milwe, S. J.	"	"
Miller, Asa	"	Sergt.
Miller, J. J.	"	Corp
Miller, Ransom	"	Pvt.

67 Simpson County

	Company	Ranking
Murray, A. J.	F	Private
Murray, J. F.	"	"
Murray, T. J.	"	2nd Lt.
Murray, Willis	"	Pvt.
Muse, J. S.	"	"
Olliner, E. J.	"	"
Overber, J. W.	"	--
Overby, J. L.	"	Pvt.
Owens, William	"	"
Parish, James	"	"
Barker, W. G.	"	"
Bolk, John	"	"
Prewett, S. E.	"	"
Pruett, A. J.	"	"
Quinn, J. W.	"	Sergt.
Renno, Samuel	"	Pvt.
Roberts, G. B.	"	"
Roberts, Isham	"	"
Roberts, J. J.	"	"
Runnells, J. P.	"	"
Sebrens, John	"	"
Self, J. W.	"	"
Shelby, W. B.	F & S	Colonel
Smith, J. A.	F	Jr. 2nd Lt.

68 Simpson County

	Company	Ranking
Spell, Thomas	F	Pvt.
Spellyards, S. S.	F	"
Sullivan, Louis	"	"
Sullivan, Ta A.	"	"
Sullivan, H. N.	"	"
Sullivan, Joseph	"	"
Taylor, J. C.	"	"
Thames, J. S.	"	"
Thames, Richard	"	"
Touchston, J. D.	"	"
Trylor, J. M.	"	"
Tyler, J. W.	"	"
Walker, Jesse	"	Corp.
Walker, J. M.	"	Corp.
Ware, A. W.	"	Pvt.
Ware, G. W.	"	"
Weathersby, James	"	"
Welch, J. M.	"	1st Serg.
Welch, Vincent	"	Pvt.
Williamson, Noel	"	"
Williamson, Samuel	"	"

b. We have no history of these Units.

c. We have no 155th Regiment information.

III Names of Enlisted men From county:

a. Names of all Veterans.

70 Simpson County

A LIST OF SOLDIERS FROM SIMPSON COUNTY ENLISTED

"A true and correct report of all persons who have enlisted or entered the Service of the Confederate States the State of Mississippi from Simpson County in District 1, either by volunteering by Draft or conscription under the Several acts of the Confederate Congress from the Commencement of the present War up to the present report together with the Number of beneficiaries who were dependent upon said Soldiers and those Soldiers who have been wounded or disabled in consequence of having Served as Such and entitled to Relief under the Several Acts of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi as Such Beneficiaries from and in the first Police Court District of Simpson County Mississippi as follows:

No.	Names of Soldiers	Co.	Regt.
1	J. T. Graddy	H	6th
2	C. B. Gregory	"	"
3	J. S. Gregory	"	"
4	S. Scott	"	"
5	F. J. Floyd	"	"
6	R. Floyd	B	16
7	G. Rankin	F	39
8	D. Little	F	"
9	A. Smith		46
10	G. W. Runnels	H	6
11	J. Ware		39
12	D. M. Rankin		
13	R. Layton		
14	A. Vickns		
15	J. Womack		

⁷ Information secured through the courtesy of the Department of Archives and History Jackson, Mississippi.

71 Simpson County

No.	Names of Soldiers	Co.	Regt.
16	A. Womack		
17	Thomas Wells		
18	T. Bishop	H	6th
19	D. Wells		
20	John Gates		
21	J. Sanders		
22 J.	J. Roberts		
23	G. B. Hayse		
24	J. Rankin		
25	J. Layton		
26	Thomas Layton		
27	J. F. Findlay		
28	J. Ross		
29	J. Mangum		
30	J. S. P. Findlay		
31	J. Hayse		
32	W. M. Thames		
33	W. M. Powell		
34	J. W. Williamson		
35	J. May, Jr.		
36	H. Kennedy		
37	R. Thames Jr.		
38	W. Floyd		
39	S. Floyd		

70 Simpson County

A LIST OF SOLDIERS FROM SIMPSON COUNTY ENLISTED

"A true and correct report of all persons who have enlisted or entered the Service of the Confederate States the State of Mississippi from Simpson County in District 1, either by volunteering by Draft or conscription under the Several acts of the Confederate Congress from the Commencement of the present War up to the present report together with the Number of beneficiaries who were dependent upon said Soldiers and those Soldiers who have been wounded or disabled in consequence of having Served as Such and entitled to Relief under the Several Acts of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi as Such Beneficiaries from and in the first Police Court District of Simpson County Mississippi as follows:"

No.	Names of Soldiers	Co.	Regt.
1	J. T. Graddy	H	6th
2	C. B. Gregory	"	"
3	J. S. Gregory	"	"
4	S. Scott	"	"
5	P. J. Floyd	"	"
6	R. Floyd	B	16
7	G. Rankin	F	39
8	D. Little	F	"
9	A. Smith		46
10	G. W. Runnels	H	6
11	J. Ware		39
12	D. M. Rankin		
13	R. Layton		
14	A. Vickns		
15	J. Womack		

⁷ Information secured through the courtesy of the Department of Archives and History Jackson, Mississippi.

71 Simpson County

No.	Names of Soldiers	Co.	Regt.
16	A. Womack		
17	Thomas Wells		
18	T. Bishop	H	6th
19	D. Wells		
20	John Gates		
21	J. Sanders		
22 J.	J. Roberts		
23	G. B. Hayse		
24	J. Rankin		
25	J. Layton		
26	Thomas Layton		
27	J. F. Findlay		
28	J. Ross		
29	J. Mangum		
30	J. S. P. Findlay		
31	J. Hayse		
32	W. M. Thames		
33	W. M. Powell		
34	J. W. Williamson		
35	J. May, Jr.		
36	H. Kennedy		
37	R. Thames Jr.		
38	W. Floyd		
39	S. Floyd		

72 Simpson County

No.	Names of soldiers
40	J. Dye
41	J. Patterson
42	A. Patterson
43	S. Little
44	S. Mangum
45	J. C. Mangum
46	A. Mangum
47	S. Bishop
48	G. W. Runnels
49	J. J. Grantham
50	J. Gipson
51	W. Dossett
52	W. Spradley
53	J. Johnston
54	J. Thames
55	R. Thames
56	J. Clark
57	M. J. Cook
58	W. M. Kennedy
59	A. Hutson
60	Sen Currie
61	W. Harvey
65	Thomas Hughs
66	D. Clark Jr.
67	Jesse Ross

No.

68	R. Magee
69	D. Williamson
70	J. A. Covington
71	F. P. Gipson
72	J. Jolly
73	J. Warren
74	E. D. Williamson
75	Jas. Overby Sr.
76	David Clark Sr.
77	J. W. Overby
78	J. Layton
79	A. Cook
80	Abram Cook
81	A. Fortenberry
82	Jas. Layton
83	S. Thames
84	T. W. Thames, Jr.
85	R. May
86	G. B. May
87	J. Kennedy
88	L. Garner
89	S. Williamson
90	E. Smith
91	W. Butler
92	G. S. Johnston

73 Simpson County

No.	
95	W. Kennedy
96	F. D. Kennedy
97	R. H. Kennedy
98	R. H. McLehany
98	J. McLehany
99	F. P. Gates
100	A. Sanders
101	J. Grantham
102	G. W. Johnston
103	W. J. Kennedy
104	J. T. Ponder
105	W. W. Kennedy
106	A. Davis
107	J. Butler
108	R. J. Grantham
109	R. Burch
110	H. P. Little
111	P. Allen
112	W. Allen
113	G. Farmer
114	Jacob Farmer
115	F. Failes
116	W. H. Fortenberry
117	J. Metts Williamson
118	A. Williamson
119	J. L. White

No.

120	W. Ausbrook
121	F. A. Youngblood
122	E. L. Floyd
123	J. H. Floyd
124	J. Parish
125	J. Saulter
126	Z. Parish
127	W. W. Gregory
128	M. Bishop
129	H. Turner
130	David Womack
131	W. H. Williamson
132	Marion Williamson
133	T. B. Ware
134	J. Powell
135	N. C. Gipson
136	C. Failes
137	W. Hutson
138	H. Womack
139	W. H. Womack
140	H. Davidson
141	Joseph Purvis
142	D. V. Rankins
143	W. S. Holloway
144	E. A. Floyd

74 Simpson County

No.		No.	
145	P. Roberts	171	Meinzel Williamson
146	R. B. King	172	Jackson Williamson
147	J. W. Ponder	173	W. Patterson
148	N. Williamson	174	Dickson McLehaney
149	J. Fortenberry	175	David Cook
150	W. McLehaney	176	C. Sinclair
151	W. L. May	177	Wm. Ware
152	R. Overby	178	Wm. Hayse
153	A. Overby	179	James Hause
154	Franklin Floyd	180	W. J. Kennedy
155	C. N. Floyd		
156	Irvin Floyd		
157	Mosely		
158	W. Gates		
159	Thomas Gates		
160	Womaack		
161	A. Thames		
162	John Warren Jr.		
163	D. J. Kennedy		
164	P. H. Overby		
165	Peter Grubbs		
166	E. Clark		
167	John Thames Jr.		
168	Hugh Thames		
169	John W. Thames		
170	R. R. Womaack		

75 Simpson County

A list of the militia who have been mustered into the State Service Time.

1. A. Kennedy
2. Miles B. McWilliams
3. E. H. Lucas
4. G. W. Overby
5. Hayse Holyfield
6. G. P. Overby
7. E. Currie
8. J. W. Stroud
9. J. M. Dollar
10. J. J. Mangum
11. S. P. May
12. M. Dye
13. Wm. May
14. Davis
15. Rhessa Kennedy
16. Harris
17. T. P. Ponder
18. Alex Kennedy
19. Lewis Turner
20. Willie Magee
21. Hugh Butler
22. Wiley Brown
23. J. K. Patterson
24. John Hayse

76 Simpson County

"A true and correct list of all person who have entered or enlisted in the Service of the Confederate States of the Service of the State of Mississippi either by volunteering or by draft or by virtue of the Several Conscripct acts of the Confederate Congress from the commencement of the present war up to the date of this Report together with the number of Beneficiaries who were dependent upon Said Soldiers and those Soldiers who have been wounded or disabled in consequence of having served as such and entitled to relief under the Several acts of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi as such beneficiaries from and in the 2nd Police court District of Simpson County, Mississippi as follows towit:-

No.	Names	No.	Names
1	A. Hutson	20	H. F. Lee
2	J. Garrett	21	N. J. Lee
3	W. F. Garrett	22	Henry Smith
4	E. Husbands	23	James Smith
5	Jas Blair	24	W. C. Thompson
6	J. S. Callahan	25	William Pusser
7	J. A. Hubbard	26	Pleas Boggan
8	Peter Hubbard Jr.	27	Jasper Reid
9	Stannere Butler	28	James Stubbs
10	James Parrish	29	W. W. Stubbs
11	W. G. Magee	30	Robt. Blair
12	A. W. Smith	31	G. W. Runnels
13	Evender Smith	32	Aron Smith
14	J. N. Smith	33	S. L. Chancellor
15	John Smith	34	John Coke
16	Isham Herrington	35	G. W. Walker
17	Seabron Farmer	36	Felix Carr
18	George Farmer	37	Peter Stubbs
19	R. J. Durr		

77 Simpson County

No.	Names	No.	Names
38	Daniel Hubbard	63	J. J. Lockhart
39	E. T. Yelverton	64	Emanuel Durr
40	Richard Yelverton	65	Tobert McLaurin
41	Madison Moorwood	Militia Cos. E & F. Harper's Miss. Batt	
42	Dr. B. Gibson	66	William Tullis
43	A. B. Casting	67	Elias Runnels
44	N. Wilkinson	68	Thomas J. Smith
45	Daniel Wilkinson	69	P. B. Hubbard
46	Elias Smith	70	J. A. Wilson
47	Hugh McLaurin	71	W. H. Fortenberry
48	Jasper Kennedy	72	J. A. Kennedy
49	William Smith	73	Martin Bishop
50	Hulan Smith	74	A. E. Smith
51	Samuel Runnels	75	D. J. Smith
52	George Floyd	76	A. W. Smith
53	Robt. Mangum	77	J. H. Floyd
54	T. B. Ware	78	John Curtis
55	Sam McDonald	79	Archy Smith
56	E. Williamson		
57	Peter Smith		
58	L. McCollum		
59	D. McCollum		
60	Richard Tullis		
61	Alex Leonard		
62	Lafayette Durr		
63	J. J. Lockhart		

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Entered the Service since the date of
last report Co. A, Stubbs Batt. State Cavry.

80 Evander Hubbard
81 John Wood
82 J. C. Lee
83 J. W. Jones
84 John Harrington
85 G. J. Walker

30 day militia 1st Batt.

86 N. W. Lee
87 B. Valentine
88 Owen Weathersby
89 S. E. Mangum
90 Jesse Yelverton
91 A. Mangum
92 Thos Hubbard
93 A. McDonald

3rd District

"A true and correct Report of all persons who have enlisted or entered the Service of the Confederate States of the Service of the State of Mississippi either by volunteering by Draft or by Conscription under the Several Acts of the Confederate Congress from the commencement of the present war up to the date of this Report (together *disregard* with the number of beneficiaries who were dependent upon said Soldiers and those Soldiers who have been wounded or disabled in consequence of having Served as Such and entitled to Relief under the Several Acts of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi as Such beneficiaries from and in the 3rd Police Court District of Simpson County, Miss.)

No. Names of Soldiers
1 Brown, Wade
2 Bod, George

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No.	Names of Soldiers	No.	Names of Soldiers
3	Bullock, J. N.	27	Grubbs, Marion
4	Brown, B. F.	28	Garrett, Jo
5	Bettisworth, B. F.	29	Harper, Robert
6	Bishop, J. N.	30	Hicks, J. Z.
7	Bishop, J. H.	31	Jones, G. G.
8	Bishop, J. D.	32-	Giles, W. J.
9	Banks, H. J.	33	James, John
10	Banks, C. B.	34	Ford, J. P.
11	Burns, Con.	35	Lucas, Wm.
12	Bullock, J. P.	36	Lucas, John
13	Bunson, C. G.	37	Lee, Andrew
14	Berry, A. G.	38	Murray, William
15	Candy, John	39	McLendon, Isham
16	Casting, T. V.	40	Morris, R. J.
17	Casting, B.	41	Peacock, German
18	Damper, S. W.	42	Rushing, S. L.
19	Douglas, W. J.	43	Smith, Albert
20	Drummonds, J. R.	44	Sandifer, A. C.
21	Everett, Erastus	45	Shivers, R. H.
22	Everett, Jasper	46	Smith, Harry
23	Frinship, G. J. D.	47	Turner, Wm.
24	Gibson, Henry	48	Walker, J. B.
25	Gibson, Wm.	49	Walker, B/ A.
26	Gibson, Harrison	50	Weathersby, Geo.

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No.	Names	No.	Names
51	Young, E.	75	Hogg, Augustus
52	Young, S. L.	76	King, R. B.
53	Millis, Stephen	77	Lucas, John
54	Boggan, Alex	78	Lucas, M. A.
55	Bennett, E. R.	79	McLendon, N.
56	Brown, W. N.	80	Sellers, James
57	Box, John	81	Thurman, Abel
58	Berry, Henry	82	Thurman, G. W.
59	Berry, Wm.	83	Thurman, E.
60	Berry, Joe	84	Reed, Jasper
61	Boggan, A. J.	85	Reed, James
62	Chancellor, S. L.	86	Welch, Tom
63	Coke, M. J.	87	Welch, Nathan
64	Cockrell, R.	88	Walker, John
65	Cockrell, N.	89	Walker, Sol
66	Clark, F. M.	90	Williamson, Aml.
67	Crisco, Robert	91	Walker, Jackson
68Des	Dean, Martin	92	Webster, P. R.
69	Gardner, Steve	93	Walker, G.
70	Hustands, J. S.	94	Walker, J. N.
71	Hogg, John	95	Walker, F. M.
72	Harper, L. V.	96	Lackhart, J. N.
73	Isbell, Jesse	97	Walker, A. G.
74	Harnell, W. G.		

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98	Hemphill, Henry	123	Hogg, H. N.
99	Allbritton, F. M	124	Farlow, G. W.
100	Brown, Dossan	125	King, Arthur
101	Brown, Hitson	126	King, Tayler
102	Brown, James	127	McLendon, Ira
103	Brown, Jesse	128	Myers, Mike
104	Berry, D. P.	129	Myers, Isham
105	Berry, Jackson	130	Myers, Bird
106	Berry, Tom	131	McCaskill, L. A.
107Byrd,	Joseph	132	Morris, A. R.
108	Brown, Buckey	133	Morris, Jo
109	Brown, Allen	134	Millis, Mat
110	Beasley, Elias	135	Millis, Wm.
111	Baker, James	136	Fortenberry, Irvin
112	Dampeer, S. T.	137	Randall, John
113	Drummonds, Wm.	138	Randall, Jesse
114	Drummonds, S.	139	Randall, Jack
115	Drummonds, J. A.	140	Thurman, Frank
116	Drummonds, L.	141	Walker, Richard
117	Drummonds, D.	142	Walker, Asa
118	Dardiner, F.	143	Williams, Arthur
119	Gowan, T. R.	144	Weathersby, Dan
120	Gowin, T. R.	145	Craddock, Wm.
121	Eastwring, W. B.	146	Chandler, Wade
122Hudson,	A.	147	Garrett, J.

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148	Crane, E.	173	Perkins, James
149	Ennis, Andy	174	Ginbules, James
150	Estes, E.	175	Smith, H. F.
151	Failes, William	176	Weathersby, W. W
152	Failes, C.	177	Murray, Tom
153	Failes, F.	178	Everett, Riley
154	Ennis, Richard	179	Sutton, James
155	Harper, S. L.	180	Bishop, William
156	Cotton, Tardy	181	Boggan, Pleasant
157	Hemphill, James	182	Brown, Solomon
158	Spilliends, Sand	183	Burch, Cale
159	Massey, John	184	Brown, W. C.
160	Yearly, N. G. C.	185	Calhoun, John
161	Harris, H. H.	186	Carter, Jackson
162	Dickson, W. E.	187	Crain, Martin
163	Moore, Ed.	188	Lee, Samuel
164	Clack, S.	189	McCall, T. G.
165	Welch, Laurence	190	Harper, Edwin
166	Phillips, John	191	Hemphill, James
167	Harper, Francis	192	Peacock, John
168	Martin, A. J.	193	Perkins, Jesse
169	Bishop, James	194	Sutton, Jesse
170	Bishop, J. F.	195	Allbritton, John
171	Brown, A. H.	196	Brown, J. P.
172	Culpepper, J. E.		

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197	Benton, James
198	Wilson, John
199	Kirkland, John
200	Kirkland, Steve
201	McLendon, Brewer
202	McLendon, Lewis
203	Calhoun, Archy
204	Walker, Willis
205	Lee, Andrew
206	Berry, P. T.
207	Clark _____ (Blank name)
208	McLendon, Elias
209	Everett, Tom
210	Holloway, L. N.
211	Barnes, Calvin
212	Rogers, A. A.

Entered the Service Since the
1st of March 1864-

213	Montgomery, Robt.	221	Holyfield, Needham
214	Hemphill, Saml.	222	Beasley, Reuben
215	Gibson, Lewis	223	Peritt, James
216	May, Jap.	224	Peritt, Peter
217	Myers, Leonidas	225	Thurman, Dan
218	Smith, Lem D.	226	Allbritton, Jesse
219	Dampeir, James	227	Gardiner, German
220	Berry, Albert	228	Brown, James

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229 Drummonds, James
 230 King, Lewis
 231 Hogg, Augustus
 232 Berry, Talley
 233 Berry, Dinson
 234 Berry, W. H.
 235 Walker, Albert
 236 Hogg, Steve
 237 Peacock, George

30 Day Militia

1	W. R. Shivers	17	David Bishop
2	Robert, Shell	18	Wm. Crisco
3	John A Betha	19	G. W. Farlow
4	S. D. Dampeer	I, G. W. Williams Relief Commissioner of the 3rd Police Court District of Said County do hereby certify that the above contains a true & correct list of all soldiers who are to have been in the Service of the State and Confederate States Service together with the number of beneficiaries entitled to re- lief under the Several Acts of the Legislature of Said State in the 3rd Dist. of said County G. W. Williams Seal Relief Commissioner	
5	Joseph Mallard		
6	Henry Clark		
7	John Clark		
8	James Hemphill		
9	Robert Bridges		
10	T. J. Martin		
11	James Drummonds		
12	E. Owens		
13	W. Egan		
14	Wm. Tullis		
15	L. B. Harper		
16	Wm. Bishop		

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4th District

"A true and correct Report of all person who have enlisted or entered the Service of the Confederate States or the Service of the State of Mississippi either by volunteering or by Draft or by virtue of the Several Conscript acts of the Confederate Congress from the Commencement of the present war up to the date of this Report together with the Number of Beneficiaries who were dependent upon Said Soldiers, & those Soldiers who have wounded or disabled in consequence of having served as Such and are entitled to Relief under the acts of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi as Such beneficiaries from and in the 4th Police Court District of Simpson County in said State true:---

No.	Names of soldiers	No.	Names of soldiers
1	D. Blanford	19	J. E. Allen
2	David Bush	20	John A. Bush
3	A. J. Lee Sr.	21	Allen Bush
4	A. J. Lee Jr.	22	German Peacock
5	H. C. Robinson	23	Daniel Peacock
6	B. F. Robinson	24	J. G. McIntosh
7	S. D. Robinson	25	J. A. Barlow
8	H. L. Arnold	26	Wm. Johnson
9	Stephen Millis	27	A. J. Keen
10	B. M. Chandler	28	Samuel Williamson
11	Russel Bridges	29	Wm. Lee
12	Robert Bridges	30	B. F. Johnson
13	John Spurlock	31	N. F. Moon
14	Seabird Bush	32	Lafayette Traylor
15	I. F. Alexander	33	Joseph Robinson
16	John Frasure	34	David Grubbs
17	Calvin Williams	35	John Suttlers

86	Simpson County	62	B. F. Grubbs
36	B. F. Graves	63	Hiram Graves
37	Daniel Drummonds	64	Isaac Bush Jr.
38	Leroy Drummond	65	Peter Isbell
39	George Traylor	66	G. W. Birley, Jr.
40	Madison Millis	67	Thomas Graves
41	Wilson Lee	68	J. A. Barber
42	J. D. Grubbs	69	W. W. Moore
43	Jesse Moore	70	O. J. Robinson
44	A. J. Johnson	71	Thomas Lee
45	Lafayette Johnson	72	Frank Williams
46	J. W. Traylor	73	Jefferson Williams
47	A. J. Spikes	74	James Sikes
48	Seaborn McKinley	75	John Eidee
49	James Drummonds	76	George Aaron
50	Booker Doss	77	George Vinzanett
51	Thomas Doss	78	James Lee
52	Willie Spikes	79	Saml. Lee
53	Robert Tolar	80	Milton Sikes
54	W. M. Brown	81	W. S. Mullen
55	Adam White	82	Sermonson Coday
56	John W. Frasure	83	D. L. Sinclair
57	John W. Quinn	84	R. W. Little
58	Wm. Ainsworth	85	A. W. Little
59	Amos Davis		
60	J. W. Welch		
61	C. C. Barlow		

87	Simpson County	106	David Neely
88	Jas. P. Mullen	107	T. D. Bush
89	James White	108	Green Davis
90	Leonard White	109	James Perry
91	T. W. Wilson	110	James Whitworth
92	A. Whitworth	111	A. H. Moore
93	J. N. Norman	112	Woodward Keen
94	A. J. Keen	113	Drury Keen
95	J. B. Ainsworth	114	Simpson Bush
96	Wm. Deer	115	J. Codey
97	John Sherman	116	Hogan Bun
98	George Sullivan	117	James Purvis
99	James Peacock	118	Peyton Powell
100	Thos. Mothershed	119	Barney Berry
101	Russel Bush	120	Joseph Butler
102	Rankin Randall	121	John E. Talley
103	J. H. Buckley	122	R. Fulke
104	James Quinn	123	John Hilton
105	Wm Berry	124	J. Sikes
	John Codey		
	Wm. Strong		
	The State of Mississippi		

Simpson County

I, H. W. Moore commissioner of the 4th
Police Court District of Said County do hereby certify
that the foregoing is a true & correct list of soldiers
& beneficiaries in Said District.

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Witness My Hand & Seal Feby 6, 1865

H. W. Moore Comr. SEAL

5th District

" A true and correct Report of all persons who have enlisted or entered the Service of the Confederate States or the Service of the State of Mississippi either by volunteering or by draft or by virtue of the Several Cons-cript acts of the Confederate Congress, from the commence-ment of the present war up to the date of this Report to-gether with the number of beneficiaries who were dependent upon Said Soldiers and those Soldiers who have been wound-ed or disabled in consequence of having served as such and entitled to Relief under the Several acts of the legisla-ture of the State of Mississippi as such beneficiaries from and in the 5th Police Court District of Simpson County Mississippi as follows towit:--

No	Soldier's names	
1	John Clark	10 Tom Brown
2	W. Clark	11 John R. Guynes
3	D. Clark	12 Wm. P. Mullen
4	Burd Clark	13 J. N. Ragland
5	I. Morgan	14 R. W. Hall
6	J. Y. Graves	15 Thos. A. Ashley
7	M. Clark	16 Thos. Courtney
8	J. A. Smith	17 Wm. Owen
9	Wm. Berry	

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18	J. W. Hilton	44	Tom Parker
19	Tom Hilton	45	Jno. Richardson
20	A. Hilton	46	Henry Taylor
21	Jno. Stuckey	47	W. Q. Taylor
22	T. N. Touchstone	48	J. C. Taylor
23	Thos. Wallis	49	George K. Harper
24	W. I. Hilton	50	John Traylor
25	Jno. Hilton	51	Cars Harper
26	Wm. Taylor	52	J. J. Lee
27	H. C. Hilton	53	J. A. Rogers
28	J. J. Mahaffey	54	J. McPhails
29	A. C. Hilton	55	Jno. Rogers
30	T. R. Hilton	56	Thos. Shorter
31	G. W. Hilton	57	T. R. Shorter
32	Wm. Jones	58	Saml. McCaskill
33	Jno. B. Mahaffey	59	Doss Bridges
34	Wins Keen	60	Jas. Benton
35	A. Q. Keen	61	S. R. Waldrop
36	A. D. English	62	Fate Waldrop
37	L. M. Hilton	63	J. Waldrop
38	Tim Mohtershed	64	G. W. Owens
39	Jas. Ellmore	65	Jesse Walker
40	Jesse Lamb	66	Saml. Walker
41	S. Breedlove	67	D. Walker
42	Jas. Muse	68	Jno. Walker
43	J. P. Muse		

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171	Tom Knight	195	Willie Murray
172	Wm. Norworthy	196	J. Murray
173	Bryant Byrd Green Byrd	197	W. Furguson
174	Jas. Welch	198	Tom Bush
175	W. Welch	199	Jas. Bennett
176	N. Welch	200	H. Hogg
177	J. Welch	201	J. Chandler
178	Jas. Barnes	202	Jas. L. Thompson
179	D. Barron	203	Ben Davis
180	Wm. Barron	204	Thos. Bass
181	N. Barron	205	A. Massie
182	S. P. Barron	206	Jasper Bass
183	A. Murray	207	Jas. Patterson
184	Tom Hemphill	208	Milton Welch
185	Wm. Hemphill	209	Hardy Tucker
186	(blank) Hemphill	210	Wm. Walker
187	N. Murray	211	Wm. T. Hilton
188	B. Massey	212	Thos. Courtney
189	W. Mathews	213	Brice Middleton
190	A. Mathews	214	-C. Miller
191	Joe Byrd	215	Wm. Taylor
192	D. Sandifer	216	Jas. Taylor
193	Jno Sandifer	217	G. K. Harper
194-	A. J. Murray	218	S. R. Waldrop

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219 J. W. Sandifer

30 day Militia

1. J. A. Smith

2 George Smith

3 W. Clark

4 Jack Finley

5 G. W. Barlow Jr.

6 Geo. Hilton

Henry Rogers 7

8 Isaac Bell

9 Russel Murray

10 J. Hilton

11 W. Gates

12 W. Buckley

13 W. H. Whatley

14 Wm. Bass

15 Brown Bass

16 Tom Patterson

17 M. Crow

18 Jess Burns

19 Need Williams

I, N. G. Barlow Relief Commissioner of the 3rd
Police Court District of Said County do hereby certi-
fy that the above contains a true & correct list of
all Soldiers who are or have been in the Service of

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of the State & Confederate States service together with the number of Beneficiaries entitled to Relief under the several acts of the Legislature of said State in the 5th Police District of Said County.

Witness my hand & Seal February 17th, 1865

G. W. Barlow Seal

Relief Comr.

(30)

Recapitulation

1st District No. of Soldiers	204	
No. " Beneficiaries	56	
2nd District " " Soldiers	93	
" " Beneficiaries	98	
3rd District " " Soldiers	292	
" " Beneficiaries	426	
4th District " " Soldiers	124	
" " Beneficiaries	172	
5th District " " Soldiers	238	
" " Beneficiaries	410	
	951	1462
	Soldiers	(Beneficiaries)

The State of Mississippi

Simpson County

I, T. L. Mendenhall Clerk of the Probate Court of said county do contain a true and correct copy & transcript of the names and Number of all soldiers & beneficiaries in said County as the same were Reported to me and filed in the office of the

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Probate Clerk of said County by Commissioners who were appointed by the Board of Police of Said County as Military Relief Commissioners & as the same now remain in file in my Said office. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal of office. Feby. 18th, 1865.

T. L. Mendenhall, Clerk

b. As soon as Lincoln declared a state of war existed the young men of Simpson County made ready for the conflict.. they organized what is known as "The Westville Guards," Officers were elected from their own number and the young company was immediately sent to Virginia to begin their service to the Confederacy.

Simpson County citizens turned their gold into confederate bonds, and their men were gradually absorbed into service. Toward the last of the war conscription claimed some, but be it said to the credit of our county, most of the soldiers were volunteers.

Where Mendenhall Cemetery now is, was located a grist mill owned by Judge Bill May, who was too old for active service but his young son assisted him and from this mill wheat and corn were ground for confederate families, free of toll. This wheat and corn was brought from adjoining counties. The Miller was only too glad to do his part. He and other older men were organized to help negroes and white sympathizers, who burned gins, drove cattle and were a general source of anxiety to the unprotected

women and children.

There was never a conflict on our soil- so far as battle- but these people gave death at times to the men who burned gins, cotton, and ran off slaves. It is generally known that two of these outlaws were hanged, below the Strong River bridge near the W. R. May Place,, by officers who were trying to get them to headquarters but because of the activities of the gang, they took the martial law into their own hands.

'Simpson County furnished soldiers who died at Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain and many other places, whose bodies are buried on the field of honor.

(Captain Tom Mendenhall, Captain A. H. Barwick).

Captain Joseph May, who went out as a private but who ended as captain having taken charge of his company at Port Hudson. James Dent served under Colonel R. A. Smith with the 10th Mississippi Infantry, who lost their chiertain and most of the men. Marion Williams was a member of this company. We have only one survivor in our county, Mr. Joshua Cox of Braxton, who is now in his 93rd year. He is too infirm to discuss these affairs now but for many years he served on the pension Board and held many other prominent places of trust.

After peace was established, the aftermath of war was as terrible as the war because of the activities of the Carpetbaggers and Scalawags. However, the few soldiers who returned together with the youths and older men were equal to

the situation and with the assistance of the Klu-Klux-Klan soon rebuilt and drove the out-laws away. These men were not of mobe desires, very seldom did they resort violence. They acted on the theory of Protecting your home first.

Soon peace was established and prosperity returned.⁷

We still have with us in Simpson County five of the brave soldiers who fought in the War Between the States. Namely; Joshua P. Cox of Braxton; R. R. Lee of Pinola; W. L. Myers; Im N. Miller; Richmond McNair of Mt. Olive, R. F. D.

On March 8, 1862 the 39th Infantry, Company A., Simpson County Greys were organized. The officers in command were Captain R. J. Durr; 1st Lieutenant, T. E. Dyson.

July 9, 1861- Sixth Infantry- Simpson Fencibles was formed at Westville; Captain Enoch R. Bennett; First Lieutenant Warren G. Magee; 2nd Lieutenant, Willoughby T. May; 3rd Lieutenant, German Walker.⁸

c. There was no Simpson County men in the First Mississippi Regiment during the Civil War.

⁷ Information secured from Mrs. Gussie May Boggan of D'Lo, Mississippi.

⁸ Information obtained from the records in Chancery Clerk's Office from Mendenhall, Mississippi.

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IV. LETTERS FROM FRONT AND FROM WAR PRISONS:
a. Select a few of outstanding interest.

THE CONFEDERATE VETERAN

"Twas just an old man, stoop'd and gray
Who passed our school playground to-day;
A monotone his stout can beat
As he thumped along the stone-paved street,
But he smiled and hummed a bit of song
As he picked his way through the jostling throng;
The boys, they merely stared, but I
Took off my cap as he passed by.

"No, there was nothing in his face
To indicate high rank or place;
Only a pair of pale blue eyes
As clear and soft as southern skies,
And one long, jagged, deep-seamed scar
That told of service in the war:
The boys, they laughed at me when I
Took off my cap as he passed by.

"He fought at Gettysburg, they say,
And did his duty well that day,
For he was wounded three times ere
He let them bear him to the rear,
And tho a private in the ranks,
Received a grateful country's thanks;

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That's all forgotten now, but I
Took off my cap as he passed by.

"Long, rateful years have passed since then
And few and frail are those brave men
Who laughed at death at the cannon's mouth
And bled and died for our dear South
Then with sweet flowers let's strew the grave
Of him who all for his country gave;
And to him who survived, with head held high,
Let's doff our caps when he goes by!"

Riley Scott.⁹

The following is a letter from Mr. J. A. Hubbard to his wife while he was stationed at Port Hudson during the Civil War. On July 8th 1863 Port Hudson fell into the hands of Union forces commanded by General Banks, only four days after the surrender of Vicksburg.

1862. "Port Hudson, La. this Dec. 19th

"My dear wife:

I now seat my self to drop you a few more lines to inform you that I am in good health at this time hoping these few lines may come safe to hand and find you and family enjoying the same great blessing of life. I have nothing new to right only hard times and worse a coming. We still working on our fortification we work

⁹ Copied from old Simpson County news, issue unknown.

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sonday and monday and knight and day. I worked last knight till mid knight I would not be surprised if work again to knight there are thirteen yankees boats come in sight yesterday and we are not quite ready for them they left here sonday after getting one of there boats wounded and never returned till yesterday I esopect they will try us before they go back any more if they give us two more days to work we will give them pretty decent fight. the health is very good at present I have not seen but few sick since I got back from the Hospital. Mary, I have been looking for a letter from you ever since Papa and Tommy left but I have not received any yet the mail will come in to day and I feel like I will get one from you when you get this I want you to be sure to right how Bud is getting on tell dicy that I have not got time or I would right her one I have not got time or I would right her one I have only half hour to right yours the carrs will be leaving in that time well Mary I have riten all that will be interesting so I will come to a close nothing more at present I remain your loving Husband until Death.

J. A. Hubbard to M. A. H.

"A word or two for the children I want you to be good boys and mind what your ma says and I want you to read your books every sonday and you will soon learn to read good and then your ma can soon learn you to right

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and then you can right me some letters when your ma rights to me I want you both to put in something if it is not about any thing but your goats so good by Boys."10

Mr. Hubbard's Home is Hubbard Town.

V. INTERVIEWS

a. With Veterans. Give brief accounts of interesting talks-

'Richmond McNair born July 4, 1844. He was a veteran of the Civil War, now living near Saratoga, Mississippi, and gives us the following concerning his experience as a soldier in this War.

'Mr. McNair states that he entered service September 1863. He belonged to an artillery division was in camp at Mobile Alabama for some time. He never engaged in active battle, as he was in the hospital most of his time while in the army suffering of rheumatism. His Captain was Charles E. Fenner (who after the war became a prominent Judge in the State of Louisiana.) When Hood started on his Tennessee campaign he was able to leave the hospital and resume his command and started with his company, but only got as far as Cove Spring, Georgia.

'He was a driver in the artillery and had stopped there to have his horses shod and while there was taken suddenly ill

10 This letter was secured from The Magee Courier, publication of Friday, November 20, 1936.

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thus, sent back to the hospital.

'He stated that his Doctor came through one day and said, "Mac, you are the jolliest fellow I know, ever time I come to see you, I find you laughing, singing and whistling." He replied, "Doc, I'm here and can't get away so I'm trying to make the best of it in a very cheerful way." He says he was lucky all the way through and the longest time he did without food was twenty-four hours. Food being scarce at that time, but they had plenty to eat most all the time. He had a brother only eighteen years old to get killed in the war.

'His grand uncle, ^{Samuel} Smith had eight boys to go and four of them lost their lives as a result. He states after trying for some time to get a leave to go home not being able to engage in active service they finally gave him leave in April, 1865, and while at home the war ended (His mother and father owned twenty-two slaves at the close of the war.)

'Now at the age of ninety-two his mind is clear, and one of the most intellectual old men of his time. He uses crutches, but otherwise his health is excellent.

One slave is now living near Florence, Mississippi, she is Caroline Boggan.¹¹

Another Civil War Veteran is Mr. William Michael Lee

¹¹ an interview with Mr. Richmond McNair of near Saratoga, Simpson County, Mississippi.

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who was born December 14, 1839, in Baker county, Georgia. He moved to Mississippi when he was ten years old, and settled in the "Bush Community" near Old Westville, Simpson County, Mississippi.

Mr. Lee is one of the four Civil War veterans that are living in this county at present. He was in active battles, serving in the Battle of Chapel's Hill in Kentucky and the Battle of Colman's Lane in Mississippi; of which he had as a leader in one of the Battles Captain John Smiley of Jackson.

He tells of an incident that is fond to his memory; when he was a young man his father had a pair of fine young steers that had taken very much time to train them. A stranger came to his home one day, and after seeing a demonstration of what the oxen could do, the stranger paid Mr. Lee's father \$100 (one hundred dollars) in gold for them. The father gave his son a ten dollar (\$10) gold piece and Mr. Lee still has this money in his possession.¹²

We shall relate a very interesting interview with Mr. I. N. Miller, who is one of the brave Civil War Veterans in our county.

Mr. Miller¹² was born in Simpson County near Harrisville, Mississippi, September 8, 1848. At the beginning of the Civil War he was a young man and volunteered his service

¹² An interview from Mr. I. N. Miller, who resides at Palestine, Simpson County.

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in the defense of the South under the Leadership of General Robert E. Lee, serving a period of four years. Mr. Miller was in the Battle of Gettysburg also in the siege and surrender of Vicksburg.

His heart was touched as he related in his feeble way the story of his experiences during the war. With tears in his eyes he told of his service as dispatcher, when his beautiful gray horse that he was riding was killed. Also stating that he loved his horse and he would have been satisfied if he could have brought his horse with him. That was the second horse that was killed from under him. Officers and Privates alike were given their horses at the end of the war.

In the year of 1861, Mr. Miller was married to Cassie Bennett and to them were born twelve children; five boys and seven girls, his wife died in 1923.

He still resides on the same place that he spent his childhood days and young life. When the writer told him good-bye and wished him many more years of happy life, he answered by quoting these words: taken from the second chapter of John, twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth verses; "I am the Resurrection and life; he that believeth in me tho he were dead yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this? He

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like the Patriarchs of old happy in his declining years to know that he'll reap a life everlasting after this as a reward for his faithful and untiring service to his country and to his god." Mr. Miller was very interested in the history and ask for a copy of this book after its completion.

b. With relatives of veterans and of dead soldiers.

In interviewing Mrs. Elizabeth Crawford Smith¹³ we find that she is the oldest person in Simpson County and she relates words about the Civil War.

She was born near old Providence Campground in Copiah County, September 2, 1934, where she resided until after the Civil War;

In 1852 she was married to Barney Smith of Hazlehurst, Copiah County, and after four years they moved to Simpson County. Mr. Smith went to the war and served for a period of four years, during this time one child was born to Mrs. Smith. She was the mother of thirteen children of whom there are eight living now.

Mrs. Smith smoked a pipe when she was young and her husband used no form of tobacco, however, at the present does not like the scent of tobacco. She has a wonderful aged personality and is loved by all who know her. Many hardships have come to her through these years of trials

¹³ An interview with Mrs. Elizabeth (Crawford) Smith, Dry Ridge Community, Simpson County.

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toil and strife, but she endured every sorrow for the best. Mrs. Smith has been blessed with splendid health, other than having an operation on her face for cancer of the skin, January 1934, Dr. Brock of Jackson performed the operation.

She is now living with her daughter, Mrs. J. M. Errington of Dry Ridge community, Simpson County. A family reunion was held in this home September 1, 1935 and she states that she has forty-one living grandchildren, fifty-nine great grandchildren, and two great, great grand children.

VI. BRIEF HISTORY, WITH WAR RECORD, OF ANY DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUALS.
None in Simpson County-

VII. STORIES OF RAIDS UPON HOMES.
This was not witnessed in our County.

VIII. HOME CONDITIONS DURING THE WAR.

"Simpson County was not very thickly settled during the Civil War, much of its lands were rich in timber but on the creeks and bottom lands there were large fields of cotton and corn tended by the women and children or by trusted slaves.¹⁴

"MAKESHIFTS OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATE"¹⁵

By Miss Mary J. Welsh

- ¹⁴ Given by Mrs. Gussie May Boggan
¹⁵ Secured from Mississippi Historical Society, Vol VII, pages 101 to 111.

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"Every generation makes history for succeeding one----
The Civil War has a prominent place in that history.... Among the glorious achievements of that stirring time the "make-shifts" at home claim a recognition, and a place (be it ever so umble) on the records.

"The blockade of Mobile in 1861, whence the farmers and upcountry merchants obtained supplies, first, suggested the necessity of contriving some way of making supplies on hand last an indefinite time. This could be done only by extra care, economy, ingenious substitution, much hard work. Naturally the first substitutions were for

Groceries
"For coffee, the South's daily beverage, parched corn or meal even burnt corn bread served pretty well for people determined to submit uncomplainingly to any privations which the effort to achieve independence might force upon us.

"Sweet potatoes cut into small squares, dried, parched and ground made quite a palatable beverage, which we easily cheated ourselves into making believe coffee..... All okra seeds above what we needed... were made into coffee. Corn and potatoes, being yearly recurring crops and plentiful, remained in favor throughout the war.....

"We substituted grits for rice... Lye hominy made of whole corn, husked with hickory ashes, was a standing dish through the cold weather and made up for the absence of hot biscuits before what came to be plentiful raised.....

SIMPSON COUNTY, WARS

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"For soda we swept out the fireplaces clean, made a pile of corn cobs, burnt them, and used the ashes; a cheap, healthful and effective soda.....

.....After the year of the war we had to mould or dip candles from the tallow and beeswax made at home..... Those who dipped selected a suitable day in the fall, and put up a year's supply in one day.

Soap for laundry use gave no trouble, for it had always been made on farms. But the quest of toilet soap was not so easily answered.The cheapest indispensable commodity in the economy of housekeep, salt, became a costly one..

"By some such means in time of our dire strait information flashed from farm to farm that the dirt floors of our old smoke houses were so many salt mines, so to speak; and if they were dug up, the dirt put in hoppers, and run down after the manner of leaching ashes, the brine boiled down and dried out, the result would be salt...

Clothing

"....All new cloth must be manufactured at home from raw materials grown on the farms., on some farms weaving had not fallen entirely into disuse, but on others all the machinery, wheels, looms &c. had to be gathered up.....

"In time cloth for all needs,- tablecloths, towels, sheets and blankets- come to be woven. The homemade cloth

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was all made up with homespun thread dyed like the cloth, the thrums from each web served the purpose as far as they lasted... For dye stuffs we were thrown upon the resources of the country, bark, roots, leaves and trees.....

"We had some rough experiences in providing shoes for ourselves and families, they were worn as long as they could be mended... For new shoes, the hides of beefs were carried to the nearest tannery; then the leather was made up by some negroes who had a littlen talent in that line..... In those days cloth gaiters, front laced, were much worn, the soles, when made of honest leather, outlasted the uppers. We soon learned to rip them apart, pick the stitches out of the soles, cut new uppers from a scrap of ante-bellum cloth, poplin, alpaco, &c. and make and put them together.....

"Various small articles, such as pins and sewing and knitting needles,- indispensable to our work and comfort- we hoarded as miserly as possible consistent with the most careful use.

"About the last year of the war the "sky scraper style bonnet made. These were for dress occasions. For home wear the plainer materials on hand, such as muslin, gingham &c. were manipulated in the same way. The prevailing style demanded that the whole dress be made of the same piece goods... There were but few weddings in that section during the war, and the brides proudly wore dresses of this homemade gingham, finished with a little trimming of goods from their hoarded

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lieveing that we could win without much fighting. However, we recall one Simpson County man, Joseph Dent of Mendenhall, who resigned his position and entered his country's service. Joe, was the son of James Dent, a distinguished Confederate Soldier, who furnished a son in the World War, Major James Dent of Gulfport, Mississippi.

"Major Dent saw service in the training camps only.

His company was stationed in Florida.¹

In interviewing the Spanish American War Veterans we find the number to be only three who are living in Simpson County, at the present time. Namely:

Samuel L. Knight	L Co. Regt. Hattiesburg
John E. Hill	I Co. E. Regt. Utica
Howard Silvey	First Infantry Camp Mabre, Texas Second enlistment Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

The Dead: Joe Dent, born and reared in Simpson County.

Eugene Hubbard, another native son of Simpson County. Mr. Hubbard was sheriff of this county and was killed by a negro the first year of his administration, and was one of the youngest sheriff's ever to be elected in this county.

Felix Brown, also a native of Simpson County.

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¹ Information given by Mrs. Gussie May Boggan of D'Lo, Mississippi

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S. Lewis Knight, M. D., Mendenhall, Simpson County, Mississippi, was born December 4, 1871, at Russell, Mississippi six miles east of Meridian in Lauderdale County. He came to Mendenhall in July, 1925.

Dr. Knight was reared on the farm until he became twenty-one years of age. Then he engaged in the manufacturing end of the lumber business.

He was a member of the National Guard, Company L, Hattiesburg, Invincibles, and joined his Company then went to war with Spain in 1898. After the war he entered Cherry Brothers' Business College, Kentucky, where he completed a commercial course in Shorthand and bookkeeping, in 1899.

In 1902 he entered a medical College, and completed his medical course in 1906, with honors.

He is a member of the Baptist Church, and at the present time is holding the following positions: Local Surgeon for the Illinois Central Railroad Company; Department Surgeon, Spanish-American War Veterans and Officer-Of-The-Day, Harry C. Marshall Camp, Spanish-American War Veterans, Jackson Mississippi.

John Hill was born October 1, 1858 in Covington County on Blakney Creek six miles east of Mt. Olive. He registered for service in the Spanish American War

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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in Jackson, Mississippi. He was living at that time in Utica, Mississippi. Mr. Hill continued in service until the war was over, and since the war he has engaged in farming, and a few years in public work, mostly saw mill work. He has been married four times. His first wife was Laura Whithead who died March 4, 1904. His second wife was Susie Wilks who died Feb. 26, 1905. His third wife was Martha Yates, who died December 11, 1934. His fourth and present wife, Ernestine Gibbens whom he married August 15, 1936 at the age of 78. Mr. Hill is very active for his age and is a jolly good old fellow. He states, (that he is very interested in the Historical Research work in this County.)

Howard, Silvey, Spanish American War Veteran was born at Milano, Texas, November 22, 1876. He made his first enlistment in First Infantry camp Mabre, Texas, May 6, 1898. The second enlistment was made September 11, 1899, Jefferson Barrack, Missouri. He was mustered out June 30, 1901, and saw one active service in seventeen engagements in the Insurrection of Phillipine Island.

The remarks written on Mr. Silvey's records show that while fiving his service to his country, he was of an excellent character, honest and faithful.

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Continous service at the time of discharge was one year nine months and twenty days. After the war he lived in Taylor, Texas, and worked with the International and Great Northern Railroad until 1921. He then moved with his wife to Simpson County where he is still living about four miles southeast of Magee, near Coat Church.

Note: This information was given by personal interviews by the named War Veterans.

MEXICAN WAR

We are lucky to find one man who served in the Mexican War from Simpson County.

"J. K. Stratton was a native of Massachusetts and made his advent into Simpson County, as a Shoemaker he was successful at his trade and devoted such time as he could spare to the study of law. Was admitted to the Bar and did a reasonably good practice. He subsequently was a candidate for district Attorney, but was defeated by O. F. McCarty. He enlisted in the Mexican War, and afterwards went to California, where accumulated a comfortable fortune."¹

Mrs. Callie Thomas
SUPERVISOR, Historical Research

¹ Secured from Lowry and McCordle History of Mississippi. pages 571-572

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT

ALICE B. TERRY, HISTORIAN
IDA T. FITZHUGH, SENIOR TYPIST
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA 13
ASSIGNMENT 30

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Smith, John D. Mendenhall, Miss.

Terry, Mr. E. Mendenhall, Miss.

Alice B. Terry
Alice B. Terry, Historian.
Historic Research Project
Simpson County.

December 31, 1937

Simpson
HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-DIRECTOR

Dimple Slay, & Wilma Gladney
Canvassers
SIMPSON COUNTY
DISTRICT #5

SUPPLEMENT FOR ASSIGNMENT NO. 5 "WARS"

(These are letters that we have recently found
and thought would be more interesting than some
that are included in our manuscript.)

"Paris, France,
Dec. 16th

Judge D. M. Russell
Magee, Mississippi

My dear Father:

I have just received from home letters written on November 14, 17 and 24th. I was glad to get them, but it grieves me so much to learn from them that you have not been getting my letters for so long a time. I write often, and I wish I could know that you will receive them all. It should not take over three weeks for a letter to reach you from Paris. Some of my letters contained information which I deemed important. It is that which explains to you the arrangements made by our government for the men overseas to enter the French Universities on the same basis as is provided for the men who return to the states to enter college and resume their courses left off when they entered the services. I wanted your advice as to whether I should enter the University of Paris under the government plan, provided the authorities here will release me from my service to permit me to take the course. But when a fellow is so far from home and cannot get letters through and replies in time to be

advised, he has to exercise his own judgment. This I have done, hoping I have made a wise choice, and that you will approve my decision.

"The French have opened their great Universities to the American boys, and beginning January 1st or 15th, those who can qualify for entrance and so desire will be allowed to enter the University and take a course there, during which time they will be army students instead of fighters and clerical workers, as we were during hostilities. I shall apply January 1st for a furlough for three or five months from my post of service and enter the University if I can be relieved from duty and can qualify, and I think I can. I do not know whether then we will be mustered out over here or wait until our return home, as our companies may be returned home ahead of us. So if everything works out as I hope, I will be home next summer.

"We were given last Saturday and Sunday off to help receive and entertain our distinguished guest. You know President Wilson visited Paris Saturday the 13th. You have read detailed account of his great reception. It was the greatest ovation that Paris ever gave any man since Napoleon's time. I viewed the parade from the balcony of my office in the headquarters of American quartermasters department in Champs-Elysee. I had a good view of our great President. He is older than I thought. His gray hairs are beginning to betray his age. Our President is greatly loved by the French, and notwithstanding all the criticism of the Democrats and Republicans in the states who opposed his coming over, we are mighty glad he is here.

"Just the day before the President arrived I was delighted and surprised when Lawyer McRaney of Magee stepped into my office. He was the first man from the states that I knew whom I had met since I came to Paris September 1st. We had a long enjoyable conversation. He is doing Y. M. C. A. work and was on his way to Germany. I have made lots of friends here among the soldiers and feel quite at home in Paris now. It is a wonderful city and I am going to see all of its places of interest when I get paid off. You have talked economy to me many times, but I never knew really what it meant until I entered the army. I have been in the service since the first of June and have only actually received \$47 in all to date, or about \$7 per month. That's pretty good economy for me, isn't it Dad? I can assure you that I have not lived in luxury. I have lived on army stew, and worn issued clothes, just as my fellow soldier boys, and I'm proud of it. When I get paid off I am going to get me a suit to wear to school and keep it as a souvenir after I am not allowed to wear it any longer. I am glad you are getting your allotment. You will get that whether I get my part or not, as yours is sent direct from Washington.

"I regretted very much to hear of Mr. Frank Brooks' death. I have written Cleo and Virgil expressing through them my sympathy for the family. It grieved me greatly too to learn that Mr. John Thames was so very ill when you wrote. I hope he was spared. I shall express my sympathy through Dewey.

"I am getting mail now almost every day from some one. I have hardly written a girl since I came over, strange as that may seem, but I have been kept mighty busy. I received Christmas cards from Mrs. Lockhart and Miss Jamye Bishop and Dr. Lowe-

ry's daughter. It does a fellow good this far from home to receive letters. If my letters are addressed to the office of the chief purchasing officer of Q. M. C. I will get them promptly. You should address me thus: A. B. Russell, Corporal Q. M. C. Q. C. P. O. U. S. P. O. No. 702, Q. M. C, Paris France. I expect to have another stripe as evidence of my promotion before you answer this letter.

"And now assuring you that I am in fine health and spirits, and hoping that all the folks at home are also, I close with a prayer that God will watch between us while we are separated, and keep you until we meet again.¹"

Very devotedly,

Bryan

Dear Friends and relatives:²

"Just a line or two to keep the flame of old friendship burning. As it is impossible for me to write everyone, thought I'd write a note to my county paper.

"I've been over here since the middle of July. We (Co. B, 46 Engrs.) left Camp Sheridan, Ala. and after three days traveling stopped at Camp Merit, N. J. We stayed there til July 10th. Then we sailed east, having no sea trouble on the way, we reached France Sunday morning July 21st, and you know we were glad to see land, if it were Europe.

"We remained at rest camp about a week then were sent on to another camp where our Company was divided, eighty-four of us were sent to Poecy Camp to take charge of the Ammunition yard. There were over a hundred cars of fire works shipped out

¹ Simpson County News, Jan. 9, 1919- No. 32

² Simpson County News, Jan. 9, 1919-

Every day to the front and of course that kept us boys hustling to keep the track in shape for the train to go over.

"Since we've been in a permanent camp we've had good barracks. They are almost as comfortable as our homes. We are stationed about the middle of France, just about a mile from the camp stands the old castle of Charles the VII, and just beyond this stands an old Chapel where Joan of Arc stopped to worship God and prayed for the deliverance of France in 1429-1431. Not many miles away is Orleans where she fought some of her greatest battles.

"My, My! It makes one almost cry aloud to think of their dead old country after seeing this one. As you stroll along some of the tree lined brooks your mind wonders back to those wonderful days "before the war." You will ask, "How many times have you been over the top, Mack?" Altho, we have never heard a gun or smelt the powder of battle, we (the Engineers) think we have done our part. We have tossed with these mighty weapons, the pick and shovel, which I believe have done as much to defend our country as anything in the A. E. F. We've fought against this tough French mud and finally overpowered it. Well, there is no use to argue, the war was won by the M. P's and Y. M. C. A. Things are looking good now, think I'll be home in a short while with my family and friends."

CORP'L Melain McClain

Det. 6 B, 46 Reg. T. C., A. P. O. 741

A. E. F.

Mrs. Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames
Supervisor,
Historical Research Project
District # 5

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE - CONSULTANT

CANVASSERS:
Dimple Slay & Wilma Gladney
SIMPSON COUNTY
AREA # 7

Assignment # 22
RECONSTRUCTION

"That the civil war marks the close of a period and the opening of a vastly more important one is beyond question. The nation was in its infancy; it was beginning to be recognized by the rest of the world as a nation of importance. Then came the war. Conditions changed to meet the demands of the struggle. Industry slackened in the north and all progress was checked. The south suffered still more, for everything was completely torn up. Nothing remained of her old glory after Grant's victorious army had retired. Slaves were freed, money worthless, farming, the life of the old south, difficult under the circumstances. Thus closed the first period of the Nation.

"Then came the dawn of a new period. This one might be termed as a reconstruction or re-awakening. Industries paralyzed during the war were taken up again, but in a greater degree. Every phase of that which causes a nation's progress was given a new meaning and developed according to its own importance.

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Among them might be mentioned especially the growth of schools, literature, farm machinery and railroads."¹

The following is a thesis written by Professor F. M. Ball, during his college work. Mr. Ball is a resident of Mendonhall and was at one time Superintendent of Education in Simpson County. This thesis is complete, as we copied the editions that were printed in the Simpson County News but before the News finished publishing Mr. Ball's paper, the material was burned, however, a copy of the thesis is recorded at the University of Mississippi, and we have been lucky to secure the remaining pages of this writing.

In order for the thesis to be plain, we are writing it just as Mr. Ball compiled it.

"By request of the editor I submit the following thesis for publication. This thesis was gotten up for my college work, there being a history of the State written, by counties, of the Reconstruction Period. If there appears in this article such as one would think not suitable for publication I trust that all will understand that the times demanded the actions that this modern age would not tolerate.

"RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD IN SIMPSON COUNTY"

"The county of Simpson, named in honor of Hon.

Josiah Simpson, was by act of Legislature passed on the 23rd day of January, 1824, created out of that portion of Copiah County lying east of Pearl River. The county seat was subsequently, located at Westville named in honor of Hon. Cato West.

"Simpson county was a part of the Choctaw purchase of 1820. It lies somewhat South of the center of the State. On the south of this county the Choctaw Boundary divides it from Lawrence and Covington

¹ Written by Mildred Whitten, a 10th grade student of the Simpson County, A. H. S. Simpson county News, May 6, 1926- Vol. 54

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counties; on the West, Pearl River divides it from Copiah County; on the north it is bounded by Smith and Rankin counties and on the East by Smith county. It has a land surface of about 578 square miles. The soil of this county is probably as fertile as any other part of the long leaf pine belt and now grows almost every characteristic southern product. In the first settlement the fertility of the soil was not always appreciated, places suitable for stock ranches being preferred. The settlers were engaged almost exclusively in raising stock, for which the county was well adapted, having an abundant supply of running water and luxuriant growth of grass and cane, on which the cattle kept fat the entire winter. When the grass and cane began to be supplanted by a growth of underbush, and game became scarce, the settlers gradually turned their attention to agriculture pursuits, and the more industrial and economical of the accumulated a considerable amount of property.

"Another thing that retarded the early agriculture development of Simpson county was its lack of rail roads. The means of transportation was confined exclusively to oxteams and wagons, and the places of market were Mobile and Natchez, each of which was more than 100 miles distant.

"The earliest settlers, most of the, emigrant from Wayne county and the settlements on the Mississippi River near Natchez, where they were temporarily located on their way principally from the Carolinas and Tennessee. Some of these early settlers emigrated, to this county while the State was a territory, but little is known of them during the early years. Among these early settlers were the

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Millers, Gates, Bells, Bridges, Deers, Banks, Chandlers, Keens, Newsomes, Walkers, Berrys, Suttons, Fortenberrys, McLaurins, McNairs, Mangums, Stubbs, Kennedys, Magees, Wilkinsons, Turners, Womacks, Everetts, Sullivans, Touchstones, Halls, Harpers, Kellys, Mahaffeys, Boggans, Brewsters, Fultons, Youngs and Hiltons.

"As stated above, the town of Westville was chosen for the county seat. This place was laid out by Franklin E. Plummer, then residing there, and the only member of Congress who lived in the county. Prior to this the place contained only a grocery and a tan yard, kept by Nathaniel O. Freeman, one of the pioneers. The first courts were held in a log cabin, about twenty feet square, owned by William Gibson. It is said to have been just a residence, a blacksmith's shop. Within a short time a framed house was erected which was destroyed by fire in 1844, this was supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. After this burn court was held in the upper story of a mercantile firm, later moved to a Methodist church until a brick structure was erected in 1846, this building stood until May 9, 1872, when it was burned. The belief was prevalent that it was the work of a carpetbagger. The next year an addition was attached for the accommodation of the Chancery and Circuit clerks. A few weeks after the completion of this building it was burned by an unknown party. All this was firmly believed to have been the work of parties who were favorable to the northern rule. The Board of Supervisors immediately issued and sold \$13000 of bonds for the building of a new court house.

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The plans and specifications being made by J. Willis, as a result, the building sold a few months ago on the old site at Westville, was erected in 1874. After several years of litigation the county seat was located at Mendenhall, on the Gulf & Ship Island Railroad."²

"The records of Simpson county up to and through the beat of Reconstruction are exceeding meager, having been destroyed by fire, as stated above in 1872. The county being out of line of march of hostile forces and far from the great thorough fares of travel, escaped the destruction of property from which other parts of the county suffered. Simpson county had no personal grievance against their Northern neighbors save that the citizens held in common with the South. Upon their return from the war in 1865 the confederate soldiers from Simpson county found their homes almost in ruin from neglect. Although there were no war depredations, direct, in this county we have much indirect. The greatest evil of the war came, however, in the Reconstruction Period, and continued until the general election in 1889. While we have no records to show to what extent taxes really increased before 1872, much land had been forfeited for taxation. Land and every other form of wealth had declined. All of this loss, added to the freeing of the slaves, left the people in a deplorable condition. To see faithful soldiers return to their ruined homes, to see their wives and daughters do work that slaves had been accustomed to do and to note the

² Simpson county News-
January 5, 1911
Vol. XXXIX, No. 13.

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men who had fallen on battlefield, brought heart pangs that cannot now be known to any save the few who survive to tell the story of war and ruin.

"The elections were conducted in a dignified legitimate way. As this county was very sparingly populated with negroes, compared with other counties, it would seem to have shown little interest in the elections, but this was not the case. Great interest was taken in the elections, though there was no violence. The republican and democratic parties put out candidates in the general elections, though there was no violence. The republican and democratic parties put out candidates in the general election 1869. The democratic were decidedly in the majority. There were some republican officers among them, J. P. Brown, who was at the time sheriff, now living at Hazlehurst and Mize who was chanery clerk. "Most men voted for the man rather than the party," are the words of a voter at that time. Many others voted a mixed ticket. Prior to this election most of the officers were appointed by Gov. Ames. Among those appointed and held office under Ames were Henry Harris and Lewis Gibson as members of the Board of Police. Thomas Hamilton, a teacher at Westville, was appointed judge of an organization known as "Green Court," which had jurisdiction over suits amounting to \$200. This organization was gotten up by military rule and had authority over crimes not amounting to felony. Judge Gowan was appointed chancellor judge of this county by Ames. So far as I am able to find out only one negro was ever a

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candidate for representative in 1868.

This negro was defeated by a democrat in the election of 1869. No carpet-bagger was ever elected to office, but they caused much trouble in the county by giving secret aid to the negroes. Wagnor, a carpet-bagger, came south and located about five miles north of the present town of Harrisville on the place known as "Wagnor Field."

"This man held secret meetings with the negroes. Just what business was transacted is not known, he was however, notified by a Ku Klux Klan that his presence was no longer desired in the county. This notice being followed by a thrashing Waghorn disappeared under cover of night. Some think that the Ku Klux Klan killed him. Others think that he returned to the north. Suffice it to say that he was never heard of after that night. Another carpet-bagger, Williams by name, did a great many things to influence the negroes. His influence was felt in all parts of the county. He was killed by Judge John Enochs and Stubbs for some personal matter. He was killed near Mt. Creek bridge on the Jackson and Westville road, six miles south of the present town of Florence. He was buried on the side of the road near the place he was killed and his grave may still be seen.

"As the elections lasted several days many methods were employed to win the negro votes to the democratic side. Torch processions, free suppers, public dinners, and musical entertainments were given to which

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the negroes were invited. Although there was not as much eagerness on the part of the negro to vote in this county as in the other counties, he was not tardy to exercise, and he went to the polls early and remained late.³

"It may be of interest to note here the number of white and negro votes cast in the election of 1869. The men appointed to register the voters or the number of inhabitants of this county in 1868 were M. G. Payton and Phil Hammond. In 1879, there were 650 white votes cast while there were 322 negro votes. At this time there were 707 white voters registered and 387 registered negro voters. We see that the whites more than doubled the negroes. The election commissioners usually had the ballot box in an inclosure, to which no outsider was admitted. The negroes were formed in line. They marched up, two abreast, and handed their votes to the commissioners. If before casting his vote, the negro was imprudent enough to let a white see his ticket, a democratic ticket was frequently substituted thereupon. This worked to an appreciable extent, but not on every occasion. When this method failed ballot-box stuffing was resorted to. There were numerous ways of doing this. Commissioners would often have democrat tickets up their sleeves and by skillful manipulation substituted them for the ticket which the negroes were trying to vote. On one occasion, the republican manager, a negro, kept such close watch that it seem-

³ Simpson County News, January 26,
1911 Vol. XXXIX No. 15

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ed almost impossible for them to stuff the box. Late in the afternoon, not having had anything to eat during the day, they resolved to buy three boxes of sardines. One of the democrat managers was appointed to make the purchase. On purchasing the sardines he made a small hole in the box intended for the negro, through which he injected a dose of Croton oil. It was but a few moments until the oil had the desired effect and the ballot box was stuffed. Many of the negroes voted the democratic ticket, some of them being induced to do so by the torch-light processions. The white men would make speeches in favor of their party. They would then be followed by negroes who would make speeches in favor of the democratic party, I know of but two negroes who made such speeches. One was Henry Jackson, who became justice of the peace in Rankin county in 1871. The other was Granerson Spencer, at first was in favor of the republicans, but was won over by the democrats.

"All the records having been burned in 1872, there was no way of getting at affairs as they really were prior to that time. I was able to get a fairly good account of the county's government during the early part of the Reconstruction period from a gentleman who was a member of the Board of Supervisors in 1872. The governing was vested in a board of police, which became known as the board of supervisors after 1872, there were no fraudulent contracts let at this time, as the board was composed of native democrats. There was never a republican officer elected to this board by the voters of Simpson county. On looking over the records, I find

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nothing that would lead one to think there were any frauds perpetrated after 1872. Contrary to the practices of the counties that were under carpet-bag rule, I find that Simpson County appropriations and expenditures were made in the most economical way. There were no extravagant prices paid for bridges, public building, paupers, etc.

"In the year 1872 I find that the following men were members of the Board of Supervisors: John Hays, D. A. McLaurin, Joe May, C. H. Doss and J. W. Barlow. D. B. Weathersby was sheriff and L. A. McCaskill circuit and chancery clerk. These men managed affairs as well as possible at the time. The sheriff at the beginning of Reconstruction days was Thomas Hamilton who was appointed by Ames. The principles issued discussed by the candidates were the extravagance of officers, corrupt officials and democratic supremacy. Although Simpson County was spared the negro and carpet-bag rule, which characterized so many of the adjoining counties, more especially Rankin County on the North she lost not time in aiding other counties by electing or voting for the most efficient state officers."⁴

The remaining of this thesis was secured from the University of Mississippi.

Political Parties.

"During the whole reconstruction period there was little factional between the parties in Simpson county. As was said above, the democrats were in a large majority; though the republican element was not lacking. There was no such republican element as to give them control or

⁴ Simpson county News, February 23, 1911, Vol. XXXIX No. 21

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even a voice in the affairs of the county. No republican held office under election by her citizens. Such men as Ras Dixon, Cars Hilton, John Dent and Tally Berry were republicans. The democrats were led by such men as L. A. McCaskill, T. N. Touchstone, Jim McCaskill, T. L. Mendenhall, A. Q. May and others who have been highly honored by various offices to which they aspired.

"As has been stated the officers of this county were not in danger of carpetbag rule, however, they were adverse to the existing conditions in the state, and availed themselves of every opportunity possible to capture the negro vote, and to help eradicate carpet bag rule in other sections. For this reason, politics were at a high place when it came to state elections. The democrats put forward their best men in order that carpet bag rule might remain foreign to her individual affairs.

Freedman's Bureau

"The Federal Barrison, the head-quarters for the Freedman's Bureau was located at Jackson. This organization was placed there on the pretence of protecting the negroes. But this served the purpose of cementing the republican party, and to alienate the negro from the white man. It was suppose to protect the negro and to give the white man his rights as was stated by one of its officers. He stated that the officers heard only the negro side and nothing from the white people. Consequently the white man suffered many unjust penalties. The negroes would often falsely report that depredations had been committed by men who were

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innocent. As a result, the officers would raid the county and arrest the accused. Among those who were arrested and carried to Jackson were Jeff McBride, but this accusation against him was not known, M. S. Gatlin was charged with stealing a negro girl; and C. W. Barlow and wife, with whipping a negro child. The latter was compromised at a cost of \$100. Both, Mr. and Mrs. Barlow were tried before Green Court, Hon. T. N. Touchstone said, "I myself, had to appear before the Freedman's Bureau at Jackson to witness an offence of little importance, and the judge of this court was little informed of the conditions as they really were." As compared to other counties, Simpson County was practically free from actions of the Freedman's Bureau. Only very small per cent of the citizens were reported to this bureau. At this period, the period of the Bureau's popularity, republicans had been reduced to a considerable small majority, and nothing remained to induce the negroes to take these privileges.

Taxation.

"There remains little data from which to draw conclusions as to the extent to which taxes increased. The only record I find is that of 1872, in fact there is no way of getting accurate data. Suffice it to say, that State taxes were very high. In 1872 I find that Simpson County paid 8½ mills, county tax, 3 mills, for paupers, and 4 mills for schools.

Ku Klux Klan

"The Ku Klux Klans were organized in Simpson county by an unknown party. Its organization was introduced in-

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to the northern part of the beat one mile from Rankin county. The man from whom I obtained this information was a member of the first Klan ever organized in this county, but he did not know who was the original organizer. It may not be out of place here to state that this man, and all the men from whom I obtained the following information, are among the most prominent citizens of the county. It may be of further interest to state that the greater part of the membership of these Klans were made up of men prominent in both church and the affairs of the state.

"A prospective member was voted on without his knowledge. Before this, however, a committee from among its members was appointed to investigate as to whether he was sound on the subject of Ku Klux Klan. These appointed members conducted the examinations in a disguised manner. If he was elected, a second committee was appointed to inform him of the election. After acceptance, he was, on the night of his initiation, met by a guard and led to the meeting place where the pass word was required. This pass word was one clap of the hand, followed by two rapid claps, which was, in turn, followed by one claps. After entering the place of meeting, usually a few yards from a public road, and being warned that death would be the penalty for violating his oath, he was required to take the oath of obligations. When this oath was taken by members of the body, across a log with his trousers drawn tightly across the seat. Then, the crowd repeating in concert

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"ragged Dio" some one drew a large comb across the seat of his trousers. When the bomb initiation was completed they would call for a hot iron. After a few moments, he would arise, a member of the organization.

"There were a number of dens in the county. The first den ever organized therein held its meetings over the line in Rankin county, five miles northeast of the present town of Braxton. Although they were held in Rankin county, a great number of the members were men from Simpson county. A second den held its meetings in "Buzzard Hollow" one mile north of the present town of Harrisville. A third den held its meetings on the Harrisville and Westville road, five miles north of Harrisville, near New Begin, a negro church. The leader of this den was Sim Robbins, who died in 1907. It was the work of this Klan that led to the disappearance of Waghorn, mentioned above. A fourth den held its meetings near Clear Branch. The latter place was in Rankin county, though the constituents of the Klan, were principally men from Simpson county.

"The Ku Klux Klan exercised great power for good throughout the county in that it kept down the negro. It really did not vicious work in Simpson county. The dens that held their meetings in Rankin County, abused their privileges. Some of the members that belonged to the den that met at Clear Branch went so far as to kill a negro near the bridge across Pearl River, east of Terry. At least the negro was captured there, carried to the home of Son Birds, and was never heard of any more. The Klan

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that met near Harrisville did nothing more than to ride around in the night, arrayed in white apparel. They would appear at the homes of negroes, ride around, a few mumbling noises and then would go away. This usually had the desired effect. It was by one who took part in these proceedings that more brutal acts would have taken place had it not been for the influence of some of the republicans of the county, one of whom was Cars Hilton, now residing at Pearl, Mississippi. Among the negroes who were whipped by the Ku Klux Klan were Williams and Andy Harper. On the whole the work of these clansmen was of little consequence as compared to that of other counties. I was told that not a den was organized in beat four.

Other Organizations.

"There was a kind of organization in 1874, name not known, which had for its object nothing more than the robbing of negroes. It seems that both democrats and republicans took part in these acts. It was an organization similar to that of the Freedman's Bureau. Negroes would report depredations to the men in authority, for which they would collect as large a sum as the negro was able to pay. Its most active territory was in and around Westville.

"There was a second organization at Westville. In all probability this was that of the Loyal League. The negroes held weekly meetings at Westville. Nothing is known of the workings of the organization. In 1873 the white men made an attack on the organization. It seems that, while the negroes were assembled in one of these meetings, white men,

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met several hundreds of yards from the assembly and fired off cannons. After the cannoning they would blow an instrument known as a "dumb Bull". These acts caused a great excitement among the negroes that had gathered at this meeting. As the bank of white men approached the place of the negro meeting, they found only their outward bound foot prints. In all probability this caused Polk McNair, president, and Joseph Owen, Secretary of the Loyal League of the Westville community, to apply to Gov. Ames in the following terms: "We desire authority under your excellency's hand and seal to hold our meetings." This bears date of September 1875.

"There was another organization in the '70's known as the "Minute Men." As well as I could ascertain, these men organized themselves to be ready to take up arms at a moments notice. Not one of the men who joined this bank ever went to war, and I would rather think that they were anti-War men. Such men as Tally Berry, John Guinn, and others were members of this organization. These men wore badges to signify that they were ready to fight at any moment.

"There was another organization known as the Red Coats, introduced from Marion County. Nothing could be gotten as to the work that it did, as I saw not one man that belonged to such an organization. It was disputed as to it really having an existence at all. I rather think that this organization did not exist.

"On the whole, this county was free from many of the evils from which other Counties suffered. There were no troubles among the parties, and the county was, by far, free

15 SIMPSON COUNTY

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from destructive marches of her Northern foe.

"Since writing the foregoing, I find the following data which I offer as an appendix: "Old Smokey" Doss was a republican member of the Board of Supervisors or member of the Board of Police. Lewis C. Gibson was a member of the Board of Police. Gibson ran on the republican ticket for justice of the peace, but was defeated by F. L. Riley, D. P. Berry was assessor but voted the democratic ticket.

"Then there were some scallawags, such men as Wash Farlow who held the office of Superintendent of education under Ames: Tally Berry, afterwards elected justice of the peace on a democratic ticket; Tom Gowan held judgeship under Ames, afterwards, republican Superintendent of Education under democratic election; J. B. Brown was sheriff under Ames, afterwards was treasurer; Hamilton was the first sheriff under Ames. Mize was circuit and Chancery Clerk under Ames. The two latter were carpet baggers who came from Alabama.

"Grierson's raid passed near Westville and out near Georgetown. There was a Ku Klux Klan around Rockport, which I rather think was composed of men principally from Copiah County. Dr. Cabell Dickerson was captain of this Klan. It was the most active Klan in the county. Such men as Stewart Banks, W. May and Richard Walker composed a part of its membership.

"F. M. Riley was arrested and carried to Westville for hitting a negro child. Vander Stubbs (col) was justice of peace in Beat Two, and was ^{the} only negro who ever held office in the county. Joe Meade was the first man to put up a printing press in Simpson County, about 1880. Then Tom Gowan

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took up printing.

"The largest negro population was in Beat four.

"Dan Berry (Dan Tuck), a negro, went to Brookhaven, got a smattering of education and returned to Simpson County and became a republican speaker. He spoke in Westville and elsewhere. This negro belonged to Henry Benny. He was never elected to office."

"(The above was given by Dr. Riley.)"⁵

"June 13th, 1865, the president of the United States, by proclamation appointed a provisional Governor for the State of Mississippi, Honorable W. L. Sharkey. July 1st, 1865 Governor Sharkey issued his proclamation to the citizens of Mississippi from which the following is quoted:

"Fellow Citizens of Mississippi: The president of the United States, by virtue of the power vested in him has been pleased to appoint the undersigned provisional governor of the state to organize a state government, whereby justice may be established, domestic tranquility insured, and loyal citizens protected in all their rights of life, liberty and property." And to accomplish that purpose has directed me "at the earliest practicable moment to prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper for convening a convention of delegates, to be chosen by that portion of the people of said state who are loyal to the United States, and no others, for the purposes of altering or amending the constitution thereof" so that the state may resume its place in the Union. And being anxious to carry out the wishes of the

⁵ Mr. F. M. Ball's thesis secured from the University of Mississippi

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president and restore the dominion of civil government, as speedily as possible, I do hereby ordain and declare as follows:

"To avoid the delay which would necessarily occur from the separate organization of each county by special appointments of the several county officers, the county officials incumbent on May 22nd, 1865, and those of municipalities regularly kept up, were appointments already made were excepted. All of such appointees were required to subscribe to the amnesty. Nor could any one hold any of the offices in question who came under any of the clauses from which the benefits of the proclamation was withheld. Special appointments to be immediately made upon showing of the necessity, were assured to counties which had been disorganized, or where there were no person available. The sheriffs were commanded in their counties respectively, to "hold an election August 7th, 1865 for delegates to the convention for the purpose mentioned in the president's proclamation." Voters were required to possess the qualifications prescribed by the constitution and the by laws as they existed prior to the 9th day of January, 1861, and must also produce a certificate of having taken the amnesty oath, and no one was eligible as a member of the convention unless he had taken it. Counties and towns were entitled to such representation, numerically, in the convention as they possessed in the lower legislative branch prior to secession. The delegates elected were to assemble in Jackson August 14th, and organize the convention."⁶

⁶ Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, Centenary Series, Vol. II, p.p 290-291

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Simpson County selected T. R. Gowan as delegate to the convention to serve in this capacity which place he efficiently filled. Today a large portrait of Judge Gowan hangs in the Courthouse at Mendenhall. He was a man for whom each citizen of Simpson County should feel justly proud.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
Area # 7

Simpson County

April 19, 1937

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-CONSULTANT

Dimple Slay & Wilman Gladney
CANVASSERS

SIMPSON COUNTY
AREA # 7

ASSIGNMENT # 22
"Reconstruction "

1. Paper written by Mildred Whitten, published
in the Simpson County News. May 6, 1926, vol. 54
2. Simpson County News, January 5, 1911.
Vol. XXXIX No. 13
3. Simpson county News, January 26, 1911,
VOL. XXXIX No. 15
4. Simpson county News, February 23, 1911,
Vol. XXXIX No. 21
5. Remaining of thesis by Mr. F. M. Ball, secured
from University of Mississippi
6. WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION, from The Mississippi
Historical Society, Vol. II p. p. 290-291

Inez Gibson, typist
Historical Research
Area #7
Simpson County

SIMPSON COUNTY, RECONSTRUCTION

1

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
SIMPSON COUNTY

Lelah B. Ross, Canvasser

Assignment #14

OUTLAW DAYS

I. Gang and feud leaders.

Ira Robbins, an outlaw, was a member and a leader of the "Copeland Gang". At one time Robbins made an attempt to escape and went to the swamps, but later he made himself ^{known} because his feet nearly froze, thus placing himself in jail. The citizens of the county took the law in their hands and let it be known for a public hanging, at Westville which was at that time the county seat.

Robbins was hanged in the broad open daylight. He was seated on a mule with a rope tied around his neck and the rope was thrown over a limb of a tree. Some of the most reliable citizens of this county were present here and were trying to break up the activities of this gang.

A. How they originated.

The "Copeland Gang" were composed of Deserters of the Confederate Army, which operated in the southern part of Simpson County.

B- The first influence of this gang was known just after the war and had no influence on the reliable citizens in this section.

C- The members of the above mentioned gang had minds of

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terror; any damage that they could do to harm the human race was their greatest desire and they performed many harmful acts toward the people of this county. They would steal cattle and horses, run off tenants, burn gins, destroy crops if possible, besides killing people and burning homes. This gang usually carried out any plan which first came to their mind, no matter what chances they had to win.

D- The hanging of Ira Robbins, the most famous leader of the "Copeland Gang", caused the activities of this band to cease functioning as far as Simpson county was concerned, and all plans of this ferocious gang were completely demolished.

II- Riots-

There were no riots of interest in Simpson County as the citizens always provided for the negro race.

III- White Caps and Bull Doozers-

There were no white caps and bull doozers in Simpson County but we shall give you a historic sketch of the Ku Klux Klan, that was known throughout this county.

(This is an interview given by W. M. Lofton from Mendenhall.)

"The Ku Klux Klan was a secret society, (composed of best citizens in this county) which existed in the south during the Reconstruction Era (1865-1876). It was originally established at Pulaski, Tennessee, for amusement purposes; but with the enfranchisement of the negro and the advent of the carpet baggers, it became a disciplinary organization whose purpose was to punish outlaws and frighten

SIMPSON COUNTY, OUTLAW DAYS

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the negroes into good behavior. The members of this band were disguised in masks, tall hats, and long white robes.

In 1871 Congress passed the "Force Bill" for protection of all citizens rights, and the organization was subsequently dissolved.

It was renewed November 25, 1915 and adhered to its original aim of punishing lawlessness. The members would meet in a body; dress in their regular disguise, make calls on the people who were not living just as they should and give them warnings, then ride quickly away.

In 1920 the Ku Klux Klan became a controlling political factor which lasted until 1926, but through continuous publicity the organization again disbanded after the national election of 1928."

IV- Saloon Days-

(The following is two newspaper clippings from the Westville news, written by T. L. Mendenhall.)

"In the early days when the county was thinly settled, most of the saloons were located at Westville and Harrisville. Westville having the majority for many years, there were from two to five retail liquor saloons where, many disturbances occurred, such as fist fights and affrays, with occasionally shooting and cutting affairs.

"One night in one of these saloons that stood on a corner where Drummond's store stood for many years afterwards, Evan Magee was cut with a knife from the effects of which he died.

"A man by the name of Rurels was indicted for the murder. When his case came for trial, he applied for a change of venue

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AND his case was transferred to Smith County, where he was convicted of manslaughter. This having occurred before there was a penitentiary in the state, he was branded for the crime."

(2) "Back in the early days soon after the county was organized during the days, when saloons were much in evidence Simpson County's first court house was built at Westville, the building being a log structure about 20 by 24 feet. Courts were then a new thing among the pioneers.

"When the Circuit Court was in session a man by the name of Kit Deas rode up to the door and called out, "Hello! Taps-ter hand me out a half pint." (These were days when liquor was legally sold). The Judge ordered the Sheriff to bring the man into court, which he did. The joist of the house being rather low, and Deas, a tall man, he placed his hand on one of the joists and begged the Judges pardon and asked to be excused, as he had never been in court before, but seeing all the people standing around the house he actually thought it was a grocery. The Judge excused him on the condition that he would not disturb the court again.

A- The saloons in Simpson county were only found at the county seat, and were rarely patronized (except) on Saturday's. The saloons were similar to our drug stores today. Liquor was served to customers then just as soft drinks are served over the drug store counters of today. According to different interviews, we find that the most reliable citizens of the county patronized the saloons.

B- When saloons were in Simpson county, money was not so

SIMPSON COUNTY, OUTLAW DAYS

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Easy to obtain and the liquor was sold at a nominal cost. Those were the pioneer days when saloons were patronized by people throughout the county.

The economic effect that saloons had on the county was the same as that is felt today; leaving many families in destitute, and fist fights as well as gun fights frequently occurred, occasionally ending with a death, much to the sorrow of some respectable and reliable families.

C- As a result of the saloon in our county; a local "Option Law" was passed prohibiting the opening of the public saloons and the sale of intoxicating liquors in the county.

Among the saloon keepers, according to the information we have; were Bill Patterson, Joe Warren, Ras Dickson and others.

(The preceding information was given by Mrs. Gussie May Boggan.)

V- Early Horse thieves and Cattle Rustlers.

There were none known in this county.

VI. Periodic Outlaws and Deserters-

Simpson County was a desirable place for Deserters during the Civil War as it was sparsely settled and hiding places for Deserters could rarely be found. So keenly was it that General Lowrey sent Captain Joe May, a notable son of Simpson County, with a whole company of soldiers to round up the Deserters. He selected the "spring freshet season" because the members of this class had to come out of their hiding places at that time. These Deserters were quickly routed and placed again in service.

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Be it said to the credit of Simpson county these Deserters felt it was a poor man's fight and rich man's war, however, that did not keep them from burning cotton gins, destroying homes and bringing striking terror to the hearts of women and children left here.

(This information given by Mrs. Gussie Mae Boggan)

A- Any Information-

"Sullivan's Hollow, scene of many feuds and gunfights, and home of the notorious Sullivans, is located in the southern part of Simpson and Smith Counties, and was originally settled in 1810 by nine brothers. At that time their name was O'sullivan, but it was later changed to Sullivan. The brothers were Mark, Click, Conn, Fred, Jeff, Hence, Joe, Tom, and Jack O'Sullivan. These brothers came to this section from South Carolina, and brought with them all of the clanish ideas of the fierce mountaineers in that portion of the country. The nine brothers made their homes in a valley several miles long and a half mile wide, with a stream flowing through it. At that time the valley was a dense swamp with bear, tiger, deer, and other game in it. The brothers each homesteaded a plot of ground comprising about one hundred and sixty acres each. Each of them cut through his land a ditch four feet deep and eight feet wide. At the mouth of the Stream on which the farms were built a mill..Bunker Hill Mill.. was erected for the purpose of cutting lumber, grinding corn, and ginning cotton., the water flowing through the farms furnished the power by which the mill was operated. This mill is still in use although more than a century has now passed

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SINCE it was first built. It has changed owners many times during these years, and has been the scene of many fierce struggles. The bloodshed there is the probable cause of the vowels being mixed when settlers mention this hill. Travelers are often surprized to be directed to go by "Merry Hell" when their route leads by this hill.

"As the years went by the original Sullivans cleared their land until the valley had several rich farms located within its bounds. They married other settlers in this region but still maintained their fierce clannishness. By the year 1870 the Sullivans were strong both because of their prosperity and because of their "Hands Off" attitude which forbade any interference with their customs. They were a law to themselves and id not allow molestation.

"Bill Sullivan, a son of Hence Sullivan, became the virtual leader of the community after the death of the first settlers. Bill, and his brother, Neese Sullivan, have been in fights and skirmishes in the Hollow throughout their career. Bill is yet living, as is his wife. The mother of Bill and Neese once said after they had survived many gun and knife battles that her sons were knife and lead proof. This assertion was borne out by the fact that Neese lived through years of gang warfare, and died at about eighty years of age of pneumonia and Bill at the age of more than four score years, is till in good health, and according to his own statement, "good for 25 more years."

At a battle at Shiloh Church, in which several members of the Sullivan tribe were involved, two men-Chain and Dykes, were killed and many others wounded. Feelings of bitterness

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and enmity aroused by this fray caused a general warfare between the Sullivans and settlers outside the Hollow, until many more lives were lost and much property destroyed.

"Bunker Hill Mill was the scene of a fierce fight between the Sullivans and Crafts and it was in this battle that he did not wish the Sullivans to be blamed for the shooting, since it was the fault of himself and his brothers. He said that if they had not gone to the Sullivan's Mill in an attempt to kill them, the skirmish would not have occurred.

"France Craft, brother of the one killed in this fight, lay in ambush for months watching for an opportunity to bush-whack Bill or Neese for their part in the affair in which his brother was killed. One dark night he started to shoot a man who was passing his hiding place--thinking it was Bill or Neese. When he said "Hands Up" he saw his mistake and realized that he was about to kill Mark Sullivan, a cousin of the others, and let him go. Mark let it be known that Craft was attempting to kill Bill and Neese, so they left for Arkansas, where they remained for several monts. While there they attended a negro festival being held in the top story of a building. A big negro had his knife open making threats, and acting as if he were boss of the affair. Bill resented his action and when he came near the brothers with his knife, whispered for Neese to go to the bottom of the stair. Bill quietly knocked the negro over the bannister rail. He fell on the concrete walk below and died instantly. This was done so quietly that the others at the festival did not know of it until the body was found, Bill and Neese walked twenty miles from the scene

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of the killing that night.

Efforts of officers to enforce the laws there were futile. On one occasion the sheriff and his deputies went to arrest Bill and Neese as they were plowing. The brothers forced the officers at the point of a revolver to enter the barn, where they were locked and forced to stay for several hours. The Sullivans left while the officers were locked in the barn, and when they were released by the wife of one of the men, she informed the sheriff that her husband left word that if he had any business to attend to in Raleigh he had better attend to it.

On another occasion a Mormon preacher entered the Hollow, with the purpose of making converts to his belief. The Sullivan, believing him to be one of the hated Prohibition officers, put harness on him, fastened him on a plow, and forced him to draw the plow all day. At the end of the day this treatment as a horse was continued. He was locked in a stable and ten ears of corn and a bundle of hay put before him as repast. He escaped through the top of the stable that night, and was never seen in that portion of the country again. The Sullivan who was responsible for this act said that even if the man was not an officer, they had rather not have strangers settle in their community.

Often the sheriff would deputize as many as one hundred men to go out and arrest Bill and Neese Sullivan, but would often contrive to let them know before hand that they were coming, so they would make a getaway. The sheriff did not really want to arrest them, but would have to make a show of being attempt to bring them to justice on account of the

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menace of the rest of the county.

At one time when the sheriff went after and undertook to make the arrest, they put his head in the crack of a heavy rail fence, near the bottom, in such a manner that he could not escape, although it was not heavy enough to choke him, they left him there to his fate, although he was found before he starved to death.

At one time a Mr. Eaton, whose brother-in-law, Hathorn, owner of Bunker Hill Mill, attempted to kill Hathorn and obtain possession of the mill. Hathorn was stabbed three times in the back by Eaton, and two shots put through his chest by Yawn, who accompanied Eaton. While Eaton was stabbing him, Hathorn seized his own pistol and shot Eaton through the heart and killed him instantly. Hathorn recovered from his own wounds and lived eighteen years after this.

Dean gained possession of the Mill after Hathorn's death, but was greatly disliked by some of his neighbors. Several of them lay in ambush waiting for a chance to shoot him and one night saw a boat a quarter of a mile out in a small lake. Thinking it was Dean, they fired at the boat with a Winchester shotgun, but found that they had killed George Sullivan son of Neese, by mistake. Dean left the Hollow on the fastest horse he could procure, with bullets whistling around his ears as he galloped away.

A few days after this, Bud Sullivan, son of Joseph, was found dead by the roadside, and his murderers were never found.

Sometimes their antics showed a crude sense of humor. One Sunday morning as Bill and Neese were going to church, they met a Mr. Knight driving a team of horses. They drew their pis-

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tols in a frolicsome mood and ordered Knight to dance for them. He danced until he fell in the road and could not rise, and he was then allowed to climb into his wagon. As he did so he reached toward his whipstock, but drew his double-barreled shotgun instead, and ordered them to dance. He forced them to dance as he had, and when they were exhausted, shook hands and said they were even took a drink of whiskey with them, and they all parted on friendly terms.

Both of these brothers were shot, stabbed, and wounded on many different occasions. At one time Neese was shot with birdshot, and remarked as he got on his horse and started home, that it was an insult to anyone to be shot with such a small shot. At another time his breast was filled with birdshot by a negro, at night. After this, he walked into the negro's house, lit his pipe and started to smoke, but the loss of blood made him become sick and he was carried home by his brothers.

One night some of the Sullivans who resented the fact that Thomas Sullivan had reported to the church some of their offenses, cut his mill dam and let the mill wash away. They rode to his farm then, burned his timber and fences.

One of the Sullivans had a cow killed by the train. The railroad company ordered an investigation before payment was made for the loss, and Sullivan threatened to destroy the railroad tracks for one-half mile through Cohay swamps if payment was not made on the day, and for the amount he said. The railroad company knowing their reputation, made payment promptly, and did not wait for reports on the investigation they had asked for.

Bill and Neese hid in the swamps for several years to evade arrest. They lived by killing wild game, and carried it to friends to

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pay for caring for them during the time they were fugitives from justice.

They were in the woods by a campfire one night, Neese asleep and Bill watching for marauders. Bill killed a large snake and tied it to Neese's foot and then woke him by crying "Look out for the snake!" Neese jumped backward and this brought the snake into the same direction. After several jumps in an attempt to get away from the snake he realized that he was tied to the reptile. He cut the cord by which the snake was tied and reached for his gun, he snapped it at his brothers ready to kill him for the trick. Bill, realizing his brother's hot temper, had unloaded the gun and hidden the shells, and by the time Neese found the ammunition, his irate temper had cooled.

They finally gave themselves up to officers--were tried several times but the courts were unable to convict them on any of the charges they held against them, and they were acquitted.

Although there have been more murders, robberies, bushwhackings, and other forms of lawbreaking in that section than in any other part of the United States in proportion to the population, their hospitality is well-known, those who have visited them without ill intent have found that their treatment could not be excelled. They are suspicious of strangers until they are sure that they harbor no malicious feelings toward them, but their worst enemy can always find a good meal, a drink of moonshine liquor and night's lodging under their roof. It has been said that even if they intend to shoot you in the back, they will be willing to feed you first.

SIMPSON COUNTY, OUTLAW DAYS

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Even in recent years the Sullivan clan have continued in their untamed ways. Many of the Sullivans have scattered to other sections but no matter where they go, they allow no trampling on what they consider to be their rights. Different members of this generation of Sullivans have been arrested many times, although the general fear of the whole clan's enmity had prevented the conviction of many cases and in these few the punishment has generally been light.

Many people remember the "Ball Game Gun Fight" at Mize about eight years ago, when Warren Asheley, 35-year-old barber, and Walter Sullivan, 30-year-old farmer were killed and Mrs. Warren Asheley, Town Marshal, Albert Lack, and Dolphus Yelverton, High School student of Taylorsville were seriously wounded. Spectators of that affair said that after a squabble arose over a technicality in the ball game, fighting became general among the spectators and during the altercation the shooting occurred which caused the deaths. Although Tullos Mangum, Magee marshal and Albert Lack, marshal of Mize were arrested and placed under bond for their part in the shooting affair, no convictions were ever made on account of it. For a while it was believed that there would be an "inter-community" war between citizens of Magee and residents of Sullivans' Hollow on account of the general feeling of bitterness aroused by the killings.

Of still more recent date was the killing of Mr. Stringer in Sullivans Hollow about a year and one half ago. His body was found by the roadside and Grady Austin and Searcy Sullivan of that community were arrested on account of threats they were alleged to have made on Stringer's life. The courts decided that they were guilty and sentenced them to life imprisonment. The case was ap-

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pealed to the Supreme Court where decision is now pending.

Although lawlessness is still rampant in that section, conditions are gradually changing for the better. The fertile fields which have caused so much dissention in the past, now make possible the building of better schools, roads and churches in the community. Many of the Sullivans have moved away from the Hollow, but it is still well-populated with members of the clan. Violations of the Prohibition Law are especially flagrant, and it is still dangerous to cross a Sullivan of Sullivan's Hollow."

(This History was written by Mildred Alexander, published in the paper in 1932. Mildred Alexander is a citizen of Mendenhall, Mississippi.)

VIII-

In Simpson county, at many times there were homes and hearts that were wrecked because of the above mentioned inhabitants of the county. Thus, old men with judgment and the young men with courage, united to their efforts to exterminate the influence keenly felt by this type of citizenship; that is, the Ku Klux Klan, that was organized after the war, and the "Home Guard" which was organized by Military Officials made of the men above fighting age. These organizations brought comfort and rest to many people, who had before lived in a dread.

(Information given by Mrs. Gussie May Boggan)

Inez Gibson
Acting Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Simpson County

SIMPSON COUNTY, OUTLAW DAYS

ASSIGNMENT #14 OUTLAW DAYS

REFERENCES

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A History of "Sullivan Hollow", written by

Mildred Alexander, Simpson county Citizens.

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Historical Research
Simpson County

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

SIMPSON COUNTY

Janie Bond and Lelah B. Ross
Canvassers

COUNTY HISTORY

Assignment # 10

SUBJECT: Races and Nationalities of County.

1. Population - Census Report, according to nationalities.

a. Male - 7,061
Female 6,884
Total 13,945. -White-

b. Male - 3,501
Female 3,442
Total 6,943. -Negro-

c. There are no Indians in Simpson County.

d. There are no Chinese or Japanese in this county.

e. Other nationalities.

There are two Mexicans, and of the foreign born white there are 2 English, 1 Swede, 1 Yugoslavian, 1 Greek, 1 Syrian, and 1 Canadian, in the County of Simpson.

(This information was secured from the United States, Department of Commerce, Washington. Bureau of the Census, 1930; Population Bulletin.)

2. Indians (Assignment #9).

3. Negro.

The Negro of Simpson County as as all other parts of the South rapidly forging ahead educationally as well as industrially. In Simpson County we find a number of

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negroes, who are self-educated. In spiritual matters you can say that they are almost if not quite equal to the whites.

a. What they have done.

1. Industrially.

During the life of the Finkbine Lumber Company of Dilo, there were several hundred negroes employed at this plant. The majority of these negroes saved their money or purchased small tracks of land and now have homes of their own.

2. Educationally.

In Simpson County the negroes are certainly elevating themselves educationally; being so near Piney Woods, Negro school, give them the opportunity they would not have otherwise.

There are twenty licensed school teachers in the county. The most of these teachers are farmers or are living on farms.

(This information; secured from the Superintendent of Education.)

3. Fine Arts. None in Simpson County.

4. Literature.

b. What they are doing.

1. Farmers

A. Farm owners.

There are 420 negroes in the county, who own farms. The size of the farms range from 5 Acres to 433 Acres. These are scattered

throughout the county with the exception of Beat 5, where we find no farm owners.

B. Farm renters (Share Croppers)

We find about 500 negro renters or share Croppers in the county.

There are 32 negro clients on the Rural Resettlement. These clients cultivate approximately 550 Acres; the cash crop being cotton. There are two ordained ministers and two teachers among this number. Two-thirds of these clients are outstanding in the religious and social life of their community.

The average number of Acres, they are farming is seventeen cultivated acres.

The Edgar Funchess family is noted for singing negro spirituals.

(This information was obtained from the Rural Resettlement office.)

2. Industrially.

a. Merchants.

We find only one negro merchant in the county; Will Dade of D'Lo. This negro was employed by the Finkbine Lumber Company for several years. He is proprietor of a general store and preaches over the county. He took a correspondent course in Theology and has studied at night as well as all of his spare time.

b. Professionally.

We have one veterinarian in the county, Dr. S. P. Weatheraby. This negro wrote the biography of his wife and himself in his own words.

We are giving these just as he wrote them.

Dr. S. P. Weatheraby: "I was born September 5, 1887 in Simpson County, near the little town of D'Lo, which was only a postoffice at that time. My parents were ex-slaves, and had no education, but it was their desire to educate their children. They were poor and the only way they could accomplish their aim was through hard work and economy.

My mother and father were both industrious and neither was ever satisfied with a days work. Often after supper we would saw wood until nine o'clock; or in spring-time go back into the field and pile logs and burn trash until ten or eleven o'clock, then we would go to bed, and at four o'clock in the morning we would be up to begin another days work.

My early schooling was in a one room log school building, with only one chimney made of sticks and clay. One teacher with from seventy-five to one hundred students. The school at this time was near the line of Simpson and Rankin counties, a distance, three miles to walk each day. When school would open we would enter the first day and my parents would keep us in until the last day. Cold frosty mornings I walked three miles to school bare-foot and poorly clad. Some of the larger boys and girls on real cold mornings would take me in their arms and wrap

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their shawls or coats around my feet to protect them from the cold. We had a good teacher, a man that was qualified and interested in his race. He devoted his entire time in trying to elevate not only the students, but all that his life could touch. I finished public school at the age of fourteen with the honors of my class. Realizing I needed more education, I wanted to go to college. I had no money, my parents were not able to send me, so I decided to work a year and save money enough to enter college. I began working and at the end of the first year, my parents needs demanded all my years work. The next year I began working with the same object in view and this time their necessities demanded all I made, and no doubt all of my efforts would have been a failure had it not been at that time I was fortunate to hear from the Utica Normal and Industrial Institute. I wrote principal William H. Hartzolan and sent in my application. I found I could work out part of my schooling. I readily accepted the offer and entered school October 11, 1907. After entering school I manifested some much interest in class room and shop work, until before the term was ended. I was working out all of my boards and going to school every day. I finished with honors in the spring of 1911.

After finishing the Utica Normal and Industrial Institute, I was employed as a member of the faculty for 1911 and 1912. In June of the same year I left Utica to attend the Normal at Tuskegee to study veterinary Science, during the summer. After I arrived at Tuskegee and went through the Veterinary department, I readily realized that

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six weeks or two months would mean very little to me. I only had sixty cents left after paying my matriculation fee, but I was determined to stay there I wrote back to Utica Normal and Industrial Institute and tendered my resignation but they would not accept it. This was my opportunity to study Veterinary Science and I would not give it up. I stayed at Tuskegee. Instead of attending summer school, I went to work at the school and by the time the next term began I had won favor of the school and Booker T. Washington, and they made it possible for me to enter the veterinary Department. I worked and studied hard, I did not have sufficient clothes and much stress was put upon cleanliness at Tuskegee, and by Friday my clean clothes would be exhausted and I would go to no more meals until Saturday after I had received my laundry. I would stay in my room and study while others would go to their meals.

The veterinary Surgeon would always take me out in the country with him on calls at night and at that time cars were not so prevalent. The horse and buggy was the popular conveyance. When the telephone would ring, the first thing he did would be to call me to get up and hitch the horse to the buggy while he got ready. Very often I would get up and clad myself in enough old clothes to protect my body from the cold weather, as I had no overcoat. Some times it would take me a day or two to thaw up. My classmates would ridicule me and try to show me where I was foolish. I didn't try to change it, because I knew just before graduation day they would

realize what it all meant, and they did.

The school was called upon for a Veterinarian to do some special work on the Patch and Wilkes stock farm at Lexington, Kentucky, and out of eighty-six students of the department, I was the one selected. If you will allow me to state just here that the proprietor, Mr. William H. Stokes of New York City, was so well pleased with my work, he offered me a life time job and an interest on the farm if I would stay with him a

This was my senior year and I could not afford to loose that year. I came back to school and books and laboratory expenses were so heavy that my finance was readily exhausted. I was there only a short while before I realized the impossibility of finishing school. It weighed so heavily upon me; I remember one day I strolled off from the veterinary hospital down into a deep valley and sat down alone that I might come to some conclusion. I stayed there about an hour, I guess, and I made up my mind I would finish in spite of all obstacles. I want back to the Hospital and want to work. In a short time the superintendent came to the hospital and told me that one of the post graduate classes had one branch of science they could not get in with the force of teachers they had. He asked me if I would teach this class every other day a period of forty-five minutes and said that the school would pay me five dollars per month for my service, which I readily accepted. I

received the five dollars each month. In May 1914, I graduated with honors of my class. After finishing the school they employed me for the remainder of the summer and I would have worked on hard.

I came back to the State of Mississippi in the fall of 1914, taught this particular Science at Utica. On account of the financial circumstances of my parents I decided to come back and help save the home. I came to D'Lo on May 6, 1915. I reached here with only six dollars. I found no horses, no buggies, no wagons, no farm tools and a mortgage of \$900.00 on the place. I set to work cleaning up the fields tearing down delapidated buildings and rebuilding them, people would call upon me for service and I had no way to go except renting a team from the stable. Often people would come and take me to see their stock and put me out then I would have to walk five or six miles lugging my medicine case, but I never became discouraged. Some times I would catch rides on a log wagon, drawn by oxen. Some times I would rent a team to make a call and if I would not guarantee the life of the patient, they would not let me do the work and they would feel no more responsibility, then I would have to go back and do the best I could to make satisfaction with the stableman for the use of his team.

I have always believed in honest as being the only policy. I would tell the truth and yet the majority of the people would ignore it and often I had to suffer humiliation, but I kept on telling the truth. I have never

allowed money to tempt me to mislead anyone for the sake of money. I believe in the golden rule, upon these principles I have built up a splendid practice in Simpson County.

Aside from my veterinary practice my spare moments are spent upon my farm. Sometimes people come for service and I am in the field plowing and I oftentimes am criticised for the same; nevertheless, such enables me to live at home. I am able each year to raise both food and feed for the family and stock. I have always believed if I had to give a mortgage on my crop each year to get groceries for my family and feed for my stock, I would give my farm away and begin something else for a living.

Seeing so many of my people homeless, and not having the ability to see these splendid opportunities, I decided to buy some of this surplus land and give them an opportunity to work and in the meantime teach them thrift, economy and sacrifice. In this way help them to become self-supporting and to make better citizens of the county. In a few instances I have succeeded and in many I have failed. At present I have five families on my place; three tenants and two share croppers, all self-supporting. We work here winter and summer on the farm. During all this depression no relief aid has been given us. I mention this, not to boast nor boast of our efforts here on the farm but in a most humble way to show the possibility of a consecrated effort."

Dr. S. P. Weathersby (D. V. S.)

A Sketch of my Life and Work.

Eva L. (Spell) Weathersby. (Wife of Doctor S. P. Weathersby)

"I was born and reared in Rankin County, near the little town of Florence, Mississippi (At that time Florence was known as Steens Creek). My mother died when I was thirteen and after finishing the sixth grade at a typical old time rural school, my father sent me to Jackson to attend the public school there. I made the fourth grade, and studied hard then finished grammar school with honors, under Professor W. H. Lanier. I, then, entered Jackson College; money ran short at home and I took the county examination, getting a second grade license and taught a year to help myself. I had money enough to put me through at Piney Woods one year. I entered and the remainder of the time worked my way through and finished high school there with honors in 1918, being a member of the first class to graduate from high school there.

During my time in school there a white gentleman from the little town of Star came to the school to get a girl to go into his home, who could be recommended for her honesty, reliability and she must also be industrious, to take charge of the house work, during four weeks confinement of his wife. I was recommended and I won favor to the extent I could have a lasting job there had I chose to stop school and take it. Too, in the summer of 1917 I was given a chance by, Professor Bura Hilburn, to go to Hampton Institute, Virginia; being one of prospective teachers sent there by the State of Mississippi for special training during the

six weeks summer school.

After finishing at Piney Woods, Professor Lawrence C. Jones, employed me as traveling agent to solicit funds for the school. During that summer I worked two states, Iowa and Minnesota. I raised a large sum of money and returned to the school in the fall. I then entered Straight University at New Orleans to complete my course in commerce. I took vocal music, also, while there and was offered a job traveling with a bunch of singers, in the east, in interest of the University. I felt somewhat indebted to Piney Woods, who in a way had made it possible for me to attend school at Straights, and I returned there for work as secretary. I worked in several departments while there, as general principal in the absence of the principal and his wife's post master, stenographer, bookkeeper and I was treasurer when I slipped away in 1922 to become the wife of Doctor S. P. Weathersby of Simpson County. Then I began house-keeping.

In 1930 I was employed as one of the four teachers at the D'Lo Junior High School. I did creditable work there for five years in succession, teaching literary and industrial work, also vocal music.

During the summer I raise a large number of chickens, tend my garden, gather and can large quantities of fruits and vegetables. I attend summer school each summer."

'Eva L. (Spell) Weathersby'

c. Educationally, as: Teachers, etc.

The teachers of the county are as follows:

J. L. Rankin, L. M. Payne, Annetta Jackson, Bertha Walker, Carry Dampeer, Nathalia Lanoir, Edna Mae Thomas, W. W. Dickson, O. E. Dixon, D. W. Dixon, W. M. Thomas, Susie Hobson, James Harper, Estella Hayes, Zadie Myers, C Bell C. Jones, Frederic James W. Bailey, Eva L. (Spell) Weathersby, Cora Badgett, and Laura Badgett.

d. There are a number of negroes in the county who are natural musicians, but none have had but very little training, however, to hear them play one would realize that they do have decided talent.

c. Prominent Negro Leaders- Men and Women.

We are giving here just a few biographies of negro leaders as they were handed in to us. By these you will readily see that the negro is making much of their opportunity.

Leonidas D. Buchanan of Braxton, a teacher of negro schools in Simpson County, finished the Southern Christian Institute in 1903. He says that he was offered a place in Kansas City, Missouri when he finished school, but as he was born and reared in Simpson County he felt that he could do more good in his native state. He taught in the Public schools of this county until 1915 and was elected principal of Springhill Normal, and Industrial Institution;

taught there ^{five} fifteen years. He was appointed secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Finkbine Lumber Company of D'Lo, held that place until 1930. He taught an N. E. R. A. Adult class 1934-35. Buchanan says that he thinks colored people have done well for themselves since 1865 and thinks this was possible by the help of the good white people of Simpson County.

Marie L. Gardner, a negro teacher, whose address is Braxton, Mississippi finished Jackson College. Marie feels that she is doing a wonderful work in being able to help the children in her class to be better men and women.

Dan Dixon, one of the oldest teachers in the county completed a course at Jackson College in 1899. Dan has made a success in teaching his race he has helped to build a public school building near D'Lo in 1924 and in 1934 he helped to build a school for negroes at Shivers. He owns a farm of 63 Acres and cultivates about 30 Acres. This negro has made a good citizen of the county and has a lot of influence among his race. His wife, Lizzie Dixon, is also a teacher; she has been teaching twenty-five ^{years} and the greater part of that time in Simpson County. She teaches the girls how to make dresses, rag rugs, and hats of shucks.

Lizzie says some of the students that she has taught are now making good. Some are teachers, some preachers, one painter, several successful farmers; most of them make a good leader for their race.

James M. Harper, another negro teacher, attended Alcorn A. & M. College for negroes left there in 1913 and began teaching school. This negro taught for several years, then quit teaching and began work for Finkbine Lumber Company. He, now, owns 130 Acres on one farm, and all indebtedness paid. He is a leader of his race and a successful farmer.

Son Gardner, one of the most successful of his race in Simpson County was born February 8, 1887. He owns a 292 Acre Farm, has a nice home and three tenant houses; all are painted and kept up. He has on his place, three Share Croppers and one renter.

This man is doing all that he can to help the negroes to make a place for themselves.

The life of Nathalia Lenoir just as she wrote it.

"I was born at Oakvale, Mississippi, Lawrence County. My father, Hugh Lenoir, and mother, Emily Autman were also born near Oakvale, Mississippi. They were married in Monticella, Mississippi, and to them were born four children; I, the second child.

My childhood days and early young womanhood days were spent with my family on a very poor farm. My father and mother were farmers. I attended rural school just about three miles from Oakvale, then, a few years at Oakvale, village. Some few years later I received an eighth grade certificate from our Rosenwald School. Not having any financial aid I then felt I had gone as far educationally as I should look forward to. There

was constantly an inner desire to go further in school, but how was I? What we made on the farm, after paying summer credit- was hardly enough for a pair of high-top shoes, black ribbed stockings, two homespun dresses, (one for Sunday and one for every day wear) and enough flannelette for comfortable undies, etc., and groceries for at least four months. Money for educational purposes was used.

Still my mind was centered on 'going further in school.' My mother and father were very anxious for us to be educated, as their education was very limited; but they could not see the way to keep us after finishing the eighth grade.

Through the mighty work of Providence, I am sure, a band concert was given at Monticello, Mississippi, by a colored band from Piney Woods Country Life school, Braxton Mississippi. Many posters of the school were distributed through the communities, we did not get one.

One day we were visiting a cousin; I especially enjoyed beautiful pictures, as you know how we were accustomed to putting any type and any style on our walls. Incidentally, my eyes fell upon the words: 'Piney Woods Country Life School, for colored boys and girls.' I read and re-read every word, then I repeated the name and address until I was sure I would not forget before getting home.

In summer, when we had leisure time, we would pick black berries etc., to sell. The change we received was

ours. Usually we got it in trade. Our Revival dress material- gingham or voile was purchased. I remembered to save enough postage to write to Piney Woods, after getting the address. When I was in the fifth grade, we had a very lovely teacher from Brookhaven Mississippi, and I had learned to write (very shabbily) letters as we wrote to her often.

The day came when I took courage to compose my first letter to Piney Woods, inquiring if I could work my way through school. Two letters were exchanged and I was accepted as a work student. I then let my mother know I had been seeking a way to go to school. This was the last of July, 1927. School was opening the second week in September, 1927.

I met a girl from Piney Woods in August, 1927. I made known my plans to her and she helped me use economy getting things to save such big bills entering school, such as uniforms etc. My mother found the gray uniform material at Columbia, Mississippi, guessed at the pattern, and they were accepted. I needed a trunk so we washed and ironed clothes for white people to pay for a very small trunk.

October 30, 1927, Monday morning near seven o'clock the man sent word he could not take me to Piney Woods, as he had promised. But 'where there is a will there is a way.' I went to Piney Woods in a topless automobile, with my trunk on the back seat. We drove on the campus at noon hour, Monday, October 30, 1927.

I registered and was received readily, November 1, 1927, I entered school and began class work.

I was assigned work in the Laundry and Industrial building. The days were long and home sickness surely did overpower me. One thought stayed with me - I wanted just what I was receiving so I soon became one of Piney Woods.

My first Christmas away from home was very unhappy - for one day. All students were receiving boxes from home and I did not get one. The day after Christmas my mother came and didn't bring any Christmas goodies. Others were nice to me so I was satisfied. I didn't even want to go home. Finally, they had to break the news - My father was not expecting to be alive many hours, why they came for me. I left for home after bring in school not two months. My father lived two days after I got home and only spoke a very few words to me. After having such loss in the family, I was sure my schooling had ended. The Doctor bills and burial expense were to be paid by my mother. At this time she was working in a rural school getting \$24.00 per month. "He who careth for the sparrows careth for us too." So I was ready to return to Piney Woods, January 1, 1928 with letters explaining my condition. I made my grade without any questions.

The summer, 1928, I went home to help on the farm. After paying bills, finance was all used, and it seemed I was not going to enter school the fall of '28.

My mother was very determined so she borrowed tuition fee and sent me back.

I made a grade each winter and spent the summers working. Beginning with the summer 1929, I stayed both winter and summer at Piney Woods working my way. I worked in the

laundry, industrial department, cannery, broom making department, and in homes. I graduated from high school the spring 1931, with second class honor.

Through Professor L. C. Jones and his sister, Mrs. Nellie Elaine Hardy, to whom I give due honor, I entered a school at Boone, Iowa, July 7, 1931; taking a Junior course in college. I worked my way there, as a maid, preparing meals for a home of girls, and in cannery. There I spent two years in study and graduated May 19, 1933. September 19, 1933 I came back to Piney Woods. January 14, 1934 I was notified to see Mrs. Cora E. Graves, White Home Demonstration Agent of Simpson County, Mendenhall, on very important business. I went January 15, 1934, Mrs. Graves became to me as the 'Cloud in the day and the pillow of fire by night to the children of Israel.' A real guide-helper. If ever I am a success in life the credit certainly due Mrs. Cora E. Graves, Professor L. C. Jones, and Mrs. Nellie E. Hardy, the latter colored. January 15, 1934, I also began work- My first work with colored ladies of Simpson County, as Home Demonstration Agent under E. R. A., receiving a salary of forty eight dollars (\$48.00) first month. From February until the close of that project, October, 24, my salary was thirty six (\$36.00) dollars per month. I was driving a rented car and my expense and board were coming out of my salary and each month I saved at least ten dollars.

The night of October 23, 1934, I received a telephone message from Mrs. Graves asking me to see her at the office. I no longer had work. Mrs. Graves assured me she would help

me if ever she had an opening.

I visited an aunt in Louisiana March 5th and 8th seeking work. I received a telegram saying: Mrs. Graves had prospect work for me. A special Delivery letter was mailed to Mrs. Graves accepting her offer. March 11, 1935 I came to Mendenhall, but the work didn't begin until March 26th.

I worked on the "Recreational" program from March 26th. last of May, Miss Eileen Cox of D'Lo Mississippi, Supervisor.

June 1st until July 5th I worked in the canning department under the supervision of Mrs. Cecil Stanton, Mrs. Bessie Sorsby and Miss Millene Millis.

July 6th, I left Mendenhall to attend summer school at Tuskegee, Alabama. I spent five very profitable weeks of hard study there.

Returning to my work, the project was worked out, but I had the assurance of work. I had one week to rest, August 21. Mrs. Cecil Stanton came to see if I wanted to work in the adult program and I was rushed into Jackson to attend the 20 day school there.

From the first of September until October 1st, I did not work. The adult program began and I was chosen as one of the teachers. The end of October we were taken from the pay roll.

January 1, 1936, I began working in the adult program with Miss Annie Patterson, of Pinola Mississippi, supervisor. The salary thirty-nine dollars (\$39.00).

I am still working in the adult program. Each month I put away at least ten dollars (\$10.00). I trust to con-

tinue my education by going to summer school. Out of my salary I care for my family as I am the only one to help.

4. Other Races.

a. Contributions.

1. Industrially.

2. Economically.

3. Socially.

b. Prominent Leaders.

There has been nothing done in the county by any other race except by the white and the negro.

Mrs. W.B. Baker
Supervisor of Historical Research Project

SIMBSON COUNTY

2nd copy

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT

ALICE B. TERRY, HISTORIAN
IDA T. FITZHUGH, SENIOR TYPIST
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA 13
ASSIGNMENT 206

FOLKLORE AND FOLK CUSTOMS IN OUR HISTORY

1. CUSTOMS CONNECTED WITH PARTICULAR DAYS.

There seems to be little precedent for celebration of special days in Simpson County. On July 4th, usually there are family or public picnics. In the years of election of county or state officers the picnic is a public affair and every one in the county is invited, each family being expected to bring a well filled basket. Candidates for various beat, county, and state offices are invited to address the people, presenting their claims for the respective office sought. A platform is erected as a "speakers stand" and crude benches of rough lumber are built for seating the listeners. Tables are made for serving the dinners and when the food is transferred from basket to table one wonders why any one in our county ever complains of "hard times". Practically all food served is home raised and the abundance of good things to eat is demonstrative proof of what Simpson County can do in an agricultural way. Soft drinks are sold in abundance. These picnics are among the most enjoyable and popular affairs in the county customs.

HALLOWE'EN.

On Hallowe'en, October 31, the young people, and many not so young, of both races of the county, have "ghost parties", and each participant masking so as to be unrecognizable. The more ghost-like the costume, the greater success is the celebration. These parties

Simpson County page 2

are harmless and afford much merriment, but there is developing a custom wherein the young people, usually boys, mask themselves and go over the town or community committing petty trespasses supposed to be the evil deeds of the "ghosts", such as removing gates from their hinges, removing piles of wood or other fuel, taking outdoor furniture from lawns and putting it in any inconvenient place, such as the roof of a building, etc. Such acts cause much confusion and discomfort to owners of property and are strongly to be discouraged. Frequently these acts of mischief cause unpleasantness between neighbors and, indeed, have been known to have their culmination in the courts of the county. Fortunately, however, they are usually passed over as harmless pranks and forgotten until the next Hallowe'en.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas is the greatest celebration throughout the world-- "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Man" is the divine motto adopted unanimously by our citizenship. Usually some kind of seasonal festival is held--Christmas Trees, Christmas musical plays, special Christmas church service, pageants, etc. Gifts are exchanged between family and friends and the poor and unfortunate remembered with gifts and needed assistance, it being more "blessed to give than to receive". The small boy is supremely hilarious with his fire works and a friendly and neighborly spirit permeates every corner of the globe.

2. CUSTOMS RELATING TO HUMAN LIFE, PARTICULARLY BIRTH, COURTSHIP, MARRIAGE AND DEATH.

These customs in Simpson County coincide with such customs throughout the nation. In many instances the custom borders closely onto superstition, and the idea that these superstitions

SIMPSON COUNTY, FOLKLORE

belong only to the negro race is erroneous. It exists to a great extent among the white people. Some of the superstitions--or customs--are; tying a red string around the great toe of a newly born babe will insure beautiful feet in adult life; For a child who was born after the death of the father to blow his breath into the mouth of a person having any affection of the mouth will produce an immediate cure; To place a necklace around the neck of a newly born child will insure wealth for the future.

For a lover to neglect placing a ring on the finger of his betrothed means a divorce after marriage, the time of the divorce being the same as that of omitting the ring after betrothal. So many people believe it essential for the lover to procure the ring and place it upon his fiancée's finger immediately upon her acceptance of his proposal.

For another to kiss the bride following the marriage ceremony before the husband does so is indicitave of much illness, or even death, in the family. The custom of charivaris for the newly married pair is among the more common customs. (See assignment 6).

The marriage feast is another very old custom. After the marriage ceremony the family of the bride or groom spreads a feast and friends of the couple are invited to partake of it. These invitations include from only a few relatives or close friends to entire communities. In the "good old days" tables were erected on the lawn in the shade of beautiful old trees and often times a bounteous feast would be served to several hundred guests.

After the newly married couple settle down to practical living comes the "shower". This is a more modern custom. In the old

days girls were storing up materials for their home making from the days of their "teens", but now they are generously supplied with such articles through these "showers". Sometimes the invitations to these affairs restrict the limitations thereof; being for a "Linen" shower, a "China" shower, "Silver", "Miscellaneous" etc. The miscellaneous shower, however, is gaining the ascendancy in popularity as it gives a broader range in selection of gifts. These social affairs are among the most enjoyable of any ever held.

To place coins upon the eyes of the dead insure the eyes being opened upon palaces of gold in Heaven.

The custom of placing dolls, vases, pieces of broken china or glass etc., on the graves in the cemetery is extremely prevalent in this section of the country. We have never known the significance of such custom but it is almost universal, especially in small town and country cemeteries.

3. SOCIAL CUSTOMS.

The family "reunion" is another of our most popular customs and is still extensively practiced. Many of our citizens are widely connected through ties of blood and marriage and often these reunions are attended by as many as five hundred persons, each related in some way to the other. Among prominent pioneer families who have these annual reunions are; the Brown family; the Walkers'; Grubbs'; Polks'; Baileys'; Mays'; Shermans'; Tullos'; Thames'; McNairs'; Uptons'; and many others.

The reunion of the Bailey family was held at Mendenhall on the second Sunday in July, 1937, with Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Bailey. Mr. Bailey is the father of thirteen children, ten of whom are living. The present Mrs. Bailey is his second wife. She has no children but

has reared all of the younger step-children. At the recent reunion all ten of the children were present. Some of the grand-children were absent and a few of the great-grand-children failed to attend but the crowd enjoying the day with Mr. and Mrs. Bailey numbered more than One hundred. As is a practice in all of these reunions, each family attending carried a well filled basket so there was no hardship on any one and a bounteous feast for all.¹

BROWN REUNION.

"A reunion of kinspeople, which perhaps, was one of the largest ever held in this section was enjoyed last Sunday by the descendants of the late Samuel Brown and wife, when relatives and friends of this couple gathered at the old homestead in the Riels creek community, on the plantation now owned by Mr. Ansie Brown.

More than five hundred people were present for the day. Superintendent Monroe Ball, of Mendenhall, was master of ceremonies, and after a highly entertaining talk made by himself, presented to the audience Hon. J. P. Edwards, of Mendenhall, who very ably gave a complete life's history, as far as is known, of Samuel Brown, paying a tribute of highest respect to these people. Mr. Edwards' speech was followed by talks from members of the family present, including G. P. Brown of Weathersby, Ansie Brown and Isom Brown, of Riels Creek, and J. I. Brown, of near Magee.

Hon. A. M. Edwards, of Mendenhall, delivered a highly interesting speech, as did Rev. Grayson, of Magee, and Rev. William Coleman, of Weathersby. The Mhoon Quartet rendered songs appropriate to the occasion, which were thoroughly enjoyed.

Other features of entertainment, a reading by little Miss Wiggins, talented young daughter of Mrs. Dora Coleman Wiggins, which

1. Information from Mrs. Sydney Bailey, Mendenhall, Miss.

was followed by a song by little Miss Joy Coleman, "Song Bird of Magee," who charmed her hearers by the talented manner in which she delivered her song.

At noon a bountiful dinner was served picnic style on the tables which had been prepared for the occasion. Immediately following the lunch hour, the crowd re-assembled for a business session and to formulate plans for another meeting, after which a beautiful wreath was placed upon the grave of the man whose memory was commemorated, Samuel Brown. After this a fervent prayer was voiced by Sup't. Ball,¹ after which the crowd was dismissed.

NEELY REUNION.

Another enjoyable fete held twice each year is a reunion of the Neely family of Harrisville. Follows an account of the occasion wherein the birth anniversary of Dr. W. N. Neely was celebrated on Sunday, May 30, 1937:

"DR. W. N. NEELY CELEBRATES 63rd. BIRTHDAY.

The home of Dr. and Mrs. W. N. Neely, of Harrisville, was the scene of a debonair celebration on Sunday, May, 30, honoring Dr. Neely's sixty-third birthday. Ten children and eighteen grand-children, in addition to a host of relatives and friends, participated in the exhilarant affair. Delicious and enticing food from the well prepared baskets filled two long tables in the spacious hall of the Neely home. Glasses of iced tea and Coca-Colas were served at the buffet luncheon.

Those enjoying the delightful reunion were: Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Neely, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Neely, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hawkins, Dink Neely Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Neely, Mr. and Mrs. O. V. Neely, Mrs. J. D. Berry, Jr., Bob Neely, all of Harrisville; Mr. and Mrs. J. McBride,

1. Simpson County News, Vol. 66. No. 10. Sept. 2, 1937.

Crystal Springs and Mr. A. T. Neely, Mendenhall. The eighteen grandchildren present included George Wilkie Neely, G. D. Neely, Walter Neely, Wallace Neely, Evelyn Neely, Arris Kathryn Neely, James Wilkie Neely, Donald Neely, Joan Neely, Junior Neely, A. Q. Neely, Jack Neely, Malone Berry, Sam Berry, David Berry, Dorothy Neely, Glynn Neely and Harold Shorter.

Members of the family not present consisted of Mrs. John Shorter, Mr. U. D. Neely, of Harrisville, and Mr. W. N. Neely Jr., of Dallas, Texas.

Guests of the occasion were; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Shorter and son, J. C. Shorter, Mr. B. M. Hawkins, Mr. James Berry, and Misses Bessie Barlow and Linnie Jewel Berry. Other visitors came in and visited for a while in the afternoon.

Dr. Neely has served the Harrisville community as well as adjoining towns faithfully and consistently for years. He is a friend and servant to all. May the coming years be filled with happiness, contentment, and security for the much loved mother and father.¹

A like celebration is held in August of each year honoring the birth date of the Mother of the home.

HINSON REUNION.

The Hinson reunion was held at the home^{of} George Keen, Harrisville, on May 30, 1937. About eighty relatives were present to celebrate the occasion. The Hinson family is composed of thirteen children, eight daughters and five sons, of which five of each sex are still living.² Nine of these children attended the reunion.

SMITH REUNION.

On September 5, 1937 the annual Reunion of the Smith family was held at the home of Julius Smith, who lives five miles west of Shivers. This occasion celebrated the birth of his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith.

1. Simpson County News. June 10, 1937. Vol. 65. No. 50
2. Simpson County News. June 10, 1937. Vol. 65. No. 50

who was One hundred four years of age on that day. There were five generations represented at the feast, in which were included more than two hundred persons.¹

Other family reunions which occur frequently are with the Touchstone connection, Braxton, The Brinson family, at Mendenhall, and others. At the Brinson reunion on June 6, 1937, more than seventy five relatives attended.

FOUNDINGS are frequently given to the local pastor and his wife, especially when a newly appointed pastor moves into town. (see assignment #6.)

FISHING has always been one of the leading sports of the county. The following tale, taken from an old issue of the Simpson County News, equals, if not surpasses, any piscatorial record of Isaac Walton: "A fishing party from Westville to Strong River consisting of Uncle George Williamson as Captain of the crowd, Sheriff McInnis, Deputy Ed Walker, Col. Joe Walker, Dr. Carraway, Prof. Lomax and our Tom Drummonds. Everything passed off smoothly until the river was reached. There was no boat. The Sheriff, being in the habit of bringing in things when he goes after them, it was decided to send him in search of one. Sure enough in a very short time he was heard coming with one--puffing and blowing like a regular steamer. While out riding on the water, Joe Walker, having been to Sunday school recently, and read where the fisherman walked on the waters, undertook to go to the shore in that style, but his faith not being sufficient he reluctantly went to the bottom. He scared the fish so bad that the entire party did not catch a single one."²

4. TABLE CUSTOMS.

The former custom of the housewife being subordinate to the

1. John D. Smith, Mendenhall, Miss.
2. Simpson County News. Vol. 49. No 32. May 1, 1913
(Reproduced from "Reminiscences" of date of April 21, 1882)

husband in the home, public affairs, and even at meal time is dying out in this generation. (See assignment #6.)

5. CUSTOMS OF DRESS.

See Assignment No. 6.

6. RELIGIOUS CUSTOMS.

One of the oldest and finest customs which has come as a heritage from our fore-fathers and one which is kept in force, is the annual Revival Meeting. These revivals are held with all denominations each year, usually during the months of July or August. The specified time seems to have been set as a precedent by the pioneer citizens, practically all of whom were farmers, and these summer months were the only ones during which the farmer had no rushing duties on the farm.

The revival meetings usually continue from one Sunday through the next and many of the rural churches still adhere to the practice of having dinner "on the ground" each day throughout the period of services. Since the universal use of the automobile, however, this custom of having dinner at the church is rapidly dying out. Possibly it becomes more convenient to return home for lunch after the preaching service than to have the trouble of preparing it and carrying to the church; however, much of the old time spirit of comradeship and neighborliness during these meetings is dying out with the custom.

The baptismal ordinance is also an old custom. Regardless of denomination, members are accepted into the church at frequent intervals during the revival meetings, a record kept of each new member, and the baptismal ordinance performed for all at the close of the meeting. Often the closing day of the meeting is given over entirely

to this ceremony, there being sometimes as many as fifty awaiting baptism of various forms, owing to the doctrine of the church represented.

7. MISCELLANEOUS CUSTOMS.

The "Singing School" is probably the most indulged of any other custom. The earliest well established custom in this line is the "Sacred Harp" singing.

Some years prior to the organized Singing Conventions were the singing schools. Dating back as far as half a century we find records of these schools having been taught, the Sacred Harp being the song book used for instruction. Some of the early instructors in these singing schools in Simpson County were; Messrs. Jim Gentry, Felix Little, David Cook, Jos. Sullivan, Jos. J. Bass and others. The first books used were the four character note books, the characters being "me, fa, sol, la." Most of the songs were composed and written in the minor key. As the times and conditions changed, so the trend in music changed and the later editions of the Sacred Harp are written with the seven character notes and practically all compositions are in the Major keys.

The early teachers were all proficient in the rudiments of music and had especially trained voices for leadership. They taught and taught well.

The Simpson County Sacred Harp Convention was organized at Macedonia Baptist church about 1895. A few of the early leaders are yet living who were charter members of the organization. Among them are J. W. Pickering and Lish May. Mr. Pickering began teaching in these early singing schools when he was only about eighteen years of age and is still quite active in the organization. He studied

under Dr. J. H. Hall, of Harrisonburg, Va. for four years. Dr. Hall conducted schools known as a "National Normal" and has taught in these Normals in some twenty eight states in the Union.

Mr. I. M. May was president of the Simpson County Convention for some fifteen years or more preceding his death early in the Spring of 1937. A brother, Lish May, succeeded him as president.

This County Convention assembles each fifth Sunday, alternating the places of meeting. Once a year a State Convention is held and hundreds of people attend. Just preceding the state meetings district conventions are held in which twelve or fifteen counties participate.¹

These Sacred Harp singings are engaged in mainly by the older people of the county and are most enjoyable affairs. The music does not appeal strongly to the younger generation as they, apparently, desire more "pep" in their music. But there is no more beautiful singing than that rendered by a thoroughly trained group of Sacred Harp singers. The well trained voices are soft, musical, well rounded and their voices blend together as completely as the chimes of a great bell.

PLANTING CUSTOM.

While it appears that science has demonstrated beyond a doubt that the moon does not affect the climate or the weather, probably one of the most universal customs in this county--as in practically all of our great Southland--is that of permitting the changes of the moon to govern the planting of vegetation. With a great majority of the citizens of the county early garden produce is planted in the "old twelve days", that is, the twelve days immediately following Christmas day. Then "good Friday" (Friday preceding Easter Sunday)

Information from J. W. Pickering, Mendenhall, Miss.

is the proper day for planting all beans, watermelons, and all later vegetables.

The custom of selecting these particular days is dying out to a considerable degree. The garden and farm products are planted near this particular time but, not necessarily on the one particular day. However, there are many who still adhere to one specific day for putting certain garden seeds into the ground. And some are so secure in the belief that if weather conditions do not permit planting on that day they do not plant that particular vegetable at all.

CUSTOM (?)

Whether aspiring to political achievement may be called a custom is a debatable question. Be it custom or habit it is quite prevalent, and that some of our law makers have been amateurs in the game is attested by the following:

"The following 'good one' is told to illustrate the verdant green of some men who have aspired and secured seats in the Legislature. Two rural members (names not given but in possession of many who will attest the truth of this incident) the first day the Legislature convened, went into the Library, removed their hats and sat patiently all day, which proceeding attracted the attention of Miss Tucker, the Librarian. Next day punctually, they came again and took their same seats. Whereupon Miss Tucker asked them what they wanted. The spokesman for the couple replied; 'we are members of the Legislature, but it looks like the darn thing is never going to meet'. She told them the Legislature had been in session upstairs two days. But they insisted that they were members of the 'Lower House' and would not move an inch."¹

HUNTING.

Hunting is a favorite sport, or custom, in this county. ~~is~~

1. Simpson County News. Vol. 41. No. 32 May 1, 1913
Reproduced from "Reminiscences" of date April 21, 1882

In former days only the men folks of a community engaged in this sport, but now many women take part in all activities pertaining to them. All sorts of wild game is pursued, from the obscure little "Bob White" up to, and including, the Fox, which seems to be about the last big game left in the county. It was not until three years ago that a regular organization was perfected. This organization is known as "Louisiana-Mississippi Fox Hunters Association." Mendenhall was chosen in 1937 for the field meet, the two prior to it being held in Louisiana. The meet was scheduled for December 5, through December 8. Owing to the most severe weather experienced in this county for several years, the attendance was not as great as had been anticipated, but there were some Two Hundred persons participating in the occasion.¹

Hunts similar to the one above listed are similar occurrences but are spontaneous affairs; a crowd of neighbors and friends forming a party and spending from one to several days in different woods of the county hunting for any game that may present itself.

DIVISION OF FOLK TALES.

In reminiscent moments some of our older citizens tell some interesting stories of the weather of several decades ago. Some interesting incidents were given us by Hon. Bee King, a citizen of the county. The following being told to him by Mr. Jimmie Lee, who died in 1913 at the age of One hundred years.

On April 15, 1847, a snow fell in this and surrounding counties which was eighteen inches deep on a level and drifts reached a depth of four feet. All crops had been planted, corn was up and had been thinned and given a thorough working. Early vegetables

1. Simpson County News. Vol. 66. No. 23. Dec. 2, 1937

were being used from Spring gardens. In the afternoon clouds began rolling up from the Southwest with a cold wind blowing from the Northeast. Soon it began to snow. Within several hours the snow was freezing on trees, houses and fences. All vegetation was killed, many of the smaller trees in the forest being entirely destroyed.¹ Crops were re-planted but very little farm produce was made that year.

In February 1896, the county was hit by a severe freeze, the rain freezing as it fell. Soon trees were bending to the earth with the weight of ice, and thousands had the higher branches broken while hundreds of the smaller trees were utterly destroyed. At that time the county was almost in solid timber growth and the forests were left in devastation. At the home of Mr. Bee King one Red Oak tree, more than three feet in diameter, was killed to the body of the tree, all limbs but one being entirely destroyed.

Mr. King relates that his father owned a rather vicious mule. A young calf escaped from the barn yard and was discovered in the field into which the mule had been placed. Knowing that the mule would injure or kill the calf, Mr. King was sent to bring it back to the barn lot. He says that in doing so he all but froze to death and stumbled and came near falling several times before accomplishing his errand.²

On February 12, 1899 a severe freeze visited Simpson County which, while no more severe in its intensity than the one of 1896, lasted much longer, doing more damage to the county because of its duration. Streams were frozen over to a depth warranting passage of teams and vehicles for more than a week; travel was prohibitive because of the constant breaking of forest growth; live stock and

1. Information from Mr. Bee King, Mendenhall, Miss. Related to him by Mr. Jimmie Lee.

2. Information by Mr. Bee King, Mendenhall, Miss.

wild game were frozen to death, and there became an actual shortage of fuel before it was possible to secure more. Even dead timber lying on the ground in the woods was frozen so that it was impossible to cut it. Older citizens described the weather as being so cold it froze the ears off of "jack" rabbits.

Weather statistics record that it was the longest severe cold known in the county within its history.¹

In the Spring of 1907, foliage on all forest trees was practically full grown by February 14, and the weather remained at growing temperature throughout the spring. More fruit was produced in the county that year than, possibly, in any recorded year before or since for the past half century. It was a season when no calamity of any kind struck the county and nature--imbued with her majestic, yet gentle, power--had the ascendancy.²

1. Mr. Bee King, Mendenhall, Miss.
- Mr. E. Terry, Mendenhall, Miss.
2. Historian.

Alice B. Terry
Alice B. Terry, Historian
Historic Research Project
Simpson County.

December 31, 1937

11
Accepted
L.S. 5
HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

SIMPSON COUNTY

Canvassers: Janie Bond and
Lelah Ross-

COUNTY HISTORY

"Schools of Yesterday"

1. Names of all early schools of the county which preceded, the Public School System of Mississippi.

In the early days of Simpson County there were very few schools. The people lived so far apart that it was impossible for a sufficient number of children to reach the school house from home to justify a teacher to take charge of the school. In some instances two or three people would employ a teacher to teach ten or a dozen children. This was the only means of giving their children the rudiments of an education; and well educated teachers were scarce. Very little interest was taken by the masses in the cause of education until 1845. Prior to that time, occasionally in the later part of the summer after the crops were made, some itinerant pedagogue would take a three month's school. Among the first teachers were: Thomas Ennis, an Irishman by birth. James E. O'Leary, another Irishman, Thomas Thornburg and Ben Thorton.

Beaver Lake school and Rials school were two of the very earliest of the county. Later, we have Braxton Collegiate Institute, at Braxton; Harrisville High School still located at Harrisville, and Westville schools were the three schools that

2
were really considered to be schools Beaver Lake school on the H. A. Brown place was taught by Thomas Ennis. Willis Magee, representative of Covington county about 1850; T. D. Magee, representative from Simpson county and John E. McNair received their early education at this school.

The school house was built of logs and the seats were made of logs, split open with holes bored into them and lags were made of wooden pens. They were sometimes flanked with puncheons, and had a door on each side and a window at the end. The heating system was by wood fires in a stick and dirt chimney.

(This was taken from the Reminiscence of T. L. Mendenhall.)

'Mr. Bee King' of Mendenhall, relates a story that occurred at Beaver Lake school:

'A boy threw a spit ball at another boy. The Teacher asked, "Why did you throw that spit ball?" The boy said, "I threw it at a mosquito." The teacher's back was turned and the boy threw another spit ball, and the teacher asked, "Did you throw that one at the same mosquito?"

One of the oldest and most outstanding schools of the county was at Westville. Among the principal teachers of the Westville School were: The late Governor Whiffield, Judge Clifton Lomax, Reo Dan Wilkinson, and Honorable E. A. Howell. Other teachers were Mrs. Lillian Bishop Lockhart, Miss Katie McLauren, Mr. G. M. Everett, Miss Bessie Butler, Miss Linnie Smith, Miss Maude Cerr, Miss Dodie Williams and a host of others. These were real teachers who inspired their pupils to greater undertakings in life.

Among the pupils who received their High School training at this school are: Mrs. J. F. Thames, Mrs. Nora May Cook, Mrs.

W. M. Lofton, Mr. T. B. Durr, Mr. George May, Honorable Will Williams, Miss Elsie Patterson, Mrs. Kate Bush Hemler, Mrs. Lou McCallum Dent, Byron Bishop, Dre R. E. Giles, Dr. Henry Giles, Mrs. Josephine Patterson Barnett, R. L. A. Ward, E. L. Dent, P. D. L. McLauren, Billy Mathiston, and a host of others.

The house was located on a broad stretch of land. There must have been several acres in the campus; behind the house about one hundred yards was a deep gully where the girls loved to slip off and play.

There were beautiful native trees on the campus; such as, pines, oaks and hickory. There was a green sod always as I remember consisting of bermuda and carpet grass with little blue daisies in the spring that the younger pupils loved to gather for their favorite teacher. The building was painted white with a belfry on the entrance. A pupil rang this bell every half hour, also; swept. These services paid tuition, etc.

This shhool ran nine months; was supported by tuition and all pupils above free school subjects paid tuition the whole term. The lower grades paid except during free term. These teachers and pupils were enrolled between 1890 and 1900.

The curriculum was high enough for pupils to enter the freshman class at the colleges. Some were sophomores, these pupils mentioned; all attended college and most of them graduated from these same State colleges that their sons and daughters attend now. I believe I am safe in saying that more young people attended higher institutions of learning from this shhool than from any other small town in Mississippi.

The G. & S. I. railroad was built in 1900, the town was moved or rather the people moved to the railroad towns.

(The preceding information was secured from Mrs. Gussie May Boggan.)

An accident occurred on the school house lots in 1852, while William Walker was digging a well for the school as follows: The well, was nearly completed at the depth of 72 feet and being a little deeper than was expected it would be, the rope was too short for the depth, and Walker procured a new trace chain and spliced it to the rope next to the bucket instead of next to the crank. He then, ordered a very stout negro boy that assisted him, to let him down, and as the chain was being unwound from the roller, a link broke, and Walker's descent was unexpectedly swift, but it was not the lightning speed that hurt him, so he said, but the sudden stop somewhat addled him, the negro who was not accustomed to such rapid transit, was so badly frightened that he left the crank and started to run off; but T. W. King who was on his way to the school house, being near by, and the negro seeing him, ran back to the well, and in order to ascertain whether the fall had killed Walker, hallowed out, "Is you down dar, Mr. Walker?" to which Walker replied, "Yes, where in the h--l else do you reckon I'd be?" Send me down the rope." He tied the rope around himself, and King assisted the negro to draw him out. The leg that was in the bucket was badly broken, but he eventually recovered and lived several years. Notwithstanding his misfortune he was not deterred from pursuing his avocation and dug a great many other wells.

(This event was secured from the Reminiscence of T. L. Mendenhall.)

Today we find the family of W. R. May; the older boys and girls received their first schooling at Old Westville. One son,

the Honorable George W. May, is a prominent attorney in Jackson. The oldest daughter, Mrs. W. D. Cook, (whose husband is president of the First National Bank, Meridian Mississippi) was for several years State President of the Parent Teachers Association of Mississippi. Gussie May Boggan, one of Simpson County's best loved women has taught in the schools of Simpson County for twenty-five years, and has helped to mold the character for clearer thinking and right living more than any other one woman in the county. (Where you hear (Miss Gussie's) name mentioned you will hear some girl or boy, man or woman tell of what she has done to help them on to a better life. She was a splendid pupil of Westville school.

The Honorable Jim Thames, a man whom the people of Mississippi point to with pride as the politician against whose name and character there has never been a blemish. First, Chancery Clerk of the county at the age of 21; for sixteen years one of the trustees of the State Penitentiary; eight years as Highway Commissioner of the Southern District; and today Superintendent of the State Penitentiary. He and his wife, Mrs. Mary Bishop Thames, received their early education at Old Westville.

There are a number of others who went to school at Old Westville that have made a mark for themselves that we could mention. This is just a few among the many students of Old Westville, who have carved their names in large letters in the affairs of the county and state.

(This information was obtained from
interviews of citizens of the county.)

Braxton Collegiate Institute at Braxton was an Institute

that Simpson county was proud of and it should be, as here, some of Simpson's most outstanding men and women were students.

This school was located on the old Westville and Brandon road. The school was dissolved like Westville after the railroad was built. It was organized by J. T. and W. D. Wallace, two fine young men with a vision for a higher education for Simpson County's boys and girls. As near as we can learn this was about 1890. These young men, after interesting the people in the surrounding community in a school of this kind, built a dormitory for both girls and boys; secured a matron and went out for boarding pupils. The first Matron was Mrs. John Crane and the second was Mrs. J. H. Sheppard. These were the two matrons that served during the life of the school.

Some of the outstanding pupils of this school were; Honorable W. D. Hilton, deceased; and his brother, R. T. Hilton, now resident of Jackson. The Hilton Brothers were prominent attorneys and have done much to help build Simpson County.

Judge Lane of Raleigh, Circuit Judge, of this District and one of Mississippi's most outstanding Christian gentlemen, was a student of this school.

Among others who have played a big part in the political and social life of Simpson County and Mississippi are: Honorable Joe May, Mrs. Mary Barwick Thames, Mrs. Gussie Dent May, Ed Dent, D. C. Cox, Henry Sheppard and many others graduated from Braxton Collegiate Institute.

Among some of the best-loved teachers, and teachers who did much in shaping the destiny of these young men and women were: John Venable, Marshall McCollough, and P. D. L. McLauren,

(This information was secured from A. J. Keen, who

was a trustee of the first school at Braxton, and is now a resident of that town.)

There has been a High School at Harrisville since the early ninties up to the present time. Honorable Greek Rice was one time Superintendent of this school. Harrisville like Braxton had a boarding school and sought boarding pupils. Harrisville and Braxton were rival school and both did fine work. Her graduates wre filling places of trust in many ways as; Lawyers, doctors, teachers, farmers, preachers and executives.

Schools of this kind were bound to have an effect for good on the Communtiy, County , State and Nation. Up until this time the schools of the county were of the poorest, and young men and women with a thirst for knowledge, and whose financial conditions did not let them get out of their own community to go to school, were given an opportunity to receive this education that they so much desired.

(This information was obtained from Mrs
Gussie May Boggan.)

Mrs. J. H. Baker
Supervisor, Historical Research Project

--SIMPSON COUNTY--

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-DIRECTORY

SIMPSON COUNTY
REFERENCES, Assignment #19
SCHOOLS OF TODAY

February 2, 1937

- I. Public School system. Extracts from Biennial Report. 1894-96.
- II. School system. Biennial report, 1901 to 1903. p.p. 12-13
- III. Administration of T. R. Gowan as County Sup't of Education. Biennial Reports. 1874-77
- IV. T.R. GOWAN. R. A. Maddox, Dept. of Agricul-
ture, Jackson, Miss.
Biennial Report 1890-91
Report by J. R. Preston,
1894-95 & 1895-96.
- V. R. A. Whitfield
- VI. J.R. WILLIAMSON Interview with Mr. Williamson
- VII. W. D. WALLACE. by R. A. Maddox, Jackson, Miss.
- VIII. Monroe Ball. Interview with Mr. Ball.
9. J. R. Williamson Simpson County News. Vol. XLII. No. 27
10. Types of Schools Mr. J. G. Chandler of Braxton,
former Sup't of Education in
Noxubee County.
11. Names of racial schools. By Sup't of Education of Mendenhall.
Mr. F. E. Edwards.
12. Madison Ind. Institute M. W. Thomas, Principaa.
13. Adult Education Miss Annie Patterson (interview)
Mrs. Gussie May of Mendenhall.
14. First Aid Mrs. Nola May.
15. Names and location of schools, given
by Principal of each.
16. Consolidation Biennial report p.p. 12 -13.
- Poem by Miss Susie V. Powell, Biennial Report of State Sup't
of Education. p. 126.
17. Parent-Teacher Association by Miss Sue Burton Frenhh.
ex-president of this organization.

SIMPSON COUNTY, SCHOOLS

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18. Faculty Meetings

by Mr. O. L. Garrett, principal
of Grammar School, Mendenhall,
Mississippi.

19. Cafeterias

by Mrs. Bessie Sorsby, first
supervisor of this in Simpson
County.

20. Teachers of Today

by Mr. J. G. Chandler of
Braxton, Miss. former superinten-
dent of Education in Noxubee
County.
and
Mr. B. F. Beauchamp of Mendenhall,
Mississippi, Connected with the
Miller Motor Company.

Mrs. Callie Thames
Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Simpson County
District Five

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-DIRECTOR

Dimple Slay, Wilma Gladney
Canvassers
SIMPSON COUNTY
DISTRICT #5

Assignment #19
"SCHOOLS OF TODAY"

1. PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Mississippi had no public school system until after
the war. At the time of the inauguration of the public
schools the state was in the demoralized condition in
which the results of the war had left her, and was at the
time in the throes of the Reconstruction misrule. The
state was not only dispirited, but was wholly occupied
with meeting the special problems that then confronted
her people. As a result that attention was not paid to
our public schools of proper organizations and proper
standards for teachers as should have been given at this
critical stage.

Review of the last decade.

"For the first fifteen years from 1870-1885. The
public schools, like a transplanted tree, manifested a low
degree of vitality. The idea of popular education was com-
bated openly and covertly, but it won its way steadily and
joined vital force year by year.

"This increased strength was not manifested to any
great degree in the quality of the schools. It showed it-
self rather in the assaults made on the schools because of

(Insertion for report of Mr. J. R. Williamson's second term as serving County Superintendent of Education.)

"The County school board was in session three days recently and reestablished the public schools of the county for the session of 1914 & 15. All the members were present and after a thorough investigation of the Statistical and financial condition of the school business of the county, they would recommend that a little more levy for schools be made by the Board of Supervisors of the county, and that the public term be extended to seven months.

"We now have two and one half mills levy for schools, and with an increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ a mill, making a three mill levy, we can run the schools seven months. One half mill levy more would give us about \$2400, more of school fund and enable us to run the schools the seventh month with a little better salaries for teachers than we had two years ago.

"We are aware of the fact that some people, who are not interested in education, will object to this move and say that the term is now more than they can send to, but they will be allowed to divide the term into five months in the winter and two in the summer; thereby giving the plow-boy a much better chance to attend school. The five month winter term should begin about the middle of October, after the crops are all gathered, and the two months summer term should begin about the first of July, after the crops are laid by. The matter of dividing the term would be left to the patrons and trustees of the schools. Those communities that can run seven months without dividing the term would be permitted to do so.

"Let us see what increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ a mill on \$1000, worth of property in the county would be. \$100 at the present $2\frac{1}{2}$ mills

Page 2 for report of J. R. Williamson-

levy is \$2.50. One half a mill added would make it 3 mills, or \$3.00 on \$1000, worth of property, or 50¢ on the \$1000. Now a man who pay 50¢ more of taxes for schools, and perhaps he will send five children to school that month which would be 10¢ a month tuition for each child, who would think that 10¢ a month tuition for a child would be extortioning? I warrant that the man who would kick on this, has no children to send to school, or he wants to save this expense so that he may buy more licker and degrade himself and his family.

"Another very important matter was considered by the School Board. It is the matter of delinquent poll tax payers in the county. All of the money that is collected as poll tax in the county is for schools alone and not for bridges, roads, court house, and etc. You see the importance of collecting the poll tax. It is the negroes, principally, that do not pay their poll tax, but they want free school and contend for schools. The white people of the county are responsible for the negroes not paying their poll tax, in that they work our lands largely and we do not pay their poll tax and let them work it out with us in improving our farms.

"The negroes are willing to pay their poll tax and work it out with us, if we will only explain it to them, by telling them, that their poll tax will go to their school. The present school board of the county will not extend any better opportunities for negro schools until the negroes "come across" with their poll tax. And in those negro communities where the land is owned by white men and they will not aid in collecting the poll tax from their hands, the school board will abolish that negro school entirely.

SIMPSON COUNTY, SCHOOLS

Page 3 of J. R. Williamson's report.

"Our tax collector may do all that he can to collect this delinquent poll tax, but he cannot collect it unless we assist him. I herefore, now, appeal to every citizens of the county to join in this move, especially those men who work negroes on their farms. Now, we believe that every good citizen is in favor of this move for the betterment of our schools, but it will take a co-operation of all interested to make this a success; so I appeal to all to join in, the work of poll tax collection, and I ask all, who will do so to send me his name as members of an organization for this purpose.

"Now you who have read this will please send in your name at once. Don't wait, because we expect to publish a list of those who join the move in about two weeks.

"Yours for better schools and a longer term,

J. R. Williamson,
Co. Sup't Ed.

Foot Note: Simpson County News

August 6, 1914

Vol. XLII, No. 27

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their inefficiency, and in the annual changes in the law which prevented organic growth. The schools were kept pretty much without plan. What one Legislature enacted the next modified or repeated. Still the public school came as a suppliant to every succeeding legislature, and though its voice, was weak it had in it the appeal of the multitude who knew that the only hope of educating their children lay in this feeble and dependent instrumentality. A crisis was reached in 1886 and the legislature of that year made a complete revision of the school law. The prominent new feature of the law thus revised were; uniform State examination a system of school districts, institutes for teachers, violation of the schools by county Superintendents to fix salaries according to the size of the school, the grade of license held and the executive and teaching capacity of the teacher, granting to smaller towns the privilege of becoming separate school districts and of levying a tax or issuing bonds to build school houses and provisions for the prompt payment of teachers salaries!

"The laws of 1886 remained practically unchanged for ten years."¹

1. "Something should be done to make more effective the office of county Superintendents. As it is now the salary is so small that competent men cannot be secured, for their full time. The county Superintendent should be most skilled and best technically trained teacher in the county. His duties in main consist of two parts: First, his office work, which is

¹ Extracts from Biennial Report of State Superintendent of Public Education 1894-96- Through the courtesy of the State Library, Jackson, Miss.

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doing the ordinary clerical work of grading papers, making contracts, issuing pay certificates, keeping records, etc. In addition to this he should devote all his spare time to working out systems of grading programmes for his teachers, planning courses of study and otherwise doing that work which is necessary for all intelligent work. Second, he should spend a large portion of his time visiting schools, instructing the teachers in regard to their work, holding patrons, meetings to discuss educational and technical training necessary to do this work a Superintendent cannot be secured for his whole time at even the maximum salary that now permits to be paid. Our town schools are striking examples of the great benefits derived from skilled supervision. In business, enterprises the success of the business depends more upon the executive head than upon the subordinates. I consider this a most important question, and I hope that it will receive the careful consideration of the Legislature."²

1874- G. W. FARLOW, Superintendent.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

No. of youth of legal school age.	2,131
" " Public schools	24
" " Private school	2
" " pupils enrolled in public schools	890
" " " " private schools	40
" " " attending State Normal schools	1
Average attendance in the public schools	600
No. of teachers employed in the public schools	25
" " first grade schools	2
" " Second grade schools	24

² Information secured from Biennial Report, 1901 to 1903- p.p. 12 & 13.

SIMPSON COUNTY

No. of schools visited	1
Aggregated value of school property	\$338.00
No. of acres of sixteenth section land unsold	4,480
" " " " " " " " leased.	5,288
Probable no. of public schools which will be in operation during the scholastic year 1874-5	24

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Amount of county tax for school house fund.	\$540.00
Amount collected (including principal and int,) on loans of school funds.	\$ 30.70
Amount due on loans of school funds and leases of school lands.	\$959.91
Amount expended for building and repairing school houses.	\$168.23
Amount expended for teachers salaries	\$3,189.25
Average monthly salaries of teachers.	57.00
Amount expended for salary of county Supt.	\$400.00
Amt. expended for free scholarships at Universities	\$100.00
Total expenditures for educational purposes	\$8,457.48

1877- ROBERT JOHNSON

SCHOLASTIC STATISTICS

	Males	white females	colored
No. of educable children in the county	1636		976
No. in school during scholastic year	545	463	
Average mo. enrollment	406	369	
No. of teachers employed	25	13	
No. of schools taught	47		
Av. mo. salary pd. teachers	\$20		
" term of school in days-	48		

FINANCIAL STATISTICS-

Amt. rec'd from State Tax	\$1219.48
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Amount received from county tax	\$1100.00
Revenue from other sources	95.87½
Total revenue from other sources, (including taxation)	\$2415.35½
Salary of Superintendent	\$80.00
Total amt. pd. teachers	\$3364.00½
Miscellaneous expenses	
Total amount of expenditures	\$3444.00½
Value of school sites, buildings and furniture.	
Value of library and apparatus. ³	

T. R. Gowan was County Superintendent of Education in Simpson County in the early years of the Public School System of this state. During this time, there was practically no progress made in the Public School System. Early in his administration, there was no written examination required of teachers to secure license to teach. An oral examination was given and license issued from this examination. After a few years, the Legislature passed a law requiring a written examination of all teachers, which system is still in force. Upon the death of Mr. Gowan, the Reverend R. A. Whitfield, a Baptist Minister, became County Superintendent; and my information is that the most outstanding contribution of his administration was conducting the Teacher's Examination strictly as required by law- so much so that a great many referred to him as requiring a rigid examination. During this period, the only support the school received was a very small appropriation from the state. There was no county levy to either supplement the teachers' salary or the length of the school term. So, the school just rocked a-

³ Information secured from Biennial Reports- 1874-1877- given through the courtesy of the State Library, Jackson, Mississippi-

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long on whatever funds that could be obtained from the State.⁴

"The school finances of this county are in a satisfactory condition with the exception of an outstanding indebtedness of about \$2,500, which was incurred during the scholastic year of 1889-90, by reason of the law transferring all funds accumulating after the first of October 1890, to scholastic year of 1890-91. The board of supervisors, at their August meeting in 1891, levied two mills to pay this indebtedness but it will not be sufficient by one-half. I recommended four mills, the scholastic year of 1890-91 leaves no indebtedness.

"Teaching corps is advancing in point of literary qualifications, under the present system of examinations, but there is no extra-ordinary manifestation of zeal and interest in the work, with a few exceptions. But few accessions from colleges and high schools. A few have had professional training. Every examination shows improvement, but methods of teaching are of slow progress. Comparatively they read but little educational literature. Only one third-grade white teacher, and about five third-grade colored.

"School houses are not altogether in as satisfactory condition as they ought to be. The improvements made on old buildings are generally of an inferior nature, not calculated to endure. I would suggest a one mill levy to be distributed to the different districts on condition that each district would supplement the amount by private contributions. An appropriation of \$200 a year would be a good plan to secure necessary school furniture.

Institutes--- Institute Fund.
Institute fees received for scholastic year 1889-90

⁴ Report from T. R. Gowan., by Mr. R. A. Maddox, Department of Agriculture, Jackson, Miss.

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THIS amount.....	\$19.00
Number institutes held,	12.50
Balance on hand.....	6.50
For scholastic year 1890-91 received this amount	35.50
Number institutes held, 10.....	25.00
Balance on hand.....	11.50

"Text-books. In compliance with an act of the Legislature of 1890, I give below a list of the books adopted by the Simpson county text-book committee on the 6th day of October, 1890, to-wit:

"Swinton's word book, Robinson's progressive primary arithmetic, Monteith's first lessons in geography, Robinson's progressive intellectual arithmetic, Robinson's progressive practical arithmetic, Monteith's introduction to geography, Monteith's manual of geography, Hansell's school history U. S., Hansell's high history U. S., Hansell's penmanship series, Hansell's tracing books, Reed & Kellogg's graded lessons in English, Reed & Kellogg's higher lessons in English, Lippincott's reader, Knox-Heath's language lessons (part 1 and 2), Lockwood's lessons in English.

High Schools- "There is but one in the county, located at Westville Prof. H. L. Whitfield, principal. This school was organized in September 1891, and is now in a flourishing condition with an attendance of one hundred pupils, and it is believed to be on a permanent basis.⁵"

School Fund-- Under the old system of raising revenue to carry on the public schools, there was always a deficit, and our

⁵ Information secured from Biennial Report, 1889-90 and 1890-91. p.p. 274-275-276

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schools often not averaging a term of more than two and one-half to three months. The boards of supervisors were absolutely unreliable for making the necessary levy to carry on the schools for months. The State distribution, under the present system is sufficient to run four months at remunerative, not exorbitant salaries. The condition of our county indebtedness is such at this time as to require an extra levy for five months term, but after next year, which will close up all outstanding school claims, the sentiment of the people will favor a five months' term. The claims alluded to were occasioned by our not getting our July distribution, of 1892.

"Progress of teachers.. The qualifications of teachers are at least introducing the present system of examinations, and, of course, their ability to instruct and to manage a school is much greater than before. The effect of the present system has been to incite professional study, and to urge teachers to make a specialty in preparing themselves to stand the examinations for the higher grades.

"Teachers' Library... Nothing has been done in this direction for two reasons: first, the Institute fund, previous to this year, was not sufficient, and second, the winter schools for 1892-93 were all closed and teachers gone before the proposition was made to ask them for an individual contribution towards the library. But at the end of the first month of the winter schools of 1893-94, I expect to ask and urge each teacher to make a small contribution to this important work: and I have good reasons for believing that by next spring I shall be able to order a library for each race.

⁶ "County Institutes.. Our Institutes were held last summer, be-

⁶ Information secured from Biennial Report 1891-92 1892-93- p.p. 283-284-285

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ginning July 31; and continued five days each- white and colored. Professors Trawick and Tappan conducted the Institutes. The percentage of teachers attending, who were teaching in the summer schools, was about ninety of those who had taught during the winter, only about twenty-five per cent, attended, owing to the fact, mainly, that they were scattered off into other counties, and some attending the summer normals. It is not extravagant to say that the teachers and the people were delighted with the Institutes, and the teachers, especially, say they were well remunerated on their time devoted to the Institute work.

"Secondary Education.. There are not separate school districts in this county and no colleges. There are three or four schools which claim to be high schools, at least they have adopted the name of high school and possibly they may be entitled to it in a limited sense. These schools, seem to be progressing, and there appears to be a growing sentiment amongst the people in favor of local high schools, and in favor of high-school education. But one thing I notice, there is not a full fledged graduate at the head of any of them, and the first assistant is generally an ordinary first grade teacher, with little experience.

School districts... I think the present law in reference to districting the county is about all that is necessary-but I do not think any limitation should be put upon children going out of their districts to other schools where they may get better instruction.

"School Houses.. The school houses, with a few exceptions; are about as comfortable, and about as well equipped as could be expected in a poor country-but still there is room for improvement, and the people are becoming more earnest in endeavoring to

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provide good houses than heretofore.

"Books.. The adopted books are all the books now used, but I cannot say that every pupil is well supplied; on the contrary, I am satisfied many are kept back for want of books to enable them to advance. Some parents are very dilatory about this matter, and seem to fail to realize the importance of investing money in books. In visiting the schools, I seldom fail to lecture upon this and kindred topics.

Public Sentiment... The sentiment of the people in this county is favorable to public schools. If there is any opposition I do not hear of it. In traveling over the country, among the schools, I have generally made it a part of my business to contrast the present system, and its advantages with no system at all-- or with the old system of private schools... only five or six in the county remaining from three to six months during the year, and the amount of illiteracy then as compared to now, and the manner of providing a school fund for the education of the masses, and the advantages to the poorer classes, together with the present advantages of obtaining a collegiate education, at a moderate cost, etc. The people have come to understand these things tolerable well, and hence all objection is banished from the minds of those who do not believe in the doctrine that "ignorance is bliss." Parents of the rising generation see that by not giving their children the advantages of a practical education they are robbing them of that which the law provides they should have in order to become good citizens, thus, they make them "poor indeed."

STATISTICS FROM REPORT 1894-1894⁷

⁷ Information from Biennial Report of State Supt. of Education 1886-1887.

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1887- 1889 T. R. Gowan Supt. Salary.....\$150.00
 (Gowan served until 1892: succeeded Whitfield)
 Salary Supt. 1891 \$240.00

	92-93	94-95
R. A. Whitfield, Supt. 1892-1896	Salary\$235.00	\$300.00
J. R. Williamson Supt. 1896-1899	300.00	

(From the report of T. R. Gowan, County Sup't, to State Supt. for session 1888-89)

Recommended that enumeration of educable children be made in November by the county supt. and his deputies rather than by the assessor, in order to assure a more accurate list of educables.

Reported 21 new school buildings during past two year,-15 frame and two log/ five hundred ninety dollars and thirty seven cents was reported as being made available in the school-house fund and \$270000 as being spent out of this/ Patrons reported as being willing to supplement the building fund out of their personal funds/

Reported that the sixteenth section funds in the county yielding practically no revenue for the schools, the funds having been loaned out and lost at an earlier date/

"Salaries for 1888-89 had to be reduced because the supervisors refused to make sufficient levy to pay the expenses for the previous year/ Salaries for the next year would also have to be kept low to balance the budget/

"Report approved the new system of uniform examinations for teachers. The teachers' institute being held during the summer was also approved of/ His opinion was that all teachers ought to be required to attend these institutes/

An examining board consisting of the county Supt and two teachers was also recommended to the state department/

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The following list of text books was given as being uniformly used in the schools of the county:

Webster's Spellers
 Swinton's Word Book
 McGuffey's Readers
 Davies' Arithmetic
 Monteith's Geographies
 Swinton's U/ S/ Hist
 Steele's Philosophy and Physiology
 Webster's Dictionaries
 Butler's Grammar
 Quackenbos' Composition/

Reported that there were no high schools in the county/ About eleven districts/ supplemented free term by private funds. Simpson in 1887, the term was thirty days longer than in 1886 and cost \$211 per month less, a saving of \$844.

General statistics for Simpson County 1885-86

No/ educable children	White 2298	Colored 1220	Total 3448/3518
Av/ daily Attendance	" 1006	" 689	" 1695
No/ teachers employed	White-male 26: Fem/ 19-45;	Col/Male14: Fem/4--18	

~~Compare with number of teachers employed today)~~

Av: no days taught;	40 days
Expended per capital on Educable children	\$1.07
" " " children enrolled	1.76
" " " on av/ attendance	1.25
Av/ salary teachers	White \$30.60 Col. \$20.66
Co/ Supt's salary	\$100
Gen/ statistics for 1886-87	
No/ educable children	white 2298 Col 1220
Av/ Daily Att/	845 Col 491

SIMPSON COUNTY, SCHOOLS

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No/ teachers employed white: 53 Col 14

Av/ Daily Att/ 845

Expended per capita on enrollment \$2.83

" " " av/ att 4.23

Av/ sal teachers White \$25.00 Col/\$20.21 (21)

During 1886-1887 not a single state license to teach was issued to a teacher of Simpson County, most license being obtained by examination at the county sites/

Among the interesting things in the report of the county Superintendent in 1887 to the State Superintendent are the following items:

1/ The public school system becoming popular in Simpson county, supplanting the private schools in most instances/

2/ Supervisors should be required to provide enough money to maintain a free school for at least 5 months each year/

3/ Not more than seven schools of the county should require more than one teacher.

4/ County supt/ furnished his own office desk and other equipment

5/ 27 frame school houses and 12 log houses in good condition; desks and blackboards in each/

6/ County Superintendent did not favor the appropriation of money by the county for building school houses; the patrons should do that for themselves/

7/ There was enough money in the treasury to pay for 1st month and half the second/ Other warrants were sold by teachers for 90 cents

down to as low as 60 cents on the dollar/
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, H. L. Whitfield, principal⁸

"Westville high school is situated at Westville, the county seat

⁸ Inf. from Biennial Report of 1889-90 & 1890-91.
p. 361

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of Simpson county. It is now enjoying the most successful season of its three years' history. Five teachers are employed, including a music teacher.

The enrollment for the present session has reached 147. The school is graded, but has a great many elective studies after the seventh grade. The course is so arranged that students can be prepared for the Junior Class at the university.

"A normal class is taught for the benefit of those in the public school.

Three classes in Latin- first, second and third year. A course in elementary Algebra, complete algebra, geometry and greek. Classes in Anglo-Saxon and general history will be organized.

"The school is a private one, but embraces four months public school."

R. A. WHITFIELD, County Supt. of Education- 1892-1896⁹

"Progress of Teachers--There is evidence of greater proficiency among the professional teachers than heretofore existing. It is encouraging to note their advancement for the past year, owing to a rigid compliance with the terms of the law on the part of both examiners and teachers. There is now a persistent application of their minds to the study of the text-books, and examinations do not seem so "hard." During the past year's visit of the Superintendent to the schools of the county, he felt greater satisfaction with the teaching force. There is yet room for further progress.

"Teachers' Library--As yet we have no library for teachers' use. We have a small institute a move was made looking to establishing a library. Nothing practical has been done, to this date.

⁹ Information secured from Mississippi Public School report, by J. R. Preston, State Supt. Pub. Education-- 1894-95 & 1895-96. p.p. 348-351

SIMPSON COUNTY, SCHOOLS

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The average attendance for the first and fourth months is generally small, owing to parents detaining their larger children at home to assist them in the cotton fields part of those months.

"High Schools-- There are no chartered institutions in this county. The following named come under head of 8 to 10 months schools, to-wit:

Braxton--Principal, M. L. Polk; postoffice address (now) Cato, Miss. Number of pupils enrolled--pay term--63

Note: The principals for 1895-6 are Professors J. D. and J. T. Wallace; Postoffice, Braxton, Miss.

Westville,--Principal, E. A. Howell; postoffice address (now) Westville, Miss. No pupils enrolled --pay term--56.

Note: the principal for 1895-6 is Prof. L. H. McInnis; postoffice address, Westville.

Pokal--Principal, P. D. L. McLaurin; postoffice address (now) Pokal, Simpson County, Miss. No. pupils enrolled-- pay term--49.

Note: The principal for 1895-6 is Prof. P. D. L. McLaurin; postoffice address, Pokal, Miss.

ADDENDA

The present (1895-6) enrollment of each is:

Braxton.....	64
Westville.....	33
Pokal.....	49

"Sixteenth Sections--In 1893, the board of supervisors of Simpson County contracted with T. L. Mendenhall, Esq., to make abstracts of titles to sixteenth sections in this county.

"Mr. Mendenhall, took up each sixteenth section by townships

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We hope there will shortly be one, since a lyceum has been organized and is at work.

"Lyceum.. A lyceum has lately been organized and has held its first meeting with fine prospects for practical good. Judging by the character of the teaching force now in our county, we believe the lyceum has "come to stay."

"County Institutions. Our institutes for both races were held last summer for five days, beginning August 12. Profs. W. T. Foster and H. L. Whiffield were the conductors. Their labors were faithfully performed and with unmeasured good to the teachers. Twenty white and eight colored teachers were all that attended. Many others would have been present and desired to do so, but their time was short, and patrons wanted their children to lose no time from school, as the children must help their parents gather the crops. Prof. Foster, in his report says, "The work and interest of the teachers were of a fine type. The entire session maintained a high type of intellectual work."

"It is hard to understand how county institutes can be dispensed with, since they give a new impulse to the teaching force.

"Secondary Education--There are no separate school districts in this county. There are three good schools whose sessions, embracing the free term, are 8 to 10 months. They are not chartered yet, under the principalship of excellent young men, first grade teachers, they are doing fine work, and are of vast benefit, educationally, to our county. Other localities desire to have long term schools, but the stringency of money matters among our farming people is an obstacle at present. We think, however, that one or two communities will fall into line and build up permanent schools in the near future.

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in order, and showed what disposition was made of it.

"His report is on record in the chancery clerk's office in record book No. 12, page 427. He merely states that in 1846, the school commissioners, appointed for the purpose of looking after the sixteenth sections, leased several of these sections to various parties--the latter sub-leasing or selling to others; and since the year 1872-- when the courthouse, with the records, was burned up--there has been according to this statement, no record on file of transfers from original lease on down to the present time.

"Those sections that were leased in 1846 for 99 years, consequently the lease expires in 1945. Other sixteenth sections were leased later on than 1846, for 99 years, also.

"The Treasurer's report of this, October, shows that eight (8) of the sixteenth sections out of the sixteen fractions, in this county, yield a small revenue of \$179.40.. on a sale lease in the aggregate-- for \$1,794.00.

"These sections are in T.1, R.2, T.1, R.3, T.2, R.2, T.2, R. 3, T.2, R.4, T.10, R.18, T.10, R. 20, and T.10, R.21. As to the remainder (eight and fractions) we may say that they are lost to the schools, and school funds.

"It seems from the report of the contractor--referred to above-- that he did not undertake to make a thorough investigation of titles to the sixteenth sections, as they now stand. I do not know that he was required or expected to do this, but he gave a history of each, as far as he could ascertain.

"An extract from what he has put on record in record book No. 12, page 427, accompanies this paper.

"As matters now stand, I cannot say whether there is any

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"School Districts.. The district system still holds good. No one reasonable objects to this system. The great trouble in this county is, we have too many school districts. An effort was made the past summer by the school board to bring about some consolidation voluntarily on the part of the patrons. None paid any attention to the appeals of the board. Had the board undertaken the work alone it would have created friction that would have taken years to remove.

"School Houses.. Our people are on the up-grade in building school houses. It is now a very rare occurrence that a log "pen" is put up as a school room. The few houses that have been built in the past three years are built of framed lumber and weather-boarded. Some are ceiled within. Most of them use stoves; the balance fireplaces. The rooms are rendered comfortable for wintry weather as far as possible with the hard-worked farmers. There are as yet a few old make-shifts--old log huts--among the colored population, but we think, ere long nice frame buildings will supplant these. Our greatest complaint with most of the school houses is the lack of sufficient writing conveniences. We have urged this to be remedied, but it seems to be a slow go so far.

"Text Books.. The adopted text-books are universally used in this county. Our text-Book committee made very slight changes. A few children have been found unsupplied with any kind of text-book. Poverty is their excuse generally, but sometimes indifference about the matter on the part of the parent.

"Popular Sentiment toward public schools.. We hear no complaint, nor opposition, in this line. The poor people realize this system to be the best and cheapest means of giving their children something of an education within their grasp. Out of the four-months' term there is barely three months' real good done.

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hope of realizing anything from the lost sixteenth sections till A.D. 1945, when leases expire."¹

J. R. WILLIAMSON 1896-1900.¹⁰

"My first term as county Superintendent of education of Simpson County covered the period from 1896 to 1900. This was during a time of extreme backwardness from an educational standpoint in this county. The consolidation of schools, transportation of pupils, improvement of buildings and equipment, training of teachers, and other developments of recent years had hardly been heard of by the average citizens.

"The buildings used for school purposes were generally built of logs and, when ceiled, were ceiled with rough edge lumber in most cases. In most school houses the furniture consisted only of seats which were locally constructed; there were no laboratories, libraries worth mentioning, or other aids now considered necessary to the proper or efficient operation of a public school.

"In point of numbers, Simpson was well supplied with schools. There were in all seventy-four schools in the county, one in walking distance of all the children in the county. However, these schools were generally served by only one teacher each; there were a very few which employed as many as two and a few in which three were required. Only three of these school attempted high school work, these being located at Braxton, Harrisville and Westville. In these schools only five teachers were employed.

"The salaries of school employees in the county were unbelievably low when we consider the salaries being paid generally over the state at the present time. Salaries for colored teachers

¹⁰ Interview from Mr. J. R. Williamson, Mendenhall-

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were \$13.50 per month and for white teachers were \$18.50 per month. The school term was generally four months a year, however, a good many schools operated only three months a year. It is true that the high schools kept the schools open as long as eight months.

"The school at Braxton was conducted as a boarding school, having at one time two dormitories accommodating out of community students both boys and girls. The course of study for the high school was such as was constructed by the school heads themselves without any reference to state standards. Colleges did not require certain units of credit or other standards to be met for entrance to those institutions.

"The support of the educational system of the county also reflected the lack of local interest in the subject of the training of its future citizens. The total amount available for the common schools averaged about \$8,500 a year. The county Superintendent received as low as twenty five dollars a month and never over thirty. However, he was not forbidden to be engaged in other work during the term of his office."

J. A. KENNEDY

"The administration of J. A. Kennedy was about the same as previous County Superintendents. The money received for the support of the school was direct from the state and not enough to run the school four months in the year and pay decent salaries to the teachers. It was during the administration of Mr. Kennedy that I became a teacher. I would say that the most outstanding event of his administration was that a campaign was put on in the county through the newspapers and by speech making to secure a county levy of 2 mills to supplement the teachers'

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salary and give a six months school term instead of four months. This, however, was not achieved until the administration of Walter Wallace.¹¹

W. D. WALLACE, Superintendent, 1905-06 and 1906-07

"We have a six months school term at present, but are very hopeful of getting the term lengthened soon.

"On an average our school buildings are very poor, only three modern buildings with anything like the necessary equipments in the county, while we have fifteen or twenty so called high school buildings, then the others are very poor, indeed. There are about sixty-six white and thirty-five colored school buildings, (though the report I am making is on white schools only.)

"We have a local tax of two mills levied for schools for the scholastic year of 1907-08, but only had one and one-half mills for 1906-07. There are about fifteen teachers that have taken the summer normal course. It is imperative that we have more trained teachers, in fact, if we do not get them the educational work will suffer, and very soon at that. First, of all, let us have the State Normal school as a remedy for this evil."¹²
R. A. MADDOX.¹³

"When I became County Superintendent of Education in Simpson County, practically every rural school in the county divided the school term, teaching two months in the winter and two months in the summer. The first year I was in office I abolished this system. There was not a rural school in the county that was ceiled or had patent desks. The school grounds were not properly cared

¹¹ Report given by Mr. R. A. Maddox, Jackson, Miss.
¹² Biennial Report ..p. p. 88-89.
¹³ R. A. Maddox's report of his own administration.

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for, no flowers or shrubs planted. We had no such thing as boys club work. What we then termed Field Day Exercises was unknown. This was the day set a part for all the schools of the county to select representative for the county meet that was held some place in the county, usually at Mendenhall except for one time in Magee. This exercise consisted of declamation, spelling tests, reading test, in fact, all subjects taught in the schools; foot racing and other things pertaining to athletics. At this time we also offered and gave prizes for the ax-handle and hoe-handle or other farm shop work. The girls were given prizes for the best work in sewing, etc.

"There was not a rural school in the county that had a library. Before I left the county Superintendent's office, practically every rural school was equipped with a library suited to its needs. I was instrumental in the building of the Piney Woods School for Negroes, which is across the line in Ranking County and which at that time was a line school supported by the two counties.

"The teaching personnel of the county was made one hundred per cent better in that a more rigid system for holding teachers examinations was established, thereby, raising the standard of qualifications. Every Teacher in the county subscribed to the Mississippi Education Advance. They were a member of the County Teachers' Association and each year some book on teaching, or school management or school organization was studied and taught each month in the meeting of the Association.

"But the most outstanding thing accomplished during my term in office, was the building of the Agricultural High School at Mendenhall. It was a hard fight. We defeated three attempts at

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I canvassed the county three different times to keep the election down, and made eighty-three speeches, in the various communities. We finally won and the school was established stayed in existence twenty-four years during which time more than six thousand students passed through the institution. I will list accomplishments as follows:

Divided school term abolished.

Rural school building ceiled.

School grounds cared for and beautified.

Desks put in the rural schools.

Boys and girls club work organized.

Field Day started.

Prizes offered for farm and shopp work.

Libraries put in rural schools.

Instrumental in building Piney Woods School for Colored boys and girls.

Built Agricultural High School for White boys and girls.

Standard for teaching qualifications raised.

Established a course of study for teachers to better improve their qualifications.

Spent one half day each term in every school to assist teachers in organizing and classifying the pupils.

Assisted the teachers in organizing and classifying studies.

The next term was served by J. R. Williamson of which we failed to secure any information. Salary, \$1,244.50

The next term was served by Tommie Williamson (1920-24) of which have no report. Salaries-1920-21 \$1,790.04
1921-22 1,951.68
1922-23 168.00

MR. MONROE BALL-14

14 Report given by Mr. Ball for his administration.

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"From October 4, 1923 to January 1, 1932 Monroe Ball very efficiently served Simpson County as Superintendent of Education.

During this administration, rapid strides were made toward the consolidations of schools in fact it represents the greatest period of consolidation, and building program in the history of the county, including administration buildings and teachers homes.

During this 8½ years, Magee, Dixie, Harrisville, Fairdale, Union, Braxton and Mendenhall A. H. S. erected school buildings. At a total cost of approximately \$200,000.00. Two dormitories and a Home Economics building were erected at the Agricultural High School costing \$32,000.00.

Teachers homes were built at Shivers, Harrisville, Mt. Zion, Union, Martinville, Magee and Dixie at a cost of approximately \$15,000.00. The total cost of all buildings during this administration was \$240,000. This expense was met by local levies on the districts, and by the issuance of bonds. Liberal aid and cooperation was given to the introduction of Library facilities. Sanitary toilets were built where ever possible with local funds. Teachers salaries were raised from about \$40, per month to an average of \$75.00 per month. The school term was never less than eight months, not including the negro schools."

His salary per month was an average of \$175.00. Mr. Ball is a man Simpson County should feel proud of. No one has ever been more interested in the upbuilding of the educational system of the county than he.

Through his untiring effort, every rural boy and girl in Simpson have the same opportunity to acquire a high school education as the ones who live in town.

We can truthfully say Mr. ^{Ball} made one of the best Superintendents the county has ever had.

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Mr. Ellis Buckley was County Superintendent in the years 1932-36, no report has been secured.

Mr. Floyd Edwards is now serving Simpson County as County Superintendent of Education.

2. How County Schools are Financed.

"The schools of Simpson County are financed largely from the per Capita distribution from the state, from the state equalizing fund, and from the tax levied for county common schools. Other sources of income usable either for general or for local school purposes are funds collected from sixteenth section, poll taxes, taxes on the property of local districts, and tuition paid into school districts for pupils attending from out the districts concerned.

"For the session 1935-1936, Simpson County received from the per capita state distribution the sum of \$28,494.68. This amount was calculated for the county on the basis of the number of educable children in the county according to the enumeration provided for by law. This fund is paid directly into the common school fund of the county and paid out by the county Superintendent in accordance with his contracts with his teachers and transporters. The per capita distribution to the county is by no means constant but varies according to the amount which may be appropriated by the state legislature for school purposes and according to the number of educable children in the county.

"At a special session of the legislature in 1936, some changes were made in the method of distributing the per capita and equalizing funds to guarantee an eight months term, a salary scale for teachers being set up by the legislature. Simpson county at its December meeting of the supervisors raised the

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county tax levy from six to ten mills to qualify for this guarantee. It is estimated that the amount to be received from the equalizing fund for this session-1936-37 will be approximately double that received last session.

"The per capita distribution will not, of course, be affected by this legislation.

"The purpose of the equalizing fund is to assist the poorer counties of the state applies especially to Simpson. Her lands denuded of its virgin forests are given a very low valuation in assessment for taxation and consequently the revenues derived would be greatly insufficient to operate the schools on an efficient basis. Last session the amount received by the county from this source was \$31,530.75; this was by no means sufficient for the proper maintenance of a reasonable term in the county schools. It is estimated that under the new legislation the amount to be received from this source will be in excess of a sixty thousand dollars.

"The third principal source of revenue for the school system is the county common school tax. The assessed valuation of the county is approximately three millions of dollars; the sum to be derived from this source tax will accordingly be about thirty thousand dollars. This seems to be a small sum to result from a tax as large as ten mills; the low valuation referred to causes this.

"A small sum is received annually by some of the schools of the county from sixteenth section rents and loans. The total amount received for 1935-36 was \$1688.70. Out of sixteen such sections in the county it seems that there is no income from eight of them. The records show that money originally credited

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to the townships from the leases of 1845 were in many cases loaned and lost because of poor securities or for other reasons. No appreciable increase can be expected from the use of the school lands of each township until the ninety nine year lease shall have expired and new disposition made of the property represented by these sections.

'The collection of a poll tax of two dollars on each adult citizen provides a sum of about \$6000.00 a year for the common schools. This amount is fairly constant varying somewhat during the years on account of the ability of citizens to pay the tax. Election years usually show a larger collection of poll tax, since there is a general desire to vote.

'The various consolidated school districts make a local levy for their own local needs and to supplement the amounts received from the county for their support. This levy ranges from three mills to as high as thirteen and a half mills on the dollar. The total amount netted by all the consolidated school for the session 1935-36 was \$24,367.64. All this class of schools were able to maintain their schools for eight months during the past session.

'There are only two separate school districts lying wholly in the county, one at Braxton and one at D'Lo. A part of the Mt. Olive separate district lies in Simpson County. The separate districts receive their funds directly from the state and from local taxes just as the county does. They also receive a pro rata share of the poll taxes collected by the county.

'The payment of money out of the various funds is the duty of the county superintendent in the case of all common school money in the county treasury. The trustees of each school are

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Vested with the authority to disburse the funds collected by local taxes.¹⁵

3/ "The types of schools in Simpson County may be listed as follows: Special Consolidated, Separate School districts, and grade schools. Some of the latter are located in small towns or villages, but most are in the rural sections.

'There are four Special Consolidated school districts in the county, three being located in towns on the railroad and one in the county, off the rail road. This particular type of schools is formed by the union of two or more larger schools and has powers not granted the smaller school. In most cases grade schools are conducted nearer the homes of the patrons and high school pupils transported to the central high school.

'There are two separate school districts in the county; only one of these is doing high school work. This unit is separate from the county system so far as its direction and support are concerned.

'The remaining white schools of the county may be classed as grade schools or rural schools. Only the first eight grades of common school work is attempted.

'There are no private or parochial schools operations in this county.

(b) 'The only races served by the public schools of this county are the white and the negro.

'The negro schools have not reached the high degree of development reached by the white schools. Most of these attempt nothing beyond the grades; their terms are generally shorter.¹⁶

¹⁵ Information given by Mr. J. G. Chandler of Braxton, Mississippi.

¹⁶ Given by Mr. J. G. Chandler.

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(b) "The educational task of the South has been deeply influenced at every stage and in every phase by racial conditions/ The presence of the negro is to-day responsible for 62 per cent of the illiteracy/ The question of mixed schools was a stumbling block in the inauguration of public education during the reconstruction period/ After the victory of home rule the fact that the colored child as well as the white was to be provided for by taxation explains much of the apathy toward the cause of common schools/ The matter of apportioning funds between the races according to the revenue paid by each was raised during the recent campaigns for local taxation/ Racial stress together with the bitter experience of Reconstruction tended to make the Southern white man sensitive; his attitude toward life and thought beyond his section has too often been unresponsive, and such a state of mind can hardly be regarded as favorable to a vigorous intellectual life/ These conditions warrant a more optimistic interpretation of the advance in education than the bare facts would otherwise suggest/ And nothing justifies that optimism more than the progress of the negro race itself, for after all conflicting views of the negro's capacity have been heard, it remains unquestionable that negro illiteracy has declined from 79 per cent in the population of school age in 1880 to 27 per cent in 1912/ What are the means by which this result has been accomplished?¹⁷"

The negro schools in Simpson County are listed as follows:¹⁸

1. Broomfield... four mi. east of Mendenhall.
2. Byrd..... East of Pearl.

¹⁷ Information secured from Biennial Report.
p.p. 281-282

¹⁸ Information given through the County Superintendent of Education's office. Mr. Floyd Edwards, pre-Superintendent.

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3. Camper Chappel... 3 mi. south of Pinola, Highway 21.
 4. Center Ridge.... 2 miles south of Harrisville.
 5. Cockrell..... Five miles Southeast of Mendenhall.
 6. Goodwater..... Two miles from Goodwater.
 7. Harper..... Northwest, three miles from Bridgeport.
 8. Haw Pond..... Twelve miles southeast of Mendenhall.
 9. Jappasville..... 3 miles Southwest Magee.
 10. Hemp..... On Magee-Puckett road, 7 mi. north of Magee.
 11. Lee Bell..... 2 miles southeast of Mt. Zion.
 12. Lilly Hill..... 3 miles southwest of Shivers.
 13. Little Rock..... Direct south of Magee, 2 mi. south of Coat Highway 49.
 14. Madison Industrial Institute.. 2 mi. W of Mt. Zion.
 15. Magee, Suburbs north of Magee.
 16. Mendenhall, $\frac{3}{4}$ mi. north of Mendenhall.
 17. McNair, N. E. of Magee, three miles.
 18. New Hymn, Union.
 19. Mt. Salem, four miles NE of Harrisville.
 20. New Pilgrim, north of Union four miles.
 21. Pine Ridge, between Palestine and New Pilgrim.
 22. Pinola-Pilgrim Rest, near Pinola.
 23. Rock Pisgah, extreme north eastern part of county.
 24. Shiver-Jane Chappel, one mi. east of Shivers.
 25. Shiloh, near Jupiter church.
 26. Spring Hill, across river near Strong R. Park.
 27. Taylor Hill, $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. from pleasant hill church.
 28. Union, $3\frac{1}{2}$ mi. north of Pinola.
 29. Zion Hill, about six mi. southeast of Mendenhall.
- BLUNDER OF COLORED PEOPLE.¹⁹

¹⁹ The Westville News Weekly, Vol. XIX, Oct. 29, 1891- No. 49.

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"That our people have eyes but cannot see, ears but cannot hear, the things which pertain to their welfare was clearly exhibited in a transaction which passed off, about one week ago, in the form of an Association at Zion Hill Baptist Church, Simpson County, Mississippi.

"Every since I can recollect, gatherings of this character have been participated in by the poor, heavily indebted, slavish-like, negro for one purpose of accumulating money to send young men to the Ministerial College, to educate them for the ministry. If there is any success in this course of movement for them, it is high time it was reached and those young men sent to the college; if the delay is much longer, these old, illiterate, revealed-like, spiritually informed kind of preachers will die, and leave the pulpit empty; then we will have no kind unless they come from some other source or part.

"We had the pleasure of having with us, this year, one young man who had finished the Normal course at Jackson Ministerial College, and he told us that he is going through the Biblical course if his hopes do not blast. This young man is winning his way to completion, by his own efforts, his exertion and not that of some corporation, association or individual. This shows on its face that if any of our young men, from our immediate vicinity, wishes to fill the pulpit with an educated brain, he will have to pull off his coat roll up his sleeves and push himself through the expensive difficulty.

"I taught school, this year, about two miles from the above named church I was told by pretty reliable authorities that the larger portion of the people are inverted...heels over head, in debt, and there groaning as it were under big deeds of trusts, mortgages, &c.

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"Doesn't this plainly bring to view why they have failed, and also why they will continuously fail to collect money to send young men to the college on such a method? The expense of the plan eats up the profit, the last error more than the first.

"I hope sincerely our white friends may or will lengthen their patience to help the better element of the negroes to show intellectually and financially weak and maimed one that they cannot walk successfully in paths leading to association, conventions and protracted meetings as the white people.

"Since the emancipation, I dare say that if the colored people had manifest as great an ambition to acquire homes, educate their children and pay their debts, as they did in trying to imitate the whites in those things, they fall far too short to attempt to repeat, they would have startled, the result of most of our undertakings is like that of the man wandering after a star, fell into a pit."

G. H. Gardner,

Jupiter, Miss. Oct. 20, 1891"

Narrative on Schools-1937.

"We have twenty-nine schools in the county, and forty-six teachers. Pupils in the county schools about 1800.

Several of the schools have made a splendid record since I entered the county twenty-eight years ago. It seems that the one-teacher schools, are not making much progress. It is a very hard hill to climb since our chances are very poor. We have no special levies to help us to do anything, therefore, our school terms are only six months sometimes. By so doing cause our children to attend school two terms to complete a grade. (Terms are too short) We need better qualified teachers

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since the salary is so meager, most of our graduates seek work in other vocations. Our summer school help some, but the group of teachers are not able to attend these schools.

Some of our pupils have to walk five or six miles to school. Since education is one of the most important steps to success all children should have equal opportunities to attend school at least eight months a year. Any ignorant neighbor is a dangerous character.

We have improved in our sanitation in many instances. As a whole, we are short in this particular, because, several of our homes do not have the proper things to stress its need and value.

Having been deprived of the WPA's help and other agencies it seems like we are almost a forgotten factor.

I remain for a better school system,
M. W. Thomas"

"The Madison Industrial Institute²⁰ is a four-room structure frame building, with auditorium. An estimate cost about \$2,000, equipped with 45 benches and desk, a very misfortunate incident occurred by someone stealing four tables, one library case and books. The school has no transportation facilities. Grades run through the eight, and 48 subjects are taught. The Junior grades are the ninth and tenth with four subjects each. The special courses given are household arts, domestic training, physical culture and some community extension work.

Having a very heavy student enrollment with a limited group of teachers we cannot do the work satisfactory."

(c) Since the first of January the adult education program under

²⁰ Information given by M. W. Thomas, Principal of the Madison Industrial Institute.

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the supervision of Miss Annie Patterson is making rapid progress. Miss Patterson with the help of five white teachers and three negro teachers has the county pretty well covered with an enrollment of about four hundred. This work is one that has been needed for a long time and it is work that will not be thoroughly effective until all people of the last two generations have been enrolled and there because of the fact that it is an effort to keep up with the changes in the times, it is a project that would work well as a permanent thing. This program needs more publicity and when it can, get a sympathetic and unbiased hearing, it will be one of the best works of the time.

Those who are now working in this program are:²¹

Miss Patterson, Supervisor, and First Aid.

Miss Julie Allen, Music.

Mrs. Lula Allbritton, D'Lo, Home Making.

Mrs. Addie Magee, Mendenhall, Home Making.

Mrs. Zula Walker, Mendenhall, Home Making.

Mr. Guy Little, Pinola, Soil Conservation and Reforestation.

Colored:

Nathalia Lenoir: Domestic Science.

Medry Mangum: Literacy.

James M. Harper: Literacy.

During 1936 Mrs. Nola May was employed on this project as First Aid²² teacher. During this time 425 were enrolled in First Aid classes, 300 of this number received standard First Aid Certificates and 10 received Junior certificates making a total of 310. This course is one that every man, woman, boy and girl should take

²¹ Information given by Miss Annie Patterson, Pinola, Mississippi.

²² Information given by Mrs. Nola May of Mendenhall, Mississippi.

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when the opportunity is given, because some time in their life it might mean a saving of someone's life. At the present time Miss Patterson is teaching first aid, and a better work could not be carried on.

'Adult education is an old work Christ taught adults. Paul taught we are teachers so long as we continue to learn methods as time changes.

'Home Mission work make good appearances, tactful men and women; adult illiterates are embarrassed. They do not want to be exposed in their ignorance. Give them something they need that will help them out through life, give an air of progressiveness, go into their home and know their lives.

'The aim of Adult Education in Simpson County is to eradicate illiteracy and thereby, develop a richer and fuller life.'

'Approximately 700 Simpson Countians, above the age of 16 years of age, were given an opportunity to further their education through the E. R. A. emergency education program, of 1934-35. Of this total number 475 men enrolled in classes in the field of General Education. Nine teachers were employed to carry on this great work, and their contributions were many considering the handicaps under which they worked. A teacher's course for teaching adults was conducted at State Teachers College in August, 1935; eighteen teachers were sent from Simpson County. According to the Census of 1930, the population of Simpson County, above 10 years, was approximately 15,509. Number of illiterates by counties in Mississippi as July 1, 1935, based on U. S. Census of 1930 shows Simpson County to have 210 whites and 1,244 negroes

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that could not read or write. During the session of 1933-34 twenty-five whites and 200 negroes were taught to read and write. In October, 1935, our total enrollment was 587. In 1934-35 every adult teacher in Simpson County was a member of the State Teachers association, and an effort was made to arouse a feeling of personal and group responsibility for providing educational facilities for adults, particularly, for those handicapped by illiteracy. Several of our classes put on a Radio Program in Jackson, that being the nearest broadcasting station.

'In 1935 every beat in the county had two or more adult schools. About once each month we would have a night meeting. State Superintendent W. F. Bond, Hon. Kerby Walker or Supt. E. C. Buckley would meet with us. All of the Superintendents of different high schools cooperated with us and would visit our classes often and always make good talks. The adults were always glad to have them come.

'The results achieved in all adult educational efforts are dependent upon the receptivity of the people. To secure ^{results,} receptivity must be developed in those who are to be reached. This appreciation can be aroused only by relating the learning experience to the daily life and activity of the individuals.

'All the teachers of Adult Education in Simpson County during 1934-35 are glad to have had part in teaching these classes, and we wish to acknowledge the fine spirit of cooperation, so splendidly given in this program.

'We trust that the fruits of these efforts will be felt in the years to come, that our people as a result, thereof, will be more enlightened and will make better and happier citizens of

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our great county'.²³

4. "There are hundreds of citizens of Simpson County who do not realize the extent of her educational system. Many do not know just what is spent yearly for the education of our children. As a matter of fact, last session we collected from every source the vast sum of \$176,583.00. This was State Distribuiton, Municipal levies, County and District levies. Our enrollment was more than \$25.00 for each child enrolled in the schools of the county.

"I wish that every patron of the county knew the personnel of our teacher. SIXTY-ONE teachers have had one or more years in College. There are 26 college men and women with college degrees. So far as the records show in this office, we have two teachers in the county who have only a rural education. There are few counties, if any, that has a more outstanding record so far as efficiency in teaching is concerned. May I say in this connection, that it will not be many years until every grade teacher will have to have college training or the equivalent. Though there are thousands of teachers who never had the opportunity of attending college, and doing a wonderful work.

"We may say that her 18 consolidated schools speak for themselves. Their splendid buildings, teachers homes, and libraries and other equipment point toward a greater work. We now have two one-teacher schools; one two-teacher school and two three-teacher schools. Some of those schools are knocking for admission into consolidated schools. We transported more than 2000 boys and girls last session. This really carried the schools to the children, this giving the county child the same advantage as that given the town children. We are now facing

²³ Information given by Mrs. Gussie May, Mendenhall Miss., 1st supervisor of Adult Education in Simpson County.

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the demand when every child gets equal opportunity. This advantage can come only through the equal term offered by the consolidated school.

"Simpson County is justly proud of the fact that her schools ran a longer term and paid an average salary above that of any adjoining county. This showing could never have been made but for the undivided cooperation of her citizenship, the trustees and the splendid corps of teachers. In fact, I am not sure but that much is due the teachers. Their efficiency and untiring efforts has gone a long way toward making such marked changes possible, toward making sentiment for better schools.

"But buildings, money and equipment are not the ends to be attained. The real end in view is the finer development of her young manhood and womanhood, the making of better bitizens, the making of more useful Christian workers. That patron, that teacher, that citizen who fails at this point falls far short of the end to be attained in all our efforts. If honest-to-goodness citizens is the result of our educational efforts, the whole-hearted Simpson Countian will not be disappointed, neither will he express regrets at the cost.

"I hold out the greatest anticipation for the continued success of 1927-28, realizing that we have a task. Nothing can possibly thwart a work that means so much when every shoulder is to the wheel, when every citizen is a booster.

"May our schools, the factor that means most for our children, be uppermost.

"Yours for continued success,

Monroe Ball, Sup't."²⁴

Later developement of Negro schools.

²⁴ Secured from Simpson County News, September 29, 1927- Vol 56

About the only development of the negro schools in the past several years has been toward sanitation, better building and equipments. However, there is still plenty of room for improvement.

Today with the twenty-nine negro schools we have in the county only two that are doing Jr. High School work, these are: Madison Industrial Institute, and New Hymn, both are doing creditable work.

(a)²⁵ The year of 1923 marked the beginning of consolidation of Schools in the county. One, two and three teacher school dotted the county over. Most of them having too many pupils for one teacher and not enough for two, usually teaching 7 or 8 grades from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon. Even though pupils and teachers struggling under this handicap, pupils rapidly advanced, some of them getting a foundation that has enabled them to stand at the head of their class in high school and even on through college.

Numbers of pupils had to walk 6 or 8 miles daily to school. The writer speaks from the standpoint of experience, having been one of those pupils who walked six miles daily to school while getting a grammar school education, and also having taught a one-teacher school three years, teaching seven grades consisting of 40 pupils with an average of about thirty-five all the school term. The schools of the county has been consolidated until today we only have nineteen in the county not including the negro schools.

Modern school busses transporting the pupils from home to school has added thousands to the enrollment and has brought edu-

²⁵ Written by Supervisor of Historical Research.

cation to the door of hundreds of children. The old wagon way of transporting pupils is numbered in the past. Bus lines have been installed at all consolidated schools in 1930 we only had one one-teacher school; today, all are consolidated.

Special consolidated schools are the predominating factors in development, will bring greater efficiency near the masses, and will go a long way toward carrying education to rural communities. Through super-consolidation economy may be judiciously practiced, thus, holding expenses within the means of the least wealthy sections of the county, and making it possible for every advantage given the rural communities. Pupils are as efficiently fitted for work, and having as adequate advantages as does the towns and cities. In fact, through the system of super-consolidation there is but little difference in the city and country school.

Consolidation;²⁶ Its advantages and practicability discussed at length. The policy of other Southern States.

"Its advantages and practicability discussed at length.

"A report for the improvement of the rural schools in Mississippi, would be incomplete without the suggestion of the vast improvement that might be made in the way of the consolidation of small schools... The original dist have been divided and subdivided until the number of schools has been increased three-fold or more until the possibility for efficiency has been diminished in the same proportion...

"...Ten pupils taught by a \$40-salaried teacher costs the State \$4.00 per pupil per month. A rate tuition 100 per cent higher than it costs to educate a pupil in the best schools of the separate districts....

²⁶ Biennial Report, p.p. 12 and 13.

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"With fewer schools as a result of consolidation the possibility for better supervision is greatly increased. Close supervision is a necessity in an efficient system of education and with the schools located as they are it is a matter of impossibility. How can a Superintendent in the period of the brief school term visit with any sort of satisfaction to himself or good to the system the number of schools under his supervision?

"Summarizing the benefits to be derived from consolidation we find some of them are:

1. Fewer teachers are required so better the teachers may be secured and better salaries paid.
2. Children are in better schoolhouses where there are better heating, lighting, ventilation, and more appliances of all kinds.
3. Pupils work in graded schools and both teachers and pupils are under systematic supervision.
4. Better opportunity is afforded for special work such as music, drawing and manual training.
5. Cost per pupil is reduced and efficiency of instruction is increased, This includes cost and maintenance of buildings, apparatus, furniture and tuition.
6. Pupils are benefited, by a widened circle of acquaintance and culture.
7. The school becomes the chief center of concern in the dist and thereby, the whole population is drawn together by a community of interest.
8. Free distribution of mail is being extended by the National Government in the rural dist of Miss. If the pupils

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should be transported at public expense it will make possible a daily distribution of mail through the district.

9. "Finally, with splendid schools the farm becomes the ideal place for the bringing up of children, enabling them to secure the advantages of a good school and social life to spend their evenings and holidays in the country in contact with nature and in work instead of idly loafing about town.

"Eighteen states have adopted the principle of consolidation with most satisfactory results."

(a & B)²⁷ The year of 1909 under an act of the Legislature an Agriculture High school was secured for the county to be located at Mendenhall, the first session of school was 1910-11.

Rapid strides marked the development to a most noticeable degree. Many hundreds of boys and girls were given an opportunity that could never have been given had the A. H. S. not been offered. This school continued for ^{24 years} this was the first school in the county to offer Home Economic instructions, in fact, the only one for several years.

This Home Economic department well-fitted for developing the girls into better home-builders teaching them the important art of cooking and sewing, the most essential lessons to be learned for home-making.

In 1933 the Agricultural School was abolished and a Smith-Hughes school established. Today we have three Smith-Hughes schools in the county; namely, Mendenhall, Harrisville-Pearl, and Magee. Hundreds of boys and girls are receiving the best of training in industrial development through these schools.

²⁷ Written by supervisor of Historical Research, S.C.

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It is certainly commendatory of the school officials that the best fitted teachers are employed. Connected with the schools we have the County Agent and Home Demonstration Agent. Through these agents the work of better home making and better farming is carried into the school communities, and by so doing the very best methods are carried direct to the Home. Sponsoring this work is perhaps, the most effective method of getting a real program to the people.

With such system of school the county officials are lending every effort possible to make this section ideal. With such in mind, there can be nothing greater advocated.

(d) We have no Jr. Colleges in Simpson County.

5. Names and location of schools in the county.

SCHOOL HOUSE CLEANING

"Come, Come, we must hurry," the teacher cries,
When the days grow short and the summer flies.

"The house is really in such a state,

We all must work both early and late.

There's company coming; for fall is here---

And brings the opening of glad school year

And fit for the bonny eyes to see,

In apple-pie order the house must be. "

"Then first we come with brisk new brooms,

And brush for out-door sweeping,

All whistle as clear as black-bird's trill,

While we beat and shake with a right good will;

And brush the webs from the ceilings high,

And sweep the nooks and corners dry,

Till the dust is gone and dead leaves fly;

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And we answer the calls of teacher dear
With words both quick and willing.

"Next into the clean swept room

With mop and pail we come skipping.

With skirts tucked up from ankles neat,

And rainbow smiles for all we greet;

We follow on with spatter and splash

Whenever we pause the big drops dash,

Till the house is shinging from sill to sash,

And the windows bright in the sunshine flash,

And the very walls are dripping.

"Last of all with cheeks abloom,

We hand the pictures and tidy the room,

We polish the floor to a dazzling sheen,

And hang the curtains so neat and clean;

With touch of fingers deft and rare,

We see that books and desks are right;

And set our flower-bowls everywhere

With buds of freshet clipping.

"Now we are ready," the teacher cries;

The children may come with their bright young eyes,

And fresher and fairer than ever before,

The house will sparkle from ceiling to floor,

When the bell rings out for school once more."

(Adapted from "Spring House Cleaning" by Margaret Johnson,
by Susie V. Powell, for us on "Clean Up and Beautify
Day."

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(a) Magee Super-Consolidated high school is located in the town of Magee. This town is one of the most outstanding in the county and has at present one of the successful schools in Simpson, a beautiful brick structure as it now stands. A few feet from the main school building is the auditorium, also, a beautiful brick structure well equipped, with a seating capacity that will accommodate several hundred people. The approximate cost of these buildings is \$50,000. The school building has splendid equipment throughout, including a library of about 759 volumes for grade and high school. Transportation facilities include nine busses. These busses bring in high school pupils from Mott, Old Hickory, Dixie and Goodwater and of course numbers of Grammar School pupils outside the walking limit of the school.²⁹

Students attending Magee high school can get any course offered in any high school in a city. Eight elementary grades and four high school grades, employing 21 teachers, and about 700 pupils attending.

The Home Economic Department, provides adequate study pertaining to food, clothing, child care and training, health and nutrition, as well as home improvement; family relationship and personal grooming.

The Agriculture Department offers an interesting course in shop work or manual training. This study provides the construction of library tables, chairs, book cases and all other necessities needed in schools and homes.

The business training department, gives one the adequate instruction for the business world.

The music department is very outstanding and consists of a

²⁹ Given by Mr. Bett, Supt. of Magee School, Simpson County.

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Band under the direction of Mr. C. W. Wood. Piano, Violin, voice, Glee Club, and expression are also taught. There are many clubs in high school such as: Girl Reserve, Boy's Hi-Y Courtesy Club, Debating Club, Glee Club, and Science Club, also Recreation Club.

Playground activities number as follows; Football, Basketball, volley ball, soft ball and general activities for lower grades, swings, slides, etc. A great deal of enthusiasm is manifested in the athletic department.

SHIVERS elementary school is located in the little town of Shivers in the extreme southwestern part of the county. A frame-building that cost approximately \$2500 when it was built. The house is badly in need of repair especially a new top. The patrons and teachers hope to have the old building torn away and replaced with a new one, with the aid of the WPA in the near future. Equipments are very good during the two terms Mr. J. A. Warren has taught there, at least he is teaching his second term great improvements have been made. A locker has been built in each room for library and at present they have a standard required library for each grade. Through the untiring efforts of Mr. Warren a curtain and stage setting has been acquired at a cost of about \$140.00, the first they have ever had in this school have modern school busses transportation for transporting the children to and from school. The high school pupils are transported to New Hebron High school. Eight grades are taught employing three teachers and they have enough pupils for another teacher if they had another room.

Under special courses only private music is taught. Extra curricular activities. They had a splendid 4-H Club boys and

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girls play ground activities have basket ball team, boys and girls; and general activities for smaller pupils. The playground is not equipped with modern amusements for lower grades.³⁰

Pinola Consolidated High School is located in the town of Pinola, a beautiful brick structure that cost approximately \$30,000. This school has good equipment throughout each room, also, has a 350 volume library for high school work and a standard library for each grade room.

Nine up-to-date school busses furnish transportation for rural pupils.

From the beginners department through the twelfth grade, the teachers have splendid cooperation. Twelve teachers are employed, for work in the Senior High classes, the special courses consist of music and typing.

The Extra curricular activities consist of Girl Reserve and Boys Hi-Y, and an active 4-H club for boys and girls. The play ground activities are basket ball, foot ball, soft ball, swings, slides and other amusements for lower grade children. They have a well-equipped laboratory in connection with courses taught in science, botany and chemistry, under the capable supervision of P. O. Nelson. Pinola is one of the most outstanding superconsolidated schools of the county and is doing creditable work.³¹

PINOLA PROGRESSIVE HIGH SCHOOL³²

"The High School's in our town! whoop! whoop! hooray!
It surely is the liveliest thing that's ever come this way.

³⁰ Information given by Mr. J. A. Warren, Sup't of Shivers High School.

³¹ Information given by Mr. P.O. Nelson, Sup't of Pinola High school.

³² Poem secured from Simpson County News, July 30, 1914 Vol. XLII. No. 26.

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A fierce and fightin' enemy of every thing that's bad--
The high School's the staunchest friend this town ever had.
Whoop'er up! High School! an' join the happy throng
That's goin' to this school, and boost the thing along;
Line up, or you'll be gobbled by the haunt that's round about!
Fer IGNORANCE'LL git you

 Ef You
 Don't
 Watch
 Out!

"Once there was a grouchy man that wouldn't sent to school;
The Gobble-uns jes' tied him up an' hid him in a pool.
An' onc't there was a lecture an' this grouch he wasn't there--
"Haven't time to go," he growled, "to nothin' anywhere."
But onc't there was a circus in a great big circus---tent;
He had the time to spare that day, an' so you bet he went.
An' the gobble-uns'll grab you,
 Ef you
 Don't
 Watch
 Out!

"Daddy an' ma say to SCHOOL US Kids must go,
Aunt Lizzie says that she'll be there with her six kids an' Joe.
Look jes' like ev'ry body is a goin' to tend' the thing
The whole town shouts, HIGH SCHOOL! until the echoes ring.
Whooper up! High School! an' join the happy throng
That's goin' to this school, an' boost the thing along;
Wake up, or you'll be gobbled up by IGNORANCE round about!
Fer IGNORANCE'll git you
 Ef you don't watch out

Your patronage earnestly solicited,
J. F. Miller, Principal, PINOLA, Miss."

Weathersby School³³ is located in the little town of Weathersby

³³ Information given by Bessie and Ruby Smith, teachers of Weathersby school.

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and even though Weathersby is the only two-teacher school we have in the county its pupils are doing splendid work under the capable supervision of the Smith Sisters, Ruby and Bessie. They have been teaching this school for a number of years.

The building, a small two-room frame structure costing approximately \$2,000. It is in good condition and has good equipment they have only a meager library, but the pupils still are ^{not} deprived of good books to read. Miss Ruby Smith states that she checks books each week from the county library returning them at the end of the week and getting a new supply.

Only eight grades are taught, each teacher having four grades. They have no transportation except for high school pupils, and they are transported by bus to Mendenhall,

There is no music teacher employed, but the Smith sisters teach the pupils to sing, and they are successful by doing so. Chapel exercises are held every Friday morning in the church as they use this for the auditorium.

Mott school is located nine miles northeast of Magee. It is a frame structure costing approximately \$2000. Equipments consist of forty home-made chairs for primary grades and twenty double desk for higher grades and a nice teachers desk for each room.

This school has no library, and no special courses are taught.

Three modern school busses are used for transporting the children to school. The high school pupils being sent to Magee. Eight grades are taught employing three teachers.

Play ground activities include basket ball, soft ball, and games of general recreation for small children.³⁴

³⁴ Inf. given by Wilburn Smith, Sup't of Mott School.

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Mendenhall Consolidated school is located in the town of Mendenhall, the county site of Simpson. At present a new brick high school building is being constructed. The elementary school is a brick two-story building; has average equipment and a library. It has splendid bus transportation facilities from rural communities. The beginners through the eight grade is taught in the Grammar school and the ninth through twelvth are taught in the high school.

Private and public school music is taught in both schools. Special courses are taught in agriculture, commercial work, Science, Shorthand, typing, household arts and Domestic training. Mendenhall School boasts a splendid band, one for which ever citizen of the town and community are proud of.

Curricular activities; In this the HI-Y, Boy Scouts, and Dramatic club play an important part. In fact this school, or rather the High School and Grammar School are equal to any in the county, and ever course is being taught that is required to give a complete course from the beginning through High school, and with its corps of twenty-four college trained teachers is serving for a splendid purpose.

Basket ball and foot ball are the outstanding and most interesting sports for the high school. The grammar school play ground consists of swings, slides, etc.³⁵

Everett school³⁶ is located in the northern part of the county about seven miles from Mendenhall. A concrete building, fair equipment, meager library, truck transportation; from first to the eighth grade are taught. The high school pupils are

³⁵ Inf. given by Prof. Monroe Ball of Mendenhall, Miss.

³⁶ Information given by Mr. J. W. Strong, Sup't of Everett.

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transported to Mendenhall. With three splendid teachers Everett is one of the most successful small schools in Simpson County.

Martinville Grammar School is located about six miles east of Mendenhall, it is a frame building with poor equipment, meager library; but has good truck transportation facilities. From the first to the eighth grade are taught and high school students are transported to Mendenhall. Martinville is a six teacher school and the place is a very thriving community.³⁷ The recreation is poor, and no special courses are taught.

Braxton School is located in the town of Braxton. The school building was burned in 1936 and a modern brick structure is being erected at this time and will be completed in the spring. Of course, they have no equipment or library at the present. Only make-shifts are being used until the building is completed which will be one of the most up-to-date school buildings in the county. From the first to the eighth grade are taught. The high school pupils attend Mendenhall high school. Braxton boasts a four-teacher school, although they have been struggling under adverse circumstances, having had two school buildings burned in the last few years they never shirk, but are pushing upward and onward, and their little school and community stand out as one of the best in the county.³⁸

Union Consolidated school is located on the Pinola-Georgetown road, a beautiful brick structure that cost approximately \$109,000. Each room is well equipped for educational purposes.

The school³⁹ has a 700 volume library, divided into a li-

³⁷ Inf. given by Sup't of Martinville, School.

³⁸ Inf. given by Sup't Joe K. Moore of Braxton School

³⁹ Inf. given by Brinciple of Union School.

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brary for each room as needed. Three modern busses transport the children to school from ever corner of the district. High school pupils go to Pinola. Five teachers are employed for the tan grades that are taught.

They have an active 4-H Club and Hi-Y. General playground equipments for lower grades.

This school is one the most successful schools in the county and is doing creditable work under the leadership of L. D. Spell, Superintendent.

Old Hickory school, about five miles northeast of Magee is a frame structure costing approximately \$5,000. It has fairly good equipment. Four school busses transport the pupils to Hickory and the high schools pupils go to Magee.

A four hundred volume library furnish reading material for this school. Only eight grades are taught, employing six teachers.

Playground activities include basket ball, and we might say that old Hickory school furnished the county's champion team of girls basket ball for several years. Other recreation activities include soft ball, base ball, and general games are furnished for the younger children of lower grades.⁴⁰

Goodwater School⁴¹ is located in the southern part of Simpson county. At present it serves the people of the community only as a grade school, the first eight grades of common school work being taught. The pupils in the high school grades are transported to a central high school in the town of Magee.

⁴⁰ Inf. given by Z.B McAlpin, prin. of Old Hickory school

⁴¹ Inf. given by Mr. Claude Mangum of Goodwater school.

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The building is of frame construction. It was built about ten years ago, is of good repair and contains six class rooms. It is painted and presents a pleasing appearance both from the outside and the inside. The building and equipment are valued conservatively of five thousand dollars.

The equipment is modern in most respects. There is well filled grammar school library with a value estimated at \$600.00. The enrollment is about one hundred twenty pupils, practically all of whom are transported on four school busses. This school is under the efficient direction of Superintendent C. S. Mangum.

Besides the regular curriculum of the school various extra-curricular activities are engaged in under the supervision of the school faculty. These consist mainly of 4-H clubs, basket ball, volley ball, play-ground ball, etc.

Dixie School⁴² is located in the southern part of the county on old highway, number 49. It boasts an excellent school plant, well adapted to the needs of this rural community. The building is of brick, built in the shape of a T. Its original cost was twenty thousand dollars. This school is practically new in its building and equipment, the building having been constructed five years ago.

About a hundred seventy five pupils are enrolled in Dixie school, all of whom are in the first eight grades of the common school. The high school pupils are transported to Magee for their work. Three busses are employed to transport the pupils in the grades to Dixie school, each bus carrying about forty pupils.

The equipment is modern consisting of good school furniture, and an excellent library of about five hundred volumes valued at

⁴² Inf. given by Mr. Vardaman Flynt, prin. of Dixie school.

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\$500.

Besides the regular curriculum of the school various extra-curricular activities are engaged in under the supervision of the school faculty. These consist mainly of 4-H clubs, basket ball, volley ball, play-ground ball, etc.

The school is conducted under the able direction of Mr. Vardaman Flynt.

D'Lo school⁴³ building is a two-story brick structure. The first story is used for class rooms, office and library. The second story is the auditorium with two wings that formally served as class rooms when the attendance made this necessary, but, now they are closed unless attendance at school functions need more space, the doors fold back and make the auditorium large enough to seat at least one hundred more people. There are two rooms adjoining the stage, dressing rooms used by music and expression teachers as students. The basement fully equipped formally served the home economics and science department on the north side and the primary children on the south. There are adequate shower baths for boys and girls and lavatories.

The library and science department are fully equipped to meet the needs and requirements of the pupils. The building as it stands cost \$30,000. This school does not pay transportation for the children. The county pays for conveying the children in the Bethany community for they are not in any school district. They are transported in an automobile owned by whomever the county superintendent gives the contract to.

The school is fully accredited, graduates enter any college in the state without examination. There are twelve grades in all;

⁴³ Information given by Mrs. Gussie May Boggan a teacher of D'Lo High school.

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primary, elementary, Junior High and Senior High.

There are no special courses offered now. When Pinkbine Lumber Company operated their big plant here we had special courses; Home economics, music and expression. A full time teacher to each course. But now the school plant is just a skeleton of what it once was, yet it still keeps its academic place. There are 4-H Clubs in the school but no other club sponsored by the school.

The discipline is in the hands of the teachers and trustees, not the students.

Harrisville Super-Consolidated school is located in the western part of the county, and is a beautiful brick structure. Harrisville school stands out as one of the leading schools. It was made a Smith-Hughes school in 1927; the first in the county. An additional vocational frame building stands near the main building for agricultural lessons and experiments. Two teacher's homes have also been added in the past few years, all at an approximate cost of (\$40,000) forty thousand dollars.

The high school department has a very good library, and each grade room has its individual library. Nine modern school busses furnish transportation, and fourteen teachers employed.

Eight elementary grades are taught and four years high school course.

Special courses are taught in Home economics, manual training and music, debating clubs as well as Hi-Y and girls reserve play an important role in this school.⁴⁴

Pearl School is located in the extreme northwestern part of

⁴⁴ Information on Harrisville and Pearl schools was given by Mr. L. H. Kendall, Vocational Agriculture teacher of Harrisville school.

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Simpson county, twelve miles west of Harrisville, a two-story frame structure. Pearl is one of the most thriving rural communities in the county, and boasts a splendid elementary school. It has very good equipment throughout.

Each room has its own required library. Bus transportation is used for this school, the high school pupils are transported to Harrisville.

Only eight grades are taught at Pearl, employing three teachers. No special courses are taught a usual routine of playground activities are carried out at this school, no special playground for lower grades with equipment.

Bridgeport school⁴⁵ is located in the southeastern part of the county and one of the most progressive. The building is a two-story frame structure costing approximately \$4000. This school has splendid equipment in each class room, and also has an auditorium which makes it very convenient.

An adequate library furnish each grade valuable reading material.

Two modern school busses furnish transportation facilities. Only eight grades are taught. The high school pupils are transported to New Hebron High school. The enrollment is about 90 pupils, employing three teachers.

General playground activities are enjoyed by all.

(For negro schools see (b) under 3.)

6. (a) The Parent-Teacher Associations of Simpson County⁴⁶ play a very constructive part in the welfare of the children.

⁴⁵ Inf. of Bridgeport School given by Sup't of Education in Simpson County, Mr. F. E. Edwards.

⁴⁶ Inf. Of Parent-Teacher Associations given by Mrs. Sue Burton French, Mendenhall Miss. an ex-president of that organization.

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All meetings are for the one purpose--Child Welfare. Not every school in the county has an Association. Wherever there is one you find a finer spirit of cooperation among teachers and parents.

During the worst days of the depression I was president of the Mendenhall P. T. A., when people seemed to have little help to the "other fellows" child; but I feel that in that year more was accomplished than was believable. We gave "parties" for the different grammar grades, had a Christmas tree for the benefit of the rural children who didn't have a lighted tree in their homes, also had a Christmas dinner with all the "trimmings" for the children on the relief rolls. After the Christmas holidays that year our association was called on to sponsor the E. R. A. cafeteria, which I consider a big and worth-while task. Through the cooperation of the local dentists we sponsored a dental clinic, getting the work done for one-half price and in this way we had twenty-five children's teeth corrected. In the Spring we conducted a pre-school clinic and the results were far-reaching. Numerous other things were accomplished. We gave fifty dollars worth of books to the library for children all over the county. We also organized P.T.A's in other schools of our county.

I really believe that the most active P. T. A. in Simpson at this time is the one at Magee. There are three or more Associations in the county now.

To me this is the one great way in which we can help our schools and I consider it the greatest piece of work I ever did, trying to act as president in my feeble way.

(b) Faculty meetings are as important to the successful administration of a school today as a council of generals would be to the winning of a war. In either case there must be unity

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of purpose, understanding, agreement and cooperation. Therefore, every school in the county has its regular monthly meetings (small negro schools are exceptions).

Regular meetings are most commonly held on the last Thursday afternoon of the school month soon after the hour of dismissal. This day is considered best because the monthly report on attendance can be submitted by the teachers to the superintendent, giving him plenty of time in which to make his report to the county superintendent by the following Saturday. This hour is generally accepted as being the best time to assemble with the least inconvenience to the teachers. Special meetings may be called at any time.

This meeting of the Superintendent with his teachers is of great benefit to all concerned. It gives the superintendent an opportunity to review the progress of the school and to make known his plans for the next month. At this time, he usually announces the dates of entertainments and assemblies for the public; so that there will be no conflicts in the plans made by individual teachers. The teachers may make any justifiable complaints, offer suggestions and let their necessities be known.

The faculty meeting⁴⁷ is not required by law nor demanded by the trustees, but it was born of necessity.

(c) The years of 1933-34 marked the beginning of cafeterias⁴⁸ in the schools of Simpson County.

This began under the Emergency Relief Administration, under the capable supervision of Mrs. Bessie Sorsby. Fifty-three

⁴⁷ Information on Faculty meetings given by Mr. O. L. Garrett, principle of Grammar school of Mendenhall, Miss.

⁴⁸ Information given by Mrs. Bessie Sorsby, Supervisor of Lunch Room Program in Simpson County.

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lunch rooms were established in the county serving 3000 children, all food and labor was furnished by the ERA giving employment to one hundred five women. All underweight children were fed, each child was weighed at the beginning of the first month that lunches were served which was the month of December 1933. After they were served hot lunches for one month all were weighed again and most every child had gained from one to eleven pounds. This is an actual test of what cafeterias meant to the underweight or undernourished child. The spring and summer of 1934 a plan was formulated embracing the idea of community gardens. Each school must have this garden if they were to have a lunch room the following winter. The ERA furnished seed for these gardens, and the unemployed on relief rolls were required to work them.

The County Superintendent of education was selected as leader of the garden project, assisted by the teachers, all employees of county welfare boards: The county health unit, Parent Teacher associations, County and Home Agents with the county Board of Supervisors retaining executive control. As a result of these gardens Mrs. Sorsby still supervising the canning, nine thousand cans of fruit and vegetables including fruit that was donated, *was canned* and this was used when needed; Mrs. Sorsby giving requisitions to each cafeteria manager and they in turn getting it from ERA commodity store room. The spring and summer of 1935 marked the most successful year of the canning program in connection with cafeterias. The government furnished all canning equipment, cans and labor, charged 55 per cent of all produce canned. Simpson County through the untiring efforts of Mrs. Sorsby canned fifty three thousand cans; more than any other county in the state. Twenty-eight cafeterias were given as much of this as needed

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serving 1180 children.

The government bought \$6,000 worth of food during this school term for the cafeterias. Mrs. Sorsby has already begun 14 lunch rooms for 1936-37, sponsored by local organizations. The government is furnishing only the labor and surplus commodities. Prior to 1933 there wasn't a school cafeteria in Simpson County. We sincerely hope in the future to see a permanent cafeteria in every school. The majority of school children have to carry a cold lunch to school, and nothing is more appetizing than a bowl of hot soup, a piece of hot corn bread, with a glass of milk or a cup of hot chocolate for a noon day lunch.

Establishing permanent cafeterias in rural Simpson County is a problem that must be solved in the future, and is very essential in guarding the health and welfare of the underweight or undernourished children.

7. (a) Prior to 1887 there had been practically no test of qualifications and consequently little stimulus to study. Almost anyone who applied was licensed to teach. When the state took the examinations in hand and applied the test it was found that 70% of the teachers fell below the requirements for a first grade license. The law of 1886 provided that the salary of a second grade teacher should not exceed \$30.00, and of a third grade \$20.00, while a first grade teacher might be paid \$55.00. Coupled with the examinations this salary scheme operated as a powerful stimulus to study.

"The schools of the state can be no better than the teachers of the State. As is the teacher, so is the school, is an old axiom that is as true today as when first uttered. It is a mis-

taken idea that because a person possesses a little text book knowledge he is qualified to train the children of the state. To take the immature mind of the child and develop it into its greatest possibility required, the direction of a master."⁴⁹

'In no respect have the work of the schools of this county changed more than in its teaching personnel and their conditions of work. Older people of the county can easily recall the days when the teacher was given her board and lodging; however, she was required to 'board around' spending one week in each home of the community, making the rounds of the homes during the continuance of the session. The meager support given the educational system at the time was responsible for this condition; a white teachers salary might easily be less than five dollars a week and the school term less than four months.

Later, when salaries were a little larger and the terms a little longer living conditions were not much better. The homes in most communities were generally poorly equipped so far as the convenience of life was concerned. The teacher, it is true, was charged a very small sum for her board; but the very small amount paid her and the inconveniences to which she was subjected made the life of the rural teacher of Simpson County a very hard one, indeed.

Partly on account of the poor salaries paid and partly because of the desire to favor some local teacher, teachers were very largely employed in their own communities. Practically all of them were secured within the county itself. Those who were fortunate enough to have been able to equip themselves with higher training were generally employed in the better schools

of the larger towns and cities. In this county, probably the only teachers twenty-five years ago who had college training were employed in one of the three schools offering any high school work: Braxton, Westville and Pokal.

Qualifications for teaching were in keeping with the support given the schools themselves. Most teachers qualified by taking the county teachers' examination; the preparation necessary for passing this was to have a thorough knowledge of the subjects usually taught in the first eight grades of the common schools. Licenses were of different grades, ranging from first to third. To teach with first grade license for a period of years usually served to exempt a teacher from further examination. It is not to be supposed that teachers with the qualifications then required could or did exercise any great amount of leadership in the affairs of the community.

The present influence of the teachers of this county is well nigh unbounded. It depends only on the personality and desire of the teacher himself to take the lead in the activities of the people with whom he works. Many of them, in addition to the regular work of the college preparing them for their work, have taken special work in community and church work. We find them taking charge of the Sunday school classes in the community church, directing the work of girl reserves and boy scouts, and leading generally in the worth while projects of a complex and busy life.

The educational qualification of the teachers of Simpson County have followed the trend required and expected by the schools of the state generally. As a rule, the high schools of the county expect and require that all their teachers have

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a college degree, with special training in the subject they are to teach. In the larger and better organized schools, even the grade teachers must be equipped with both a degree and special training in elementary school subjects. There are teachers yet teaching in the smaller schools without the full training offered by a good college, but even here most of them have at least two years of special preparation beyond the high school. Master's degrees for teachers of high school subjects are not uncommon.

School officials no longer consider the acquisition of the knowledge of a little subject matter sufficient preparation for the work of teaching their schools. This knowledge is absolutely required, but in addition to this many other matters are inquired into when the employment of those who are to direct the children is considered. Many trustees wish to know of the church affiliations of the teaches; the special preparation for extra-curricular activities inquired unto; the general health of the applicant is a matter of concern; the applicant's ability to take the lead in any activity of the community is an item of concern to the average school trustee. As a result, the teachers of this county rank high in personality and ability, having paid special attention to the development of those aptitudes necessary to do high class work under the modern conditions existing in the county.

Although financial support given the schools of the county is not by any means adequate and not commensurate with the performance of the duties expected of the modern teacher, living conditions have improved wonderfully in all communities. In many schools comfortable teachers' homes have been erected in easy reach of the school where all teachers may board at a very reasonable rate. In

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the town schools modern conveniences are afforded. The result is that the general attitude of the teacher is one of good will and effective work. Along with the rest of the state it is expected that gradually the people will increase in large degree the financial support given schools, so that with the return of prosperous times the better prepared will not leave the profession for other lanes of work.⁵⁰

Teachers of Today in Simpson county.⁵¹

Teachers of today represent a wonderful change and improvement of the present over the past. It is only the space of a few years since the only schools in the state, and county were one teacher schools.

Today Simpson County schools will compare favorably with any County's public schools in the state, and this due mainly to raising the standard of teaching by raising the scholarship of the teachers. Now in all the accredited High schools of the State the teachers must be a graduate of an A grade college. They must know more than merely the three R's of an academic education. This entails a long course of study and a lot of expense. At present there are lots of teachers who do not have places to teach. During 1933 in the middle of the depression there were several thousand teachers who could not find employment as teachers, so they had to look elsewhere for a livelihood.

Mississippi's colleges rank in scholarship with the best in the country.

⁵⁰ Information given by Mr. J. G. Chandler of Braxton, Miss., ex-Superintendent of Education of Neshoba County.

⁵¹ Information given by Mr. E. F. Beauchamp, of Mendenhall, connected with the Miller Motor Company.

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Owing to the high tax rate over the state to pay bonds for roads and schools already incurred there is not sufficient funds available to pay the teachers salaries commensurate with the efforts and expense. They have had to make to qualify themselves for this advanced work that has been put upon them.

The influence of the teachers can never be fully measured. Many a man and woman in mature years look back through his past to the influence of some noble teacher who gave him his start on the road to a knowledge that has kept him on the highway of success through the years.

The teachers of today are supposed to take their places in the activities of whatever community they happen to live. Teachers as a rule are under paid, but they are a patient plodding class, thinking that it is better to endure the ills they have than fly to those things they know nothing about. It is a long jump from the one teacher school of years ago in the little log house on the hill. Free public schools is a modern institution, based on the principle that for men and women to make high grade citizens they must be educated and cultured, and for them to be the best men and women possible they must be educated and trained.

Years ago in the early settlement of the county there were no public schools. The only schools for the children were private schools for which the patrons paid the teachers themselves in proportion to the number of children each one sent to school. As a consequence not many children got any schooling worth while. Among the wealthy class frequently each family employed its own governess. In this way many teachers from other parts of the country especially the older states came to Miss., and

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took places as private teachers in well-to-do families. In some instances a community would take it turn about in boarding the teachers which I am sure was never quite satisfactory to teachers or the patrons. Lots of lady teachers came south as teachers in the new state and never went north again, as they fell victims to wiles of Cupid, and became the spouse of some southern planter.

A white boy or girl who does not get some schooling worth while is handicapped for life--it is the law of self-preservation that is the great prize ahead we are all striving for. It is still the law of nature that only the fittest shall survive.

Teachers represent one of the greatest moral and intellectual forces in the state and nation, since the boys and girls of the country are but bundles of possibilities in the hands of the teachers. They leave their "impress" on the mind of their pupils every day. Like little Johnnie went home from school, and he said to his mother. "My teacher don't know much". His mother said, "Why?" He said, "Yesterday she said three and one makes four and today she has changed it and says two and two make four." Teachers have to be wide awake and very careful as they are being checked up every day.

But with all our short comings- with the fact staring us in the face that we are the most illiterate State in the Union, owing to our large negro population, Mississippi, has her face to the future, with her chin in the air, headed for higher and grander things, and only fate and oblivion can side-track her in her grand and noble purpose.

Mrs. Callie Thames
 Mrs. Callie Thames
 Supervisor, Historical Research
 Simpson County
 District Five

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-DIRECTOR

Dimple Slay Lelah Ross
CANVASSERS
SIMPSON COUNTY

ASSIGNMENT # 17

AGRICULTURE--HORTICULTURE

I. IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN COUNTY

a. As means of livelihood.

At the present time Agriculture is the only industry of any importance that we have in Simpson County.

The opportunities which we have as a leader in agriculture are many.

Our type of soil is very adaptable to the production of cotton. It is more or less of a sandy loam nature ranging into a clay loam and when any practice of soil improvement is established it is often that we find our Producers making a full bale or more per acre.

It was only a few years ago that the northern portion of Simpson County was one of the leading lumber producing sections of the south, though at the present time our virgin timber has been practically exhausted and the land remains primarily as extensive cut over tracts, and our people are dependant primarily upon the production of corn and cotton as a means of livelihood.

b. As means of employment.

We have practically no industries within the county at the present time and with the exception of the few who are employed for the purpose of operating the cotton gins

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our rural population only have employment in the industry of agriculture.

There are only a few small mills located over the county continuing active sawing of the little timber that we have left and the employees thus retained are few as compared to the majority that seek employment on the farms, though dreary it may be.

It is still possible for us to have a quiet independent life if any material effort whatever is made toward accepting the advantages that are before us.

c. Approximate acreage of county land in farms.

There is as yet a small percentage of our county land that is actively being used in the commercial production of agricultural products.

An estimate of approximately one third of our land being in extensive cultivation would be conservative. We have large areas of cut over land which has not been taken into cultivation and it is so limited to active production because of its very hilly nature that it would be next to impossible to use it as such.

We have 39,788 acres of land in farms and 3,500 farmers. The average farm family income being only \$327.17.

d. Means of building soil on farm lands.

As our mother earth was given to us it was endowed with riches in the nature of supplies of humus and organic matter but with our crude agricultural practice we have more than exhausted these blessed supplies and our only redemption is

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to employ regu^{ly} soil means of restoring our dirt to the once rich soil that we were blessed with.

Since we no longer have our native trees to protect our lands from erosion and to add humus in the form of dropping foliage it is necessary that we resort to some more practical means.

It has been proven time and again through many methods of demonstration that it is possible to do this through a combination of practices including terracing and the planting of protective crops on our land during the winter months or those in which most of our erosion occurs.

We must say that it is imperative for us to employ a combination of this system of soil building in order that we may attain and hold a lead in the production of our soils.¹

The time has come that man is forced into a soil building program our fresh new grounds have become depleted and there are not other fresh grounds to bring into cultivation. Therefore we will have to take those fields which we thought were worn out, and rebuild them to a high stage of fertility.

Now the question is, 'how to rebuild them?' First is to properly terrace, so you can control^x the surplus water that falls and usually runs down the hill carrying the best part of the soil with it. This must be checked. After your terraces have been built, comes the question of a cropping system that will add fertility to the soil rather than take

¹ This information was secured from B. S. McLemore
Ass't in Agricultural Conservation

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it away. This may be accomplished by growing, with your depleting crops, a companion crop such as field peas, soy beans, etc., and to grow some kind of winter cover crop which will prevent winter washing and if turned under as green manure in the spring will add to the fertility of the soil.

All leguminous plants are great soil builders; so to build soil on farm lands we need to properly terrace, practice rotation. Grow winter cover crops, cultivate properly, and grow companion crops. This will help keep our land in a high stage of fertility.²

e. Crops best adapted to your county.

Our soil is one that may be made to produce any and all crops that are adaptable to our weather conditions in this section but when we think in terms of our commercial crops we are limited primarily to corn and cotton.

There are some sections which because of the more or less clay loam nature is used primarily for the production of truck and vegetables but this section is limited and fortunately on account of the present over production in this field.

Our soil type is one, which with modern building practices as mentioned may be made to yield for us as much corn and cotton as can possibly be made in any other section.

It is not infrequent to find our producers gathering as much as a full bale of cotton, or up to one hundred-fifty bushels of corn from one acre.

² This information was secured from Mr. Lem Fortenberry,
Vocational Agriculturist Teacher, Mendenhall, Miss.

Along with corn, cotton, and potatoes (Sweet and Irish); sugar cane is taking its place as a basic crop in the county.

Simpson and this area of the state generally produces the best flavored syrup in the world. In addition to ranking first in quality of syrup it stands high in quantity.³

II. EARLY HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE

a. Crops and Methods of Indians

"How Corn Came to the Indians" Corn, according to the dictionary, is an Anglo-Saxon word that means grain, a small seed of a cereal grass such as rye, wheat, etc., or collectively, the seeds of any cereal grass used as food. When corn is mentioned in the Bible it probably means wheat, for at that time the word was used in its original meaning and did not refer to the Indian cereal whose real name is maize.

Maize is the first grain that was seen by Columbus when he landed in Cuba.

We are told that it may have come to the United States from the West Indies and Northern or Central Mexico. At any rate, it was not until after Columbus discovered the new continent that corn as such was known in Europe.

Naturally, there are myths told of the origin of the Indian corn, all of which are American Indian. One says that the first kernel was brought by a blackbird but there is another which is not so practical but much more beautiful.

According to myth the story is something like this. Once upon a time, there was an Indian youth who went to the woods to fast in honor of his approaching manhood. He built himself

³ Information give by Mr. B. S. McLemore
Ass't in Agricultural Conservation

a hut and wandered about it, praying that the Great Spirit might acknowledge him by sending him a gift for his people who were in great need. Finally, after several days of absolute fasting, he was too weak to walk further and so lay on the ground looking at the sky. On the third day of this idleness, a spirit appeared before him, dressed with flowing green plumes. The young spirit youth commanded the Indian to rise and wrestle with him if he wished to get his heart's desire. After the exercise he was exhausted and before he revived the spirit left. This was repeated for four days, and then the Spirit said that he would return once more on which occasion the youth would overcome him after which he was to strip off the green clothes and bury them in the ground. The mound over the clothes was to be tended and kept free from weeds. If this were done, so said the Spirit, the young Indian would get his desire.

The lad did as he was told and one day a plant grew up from the spot where the green plumes had been buried. The Indian called his parents and they all rejoiced and called the new plant Mondamin, or spirit's grain.⁴

The Agriculture of the Indians was very crude. Their main crop was corn and beans, and a limited number of vegetables. I have been told by old timers and people who have what is known as 'tradition' that very few Indians lived permanently in what is now Simpson County. When the first white settlers came to this part of the state the Indians

⁴ Food Facts
Wheat Flour Institute
309 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago

they saw were mainly hunters, and their women on basket making expeditions.

The wild cane of the swamps along Strong river, and the great number of deer in the woods was inviting to them. If they happened to stay over a season they planted a crop of corn and beans after having cleared the land of the trees. They used their tomakawks to cut the trees, and also sharp sticks to dig the ground. It must not be overlooked that the women did this work, as Indian men looked upon work as degrading, and made the women do all the work. If an Indian killed a deer he would come in sight of his wigwam and call his wife and point in the direction of his game. It was her job to find the deer and dress it and bring it home.

The Indians had a kind of Communism, owning every thing together under a chief, who would divide things among them as he saw fit in his judgement to do, to keep the peace in his tribe. When they had a marriage on hand, the groom had to outrun the bride. They all got together, and the groom had to make a present to the father of the bride. Then the bride was given a certain number of paces the start of the groom, and if the groom failed to catch the bride there was no wedding that day.

b. Crops and Methods of Early settlers.

Most of the early settlers brought their plows and plow gear with them from the state from which they came. They also brought all kinds of seed both garden and field seed because they did not know just where they might settle, and did not know where to get a supply to begin operations in their new

homes. Their first big job was to clear their lands of the timber and brush, and to hew the logs and build houses in which to live.

The writer only a few days ago was shown some fields in the southern part of the county that had been in cultivation for more than a hundred years, and this year on a lot of this land they picked a bale of cotton to the acre. People in the early days had to go lots of times as much as a hundred miles to get some corn or wheat ground on a mill. Lots of times they did it Indian style and beat it up with a mortar, or used the old time grater or (gritter). The plows they had (made of wrought iron) was made in a blacksmith shop where they came from. Most of the people migrating to a new part of the country, made up a colony of some fifty or one hundred families, and they would have some man as leader. Before they left their old home they would pick out some part of the country to go, then they would get their Doctor, school teacher, black smith, and all the dogs, (they left the cats as it was considered bad luck to move cats) also all the cows. Usually all of the same denomination would move together so they could all use the same preacher. They usually built a brush arbor the first year so they could have preaching. They had a good attendance as they did not have any cars to haul them away from church. After the first year they would build a church. They were independent of any higher body to send them the gospel, they had their own preacher.

Harvest time was always a great time. Hogkilling time, corn shuckings by the men, and quiltings by the women and

girls. If any girl was going to get married they gave her a number of parties but they called them quiltings—they had fine notions about the weather. They knew winter was on the way. Now they call them showers. I suppose they were appreciated by the new couple.

III. COTTON

a. When and how introduced.

Cotton was introduced into Simpson County in the early days by the first settlers from the older states from whence they came. They brought the cotton seed with them, so they would not have any trouble getting a supply of seed. Among the earliest places where they grew cotton in Simpson county was over near Sullivan's Hollow where they had a cotton gin that was run by water. Sullivan's hollow was settled by nine brothers as early as 1810. They lived in a world all to themselves. After the cotton was planted, cultivated and harvested, they had to separate the fiber from the seed by hand. In lots of instances, people living in a community together would have "what they called cotton pickings at night". separating the lint or fiber from the seed. After this the cotton was carded into rolls by hand, and then these rolls were spun into thread by an old time spinning wheel which was turned by hand. After the thread was made it was then put into a loom, and the threads were put into this loom as long as you wanted to make your bolt of cloth. When all these threads in the loom were stretched tight it was ready for the weaver with her shekel full of thread to weave the cloth by passing this shekel hundreds and even thousands of times back and

forth, and every time the shekel passed through this line of threads called the warp you had to pull a leaver and tighten up on each thread, and if a thread broke you must stop and tie the ends together so it would not make a bad place in the cloth.

Another early gin was located in the south eastern part of the county run by water. It was owned by Wash Walker, one of the early settlers of the county. In the beginning he had only a gin and later a grist mill was added for grinding corn. Citizens who were young boys just large enough to go to mill with their dads at that time, but who are old men today state that they well remember going to this gin and seeing the cotton seed left in piles there to rot because there was no sale for them in those days, Mr. Anse Brown, who has lived in that community all his life states that the odor from decaying cotton seed around that gin was very unpleasant. Especially to the one's who had to go to mill or gin in those days.

Cotton was strictly a white man's product, as the Indians in early times did not know any thing of cotton. They used the skins of animals for clothing.

b. Slave Labor.

The Early Settlers who were well to do owned slaves.

The first tax rolls of the county in 1825 show that 53 families owned and paid taxes on 227 slaves.

A few families owning as many as 18 and several only one. Those owning more slaves grew cotton in large quantities, using slave labor for planting working and harvesting the crops.

Cotton is a long season crop. Cotton is a child of the sun. It takes steady hot weather with plenty of moisture and cultivation to produce a cotton crop. In early days they had only a few varieties of cotton as compared with what they have now. As to fiber we have three general classes of cotton Long staple, short staple, and sea Island cotton, a long staple variety grown on the Islands east of the Carolinas.

c. Modern Methods.

Cotton has been cultivated in large ways in Southern United States ever since long before the Revolution, but the thing that did most for the cotton industry was the invention of the cotton gin in Georgia in 1793.

After this invention of the gin every where in the South the people established gins to help prepare the raw cotton ready for market by separating the lint from the seed, putting the lint into bales which was then ready for home consumption or ready to be shipped to some foreign country. Cotton is now used for clothing for at least 90% of the world's population. The cotton grown in the United States in the best and finest grown any where in the world and is more in demand and makes a better piece of cloth and brings a better price, That is why the slogan in the South 'Cotton is King'.

The Latin name of cotton is Gossypium. The root of cotton is called Gossypium Radix and the foliage of the cotton is called Gossypium foliae, Cotton is grown from the Southern part of Ill. to the Gulf of Mexico. From the red hills of southern Virginia to the vine clad hills of California. Cotton is great, Cotton is the money crop of the South, and

Probably always will be. There is a big movement on now to move the cotton factories to the cotton fields of the South.

The South has always made the cotton but the Eastern states have done most of the weaving of the products. We grow millions of dollars worth of cotton each year but the people who own the factories and make the cloth gets more money out of it.

Any product grown by any state should have facilities for the manufacturing that product into a condition ready for market.

In Mississippi today Governor White is trying to get more factories to come here and put in factories of all kinds over the State to work up our raw material into a finished product ready for the markets of the country and the world. It is a great idea. It will mean work for thousands of idle hands, Smoke stacks means payrolls, and payrolls and plenty of them means prosperity on a big scale. If you can have a busy people with a profitable income you have a prosperous and happy people.

It has been well said that whoever can make two blades of grass grow where only one blade grew before he is a benefactor of his race, so it may be as wisely said that he who creates two jobs of work where only one worked or had no work is like wise a benefactor of his race.

So let us do whatever we can to make more factories for more work for more people.

d. Approximate Annual yield in County.

In 1936 Simpson County grew nearly thirteen thousand

bales of cotton that will average 500 pounds per bale. If the South should fail in one cotton crop there would be almost a famine in the cotton cloth market throughout the world, in as much as we produced the greater portion of the best cotton used by the mills in making cloth.⁵

e. Harvesting and Marketing.

Cotton being our primary commercial crop is very important and requires considerable of our time and attention.

Our county is one of the leaders in this immediate section in the production of cotton, and it can readily be seen that with an annual production of approximately twelve thousand bales there is plenty to do during the harvesting season.

The average size of our cotton farms is rather small, being around ten to twenty acres and these are more often cut up into mere patches or plats.

The yield per acre is usually very good and especially where the more modern methods of soil improvement have and are being practiced.

It is often that we find from three-fourths to one bale being made and this is a very good yield for an average.

The crop is all harvested by our native hand labor and it is only occasionally that we are required to go into some of our neighboring counties to secure labor for harvesting our crop. We are thus able to harvest our crop as it opens and before its quality is marred by adverse weather conditions. The quality is influenced to a great extent by

⁵ This information was secured from Mr. B. F. Beauchamp, Stockholder in Mendenhall Motor Co. Mendenhall, Miss.

weather conditions and the sooner that we can pick the lint after it is well opened the better off we are as far as the quality of our lint is concerned.

From five to ten bales will be the average annual production for each farm and this is usually carried to a local gin and ginned as quickly as a full bale is harvested.

The marketing of our cotton has been broken more or less. That is it has not been in a cooperative manner.

Each man sold his produce to the highest bidder if he was luck enough to be under no obligations to some particular merchant buyer.

In the early days little if any attention was given by the producers to the length of staple and to any one variety used. Now since so much information has been given out concerning the production of cotton, limitation of production and the cooperation as urged by our government controlled programs we have been educated to more orderly production and marketing and also to the premium paid on better quality and staple. Since the organization of our cooperative cotton association the producers are permitted to pool their produce and the benefits thus derived have been most satisfactory.

IV. CORN AND FORAGE CROPS

a. Past and Present importance.

The place of corn and forage in relation to the role played in our agricultural practices have been and still is in the foremost part.

It is not frequent that we find any of our producers practicing the commercial production of either of these

products and we may say that the total production has been used in home consumption.

Corn forms practically the only source of grain which we produce to supply the source of our feeds and it is easily understood why we place our corn crop as one of our major crops.

Our forage crops include hays and fodders primarily and it is only occasionally that we find our farmers practicing the procedure of planting grasses and cereals for the purpose of grazing their live stock.

During the past it has been more or less customary to depend largely upon the yield of wild grasses and voluntary lespedeza to supply our demand for forage crops, but at the present time we find vast acreages being seeded annually to some leguminous plant such as peas or beans to be used in supplying our hay supply.

b. Approximate Annual yield in County.

The average yield for the county as a whole may seem very small, though this may be due to the very small yields that occur in our extreme up-hill areas. We find our average yield approximately twenty (20) bushels per acre though this is not a true valuation as received by those who practice any of our modern methods of soil building agencies as the planting of winter legumes as green manure crops, and the terracing of our lands. Those who practice these extensively frequently produce a hundred bushels or better per acre.

There is not so much variation between the yields as received from our forage acreage and it will be found that

approximately three-fourths to one ton per acre is the average for the county.

The practice of continually increasing the production of leguminous forage crops has been very important to our agricultural industry and is also one of major soil building agencies.

c. Where and how Marketed.

The marketing of our corn and forage is principally through a local medium of exchange and also to supply the demands of home consumption.

There are only a few cases where we find producers continually having a surplus and desiring a commercial market. Only occasionally do we find some fortunate producer having more than necessary to supply his home-consumption demands and in these cases it is most often that we find them exchanging this surplus with local producers or merchants to supply other necessities.

It is more often that we find those who, because of ill luck, are compelled to either purchase some additional corn or forage from their neighbors or obtain some substitute in the form of sweet feed or feed oats from other sections.

V. TRUCK FARMING.

a. Variety and approximate amount.

The South Western part of the county is primarily a trucking section.

With favorable weather conditions this provides employment the year 'round. As a club project, tomato grow-
B. S. Mclemore, Ass't in Agricultural Conservation

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ing has helped finance numbers of boys and girls through school. Other crops successfully grown in this section are cabbage, carrots, irish potatoes, english peas, beans and practically all the summer vegetable crops.

Vegetables are easily grown in all parts of the county, and with each crop in season and the surplus canned and pickled dry. There is seldom a scarcity of vegetables, however, the southwestern part of the county is rich and moist, being lowlands of Pearl River. This is the chief trucking area of the county. There are about 300 car lots shipped each year.

Cucumbers are grown to an advantage also in the county. The year of 1925 the growers recieved about \$30,000.00 for this crop alone. Growers follow the cucumber crop with corn and peas or sweet potatoes growing successfully two crops on the same ground in one season.

b. Where and how Marketed.

We have no truck market in the county at present. Growers in the truck farming district find a market for their produce at Georgetown, Copiah County Mississippi.

The vegetables are carried to market in truck or wagons, where they are inspected at the packing sheds, and sold to the packing shed operators who have them graded packed, labeled and loaded in car lots. They are then shipped to northern and eastern markets. Some being sold to home markets.

The American Pickle Company erected salting vats at Braxton, Weathersby and Magee to which plants the growers bring their cucumbers and receive cash as each load is brought to the station; Cucumbers have not been so extensively grown for the past

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few years, although they are ready cash for the farmer at a time when cash is so much needed on the farm.

c. Home Garden Products:

A well cultivated home garden is an asset to any family regardless of the number in the family. As a rule families who do not always have something growing in the home garden does not always have a well balanced diet. The value of home gardens can not be estimated in dollars and cents. The good health of every member of the family is dependent upon plenty of exercise and a well balanced diet.

(1) Most important kinds.

The most important kinds from a health standpoint is spinach, beans, tomatoes and irish potatoes besides these peas, cabbage, carrots, onions, turnip greens, rutabaga's, corn, beets, cucumbers and collards are all grown to advantage in the home garden. Collards, carrots, ever green onions and winter turnips are planted in the early fall for winter use, and unless an unusually severe winter will furnish fresh vegetables for table use all winter.

(2) How Conserved.

Advantage is taken of the farm gardens while the harvest is ripe to conserve the surplus garden products making ready for the winter soon to follow. You will find well filled pantries of canned vegetables, fruits, preserved and jellied, also canned fruit juices.

Every thing that is grown in the home garden can be conserved in some way.

Peas and beans in the early history of the county were

Peas and beans in the early history of the county were only saved dry, but today more are canned than are saved dry. In fact peas, beans and tomatoes are more extensively grown in the home gardens. The average farm family cans two or three hundred cans of vegetables, and in some cases even more than needed for home consumption, but they can always find a ready market through local merchants in exchange for food and clothes.

We must not forget the fact that chickens, and yearlings are also canned on the farm to aid in the supply of winter meats. Farmers have canned more beef for the last few years than ever before in the history of the county.

It is nothing uncommon to find the kitchen pantry laden with fifty or seventy five cans of nice juicy stake and stew meats along with the vegetables, fruits, and preserves. All this enables the housewife to be able to prepare a meal fit for a king in case unexpected guest should arrive with out a moments notice.

VI. POULTRY AND LIVE STOCK

a. 1-For Home Use

There is probably no better place in the world to raise chickens than in Simpson County, with its running water, sandy and gravelled streams, wooded ranges, brief winters and splendid climatic conditions.

Markets are within easy reach and, at present the supply does not equal the demand.

* This information was secured from Mr. Troy Neely
Manager Simpson County Farm Bureau
Mendenhall, Mississippi

He who sells home-raised poultry and eggs is engaged not only in production but also in manufacturing, and marketing. The average farmer of Simpson County pays little attention to his poultry yard, but gives it over to the management of the women or the children.

Poultry raising is one of the most important side lines to farming. The industrious hens, with little attention given them, supply eggs for table use and enable the thrifty housewife in many families to sell enough to buy the school books, pencils, tablets, calico for the new dresses, candy for the children and sugar, coffee and rice for the table.

Many families that have had eggs or chickens for home use on an average of less than one meal in twenty are taking steps to remedy this condition, many poultry farmers do not give the proper attention to breeding, selecting and culling the laying flock, to obtain enough eggs for home use.

An important part of the extension program has been the care and improvement of chickens, both for market and home consumption. Formerly every housewife owned a small flock of mixed breed hens, but due to the persistent and intelligent efforts of the farm and home agents, pure breeds of chickens are to be found at nearly every home in the county.

(2) For marketing

Through the cooperation of farm and home agents housewives have been taught to cull their flock of chickens early and market or eat at home the culls. No cheaper food for home use could be raised.

In the year of 1932 several car lots were shipped to

market, but for the past few years poultry growers find ready market at home. The demand is even greater than the supply. The average farm family trade their surplus eggs and chickens to local merchants in exchange for food that cannot be grown on the farm.

B. LIVE STOCK

(1) Cows and dairy products; beef

Dairying is yet in its infancy, there being only one milk route in the county, but farmers of the southern section of the county are finding it very profitable, to raise the standard of cows produced in the county. In 1932 three cars of registered and grade jerseys were brought in and distributed among those principally interested in dairying. As only the fat is generally accepted by the creameries. The skim milk is left at home and can be used for food for the pigs, chickens and for cooking purposes.

There is no class of farm livestock which is more affected by the lack of protein than the dairy cow. In recent experiments it has been found that farmers feeding both Legume roughage and a protein concentrate received more than three times as high milk receipts per cow, as the farmer who feeds no legume roughage and no supplements.

As Dairying has not yet become a paying industry in Simpson county the Home and Farm Agents have been exerting efforts toward the live-at-home advantages, not the least of which is owning a cow that produces grade A milk.

BEEF.

Due to the nature of this section it is not widely ad-

apted to extensive development in the raising of livestock for market. The best type of range or grazing land is limited and prevents the Agent from advancing programs in the extensive development of livestock.

In every possible case the County Agent has tried to promote the using of the best possible sires with each herd and some six or eight pure-bred males were placed over the county last year.

DISEASE CONTROL

The County Agent in cooperation with the Assistant has endeavored to educate the public to the care of all his livestock, and especially to the prevention of insect pests and diseases. There were fifteen demonstrations in the prevention of black-leg given over the county last year, with about 123 citizens present at the meetings and three-hundred and ninety (390) animals treated. In most cases there was a direct out-break reported and the desire for control was unanimous.

(2) Hogs, sheep, goats.

There are a great number of hogs raised in this county and due to the scarcity as shown in the 1935 out-look the County Agent has stressed the increase in production, especially for home consumption, in as many cases as possible.

Due to the cholera outbreak in 1935 the County Agent gave several lectures and demonstrations in the control of this contagious disease. There were eighteen demonstrations and approximately one-thousand (1000) head treated, some of which were only vaccinated for prevention.

The curing and preserving of our farm and home meat supply is very essential for each year it is estimated that because of improper methods of handling and unfavorable weather conditions there is enough meat wasted for the ordinary family need. Realizing these facts the County Agent in cooperation with the Home Demonstration Agent have demonstrated to the people of the county the method of cutting and canning of their meat.

Knowing the value of being able to kill and preserve the meat supply at the time it was finished and the great saving it would net the producers by reducing the continual feed cost and other liabilities the County Agent has succeeded in securing the establishment of a vast cold-storage plant. This cold-storage is under the management of the local ice dealer.⁸

We have some few sheep and goats scattered around in the county, but none raised for the market.

VII. RURAL HOMES IMPROVEMENTS

Compare modern farm home-life with old, especially regarding sanitation and equipment, communication, and transportation,

Simpson County has made remarkable strides along all of these lines in the past few decades. Our people are being rapidly educated in making their homes and grounds sanitary. A good part of this instruction has come through the schools, the County Health Officials, and some sanitary projects in the last two years. Homes are being located with consideration

⁸ This information was secured from Mr. John Hennington County Agent, Simpson County.

as to better drainage, wells are placed away from the barn and are more convenient for the housewife.

Many of the old homes are being screened and practically all of the new ones, thus keeping diseases from spreading.

Not many years ago, vaccine was hardly thought of in Simpson County and was available only to those who were well able to pay for it, now smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid vaccine is free for all who want it. Also hookworm treatment is doing much for the children of the County.

A few years ago to the majority of the rural citizens of our county a balanced diet was not known and a lot of pellegra was the result. Now, thanks again to the health officials and the untiring efforts of Home Demonstration Agent, County Agent and Home Management Supervisors, all Government Officials, family budgets are planned and more families are eating balanced diets.

Another factor in securing balanced diets for school children has been the Food Conservation Program through the school lunch rooms established recently in the county. The establishment of these lunch rooms are a great improvement on a cold potato and a piece of corn bread and fat meat, this being the former contents of most of the lunch baskets.

Vast strides have been made with sanitary toilets in Simpson County. There are still a few homes that have no toilets at all, but the majority of the homes do have toilets, well located and with some thought of sanitation, while a vast number of homes have the standard sanitary toilet. In our small towns of Magee, Mendenhall and D'lo, there is a sewerage

system. In Braxton, many homes have individual electric pumps which enable them to have sewerage. In all of the small towns, a sanitary toilet is required within city limits.

An ancient belief in most rural areas was that of excluding the air from the house at night as a result, the overcrowded sleeping rooms of the rural homes, were breeding places for germs. The schools have done much to eradicate this practice; children learning correct ventilation and putting it into practice in the homes.

Those of us who are almost forty years old remember when the railroad was first put through Simpson County and the wagons, buggies, horses and even ox-carts which were driven miles on narrow, muddy crooked roads to see the first train come through. What an exciting time, with teams bolting and some of the drivers also! Forty years have brought amazing changes to Simpson. We still have one main Railroad track, but the size and efficiency of the trains have more than tripled, while an ox-cart looks as out of place on our paved and graveled highways as an automobile would have looked on our roads forty years ago. A trip from the extremities of our county to the county site then was an all day trip, while it can be reached now in 30 minutes from most any part of the county. The imaginary line between country and city has been done away with and the advantages of better and more markets have brought corresponding advantages to the farm in the way of better and the newest farming equipment and labor saving devices for the home and farm.

Electricity has brought to us such blessings as telephones, lights, radios and many labor saving devices. Two natural gas lines go through Simpson, thus making an economical fuel available to both towns and farms.

All of these changes and improvements in sanitation, equipment, communication and transportation have meant more to the youth of our rural areas through the consolidation of our one teacher schools and the provision of School Buses for the transportation of the pupils. Thus riding in comfortably equipped buses in contrast to the miles and miles they trudged through all kinds of weather conditions to inadequately heated schoolrooms.

The farmers and their families are no longer our ignorant class of people. The advantages of better travel and quicker travel have enabled him to find a more lucrative market for his produce, and travel, together with the telephone, telegraph and radio have kept him posted as to market prices, new equipment, and newer methods of farming, while to the home-maker it has meant labor saving devices, social contacts and the exchange of valuable experiences in home making.

A few years ago, it was next to impossible to get to town oftener than twice a month to get needed supplies, the possible letter and newspaper. Today the Rural Free Delivery brings daily to every home in the county, the possible letter, the daily paper, the farm paper and maybe a mail-order catalog. This has meant so real blessing to the farm home-life. Here too the farmer gets new ideas for farm improvement and news of the market and the world. Even the mail-order catalog has meant instruction in the home in furnishings and equipment.

Occasionally we hear an "Old Timer" long for the good old days gone by, but for the most part these improvements in home life on the farm are thought to be invaluable and it is doubtful if even the "Old Timer" would really like to go back to the farm home life of 40 years ago.⁹

VIII. MODERN AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES

(Give influence and assistance of each)

a. County Agricultural Agent.

In order to effectuate a highly cooperative attitude among the farmer, who constitute the foundation of our nation, it is necessary to have a highly unified extension force under the direct supervision of Agricultural authorities. These field workers who come in direct contact with the individual producers must have the ability and training of effecting organizations and performing through these organizations the direct aims of the economical Agricultural advisors.

The conditions and continuous needs of the people vary from one section to another and the individual agent which is selected to represent the Extension program in each county must be able to so adjust himself and his work to create a direct need and an application of the many and various recommendations handed down to him. The direct aim should be to extend or direct to each individual producer within the district a complete and detailed recommendation of the problems confronting him. The producers problems are being carefully analyzed continually by the Agricultural leaders, including

⁹ This information was secured from Mrs. L. E. Cline Rural Resettlement Clerk. Mendenhall, Mississippi

the economists, scientists, and scholars of various other fields.

The field workers of the Extension Department or the County Agent should be able to analyze these recommendations and make them applicable to various cases in order that he might be a necessity in the continuous prosperity of the American farmers through the adaptation of more economical and scientific agricultural policies.¹⁰

Below are the names and period of service of the County Agricultural Agents in Simpson County:

NAME OF AGENT:	PERIOD OF SERVICE:
F. M. Smith	January 20, 1917 to Dec. 31, 1919
C. D. Coleman	March 1, 1920 to Dec. 31, 1920
No Agent	January 1, 1920 to February 29, 1920
No Agent	January 1, 1921 to April 30, 1923
A. D. Stewart	May 1, 1923 to June 30, 1928
No Agent	July 1 to 31, 1928
R. G. Prescott	August 1, 1928 to August 31, 1930
No Agent	September 1, 1930 to January 15, 1931
R. G. Prescott	January 16, 1931 to Dec. 31, 1934
J. M. Hennington	January 1, 1935 to date.

¹⁰ This information was secured from Mr. John M. Hennington's County Agent's Annual Report. December 1, 1934 to December 1, 1935.

b. Home Demonstration Agent

Home Demonstration work in Simpson County has made a material contribution to the comfort and efficiency of farm families and to social and economic life of more than 25 rural communities. The interest and initiative of approximately 300 rural women belonging to 14 home demonstration clubs or groups was stimulated in an effort to meet the many problems of the farm home and the rural community.

Some 4000 demonstrations in feeding, clothing, home improvement and the general care of the farm family reported as undertaken by women cooperating with the county Home Demonstration Agent and 4500 demonstrations undertaken by them in the work. Of the 4000 demonstrations undertaken by women, more than half had to do with feeding the farm family. These included demonstrations in food production from gardens, home poultry flocks and the home dairy, food selection and nutrition, food preservation, and food preparation. The remaining demonstrations had to do with clothing, home management and improvement, beautifications of home grounds, health and sanitation, marketing surplus home-grown food products, and the installation of water, lighting, and heating systems and miscellaneous activities. Nearly half the demonstrations conducted for girls related to feeding the farm family.

Supplementing the improvement in the efficiency and comfort of the individual farm home brought about by demonstrations efforts, the women belonging to the local

demonstration clubs and groups engaged in numerous community activities that helped to make life in their communities more enjoyable and attractive to themselves and to their families.

Community Programs, achievement days, trips to our State Agricultural College, community exhibits, picnics, and attendance at county camps were among the activities sponsored by these demonstration clubs or groups which tended to develop neighborhood loyalty and a more satisfying community life.

The demands upon the Home Agent from both women and girls, is so great, that it is impossible for her to serve the people by individual effort, therefore she has to organize the county into groups or clubs, so that not only the Home Agent can instruct the women and girls, but may develop local leaders to carry on the work in her absence.

Local Home Demonstration Clubs are organized under the direction of the County Home Demonstration Agent, and are composed of women, and girls who wish to take up the various Home Demonstration Projects.

The County Home Demonstration Council or advisory committee is organized for the purpose of cooperating with the Extension Department in making programs and plans to improve material and social conditions in the farm, home and community. This organization is composed of representative women from various communities in the county, and usually meet six times a year.

The adult 4-H Leaders attend Training Meetings, which enables them to develop initiative, administrative ability, and to create and arouse enthusiasm, in fact, training that would develop leadership qualities. These local leaders, often

receiving their training from the Agents assisting with demonstrations in their respective communities, it being their duty to see that all materials are secured and instructions of the agents are carried out properly. They also assume responsibility of collecting records and reports from the project captain, who in turn, collect them from the 4-H club members. There are 19 4-H Clubs in the county, and a leader for every club, with an enrollment of 406 girls.

CANNING:

Every member enrolled in Home Demonstration and 4-H Clubs in Simpson County learns something about canning of fruits and vegetables. In order that surplus fruit and vegetables, from the home garden and orchard, might be canned to the best advantage, a canning budget is urged. Beef canning demonstrations are given at certain seasons of the year by county home demonstration agent. This is a splendid means of creating interest in the possibilities of Home Demonstration work, as men and women are thus brought together for organized work.

Poultry:

Demonstration Poultry farms have helped so much in establishing better poultry and better poultry practices. The project has increased in popularity from year to year. Our poultry specialist send out letters and material to the agent and she sends them to 4-H club members and Home Demonstration club members. This year poultry was our major project, and the outlook is very promising.

Gardening:

Under this project we stress three different types of gardening,

namely;

The Girls 4-H garden, the year round home garden, and landscape gardening. More club girls are enrolled in garden-canning in Simpson county than any other project. An all year round garden for every rural home, containing a variety of such vegetables, that the family may have a vegetable diet throughout, the year. In order that our girls and women may be able to make their homes and grounds attractive, the landscape gardening project is correlative to our home improvement project. For two years the Home Demonstration Agent has ordered 1600 rose bushes, these have been put on home grounds, with flowers, shrubs and trees. A number of Farm Homes, School grounds, public grounds have been landscaped by Cora E. Graves, present Home Demonstration Agent.

Clothing:

Economy, simplicity, and durability as well as an attractiveness of dress are emphasized in the clothing work conducted with women and girls.

One of the interesting features of clothing work in Simpson County is the use of dress outfits in teaching local clubs or groups of women and girls the principles and practices of selecting dress material and of dress design and construction.

The wide spread interest in clothing was revealed by the great popularity of community style shows in which the clothing program in many communities culminated. Such shows are held in every club in the county, then a county style show. The county winner takes part in the State Revue held each year at Farm and Home week.

Nutrition and Food Selection:

In nutrition work extension efforts are directed toward creating a desire of the part of individuals for physical fitness, and giving them an understanding of what constitutes such a condition. Standards of condition and build for children are recommended, with the result that keen interest is evinced by many parents in prenatal and preschool feeding and child training. The food values of common foods are explained and applied to meal planning. Adaptations of diet standards to the needs of the young child, of school children, of the aged, and of those suffering overweight, and anemia are explained.

Method demonstrations are given by the Home Demonstration Agent in preparation of and cooking a whole meal in pressure cooker, bread, butter making, cake making, cheese, salads, jelly making, etc.,

Home Improvement:

Under home management the planning and rearrangement of rooms have met with large response from rural women. The proper placing of the furniture and equipment, the adjustment of working surfaces to the proper height, the acquiring of new equipment and conveniences, the refinishing of walls, ceilings, floors and wood work, together with the economy with which the improvements are effected, are all considered in the improvements of our home.

House Furnishings:

Every community has done some work on making the interior of the rural home more attractive and livable by adding articles made from native woods. One, a kerosene floor lamp, designed

by Cora E. Graves, Home Demonstration Agent. About 302 of the lamps have been made in a period of four months and placed in the rural homes of the county. Even some homes that have electricity use one of these lamps, especially, in an emergency.

Recreation:

Short units of recreation are sometimes held along with the educational programs at the monthly club meetings.

On such occasions, as picnics, camps and festival days we have an adequately trained recreational leader available for the period of the activities.

Public Contact:

Cooperation from Schools, Churches, Federations of Women's club, Board of Supervisors, County and City Officials, County Merchants and other commercial agencies, and nationally known commercial concerns have been most effective.

The field of cooperation already established has been and advantage to farm women. Each year additional companies offer their service.

Listed below are the names and period of service of the County Home Demonstrations Agents in Simpson County:

NAME OF AGENT:	PERIOD OF SERVICE:
Miss Erlene Parker	Emergency County Home Dem. Agt. October 5, 1917
Miss Christine Ziegler	" " " February 14, 1918.
Miss Mattie Craig	March 23, 1920
Miss Mary Emily Biggs	November 1, 1925
Mrs. Cora E. Graves	April 1, 1927 to date.

11 This information was secured from Miss Caroling Gibson, Secretary to Home Demonstration Agent, Mendenhall, Mississippi

c. 4-H Clubs.

In setting up the aims of Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club work, we may base them on two general principles that are fundamental in a democracy. One of these principles is the inalienable right of every person to engage in the vocation for which innate capacities trained for effective social use. The other principle is the right of society to demand of every individual maximum growth and maximum social service.

The application of these principles may be regarded as the basic objective of Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club work. Through the application of the former, the individual avoids slavish subordination to the authority of society and through the application of the latter the social group averts the disintegration effects inherent in incompetent and unworthy individuals. The interdependence of the individual and the social group in a true democracy is an accepted fact. The individual deprived of social environment and consequently of environmental stimuli is incapable of growth above the mere animal level. On the other hand society perpetuates itself by transmitting its ideals, its aspirations, its spirit through individuals from generation to generation. In this manner society progresses or retrogrades. The objects of 4-H Club work then are to provide for the individual such stimuli as will release these hereditary forces in him which in the immediate present as well as in the future contribute most to his usefulness and happiness, and to provide a means that contributes to the perpetuation of society by transmitting to each succeeding generation the worthy ideals, hopes, aspirations and spirit of the social group.

To realize these objectives means for the individual assistance in choosing a vocation intelligently, and an opportunity to grow in ability to make adjustments that contribute in a high degree to his social efficiency now as well as in the future. To the extent that worthy aims for the individual are achieved, there inheres in the community, the state, and the national commonwealth that integrity of purpose, strength of character, and loftiness of spiritual ideals that guarantees and enduring civic and social structure.

In developing Boys' and Girls' Club work, the purpose has been to interest the boys and girls, and through them adults in farm, home, and rural community problems; to train them in better methods of farming, gardening, poultry and animal husbandry, and home practices; to assist them in demonstrating these methods for the improvement of general farm and home conditions; to aid them in attaining an intelligent point of view and favorable attitude toward the business of farming and home-making by encouraging property ownership and a feeling of partnership; and to socialize farm and rural life through Boys' and Girls' Club activities by developing rural leadership, community co-operation, and a good spirit of citizenship.

The sum total of all these aims is expressed in the two objectives I have attempted to emphasize.

Attainment of objectives based on individual capacity, happiness and usefulness, and social democracy, mutual sharing of experience, perpetuation of the highest ideals cum-

ulated through human experience, requires that the means of attainment inhere in the content of personal experience. The means employed must discriminate between stimulated and genuine situations. The experience of the club member must be personal and inherently stimulating. The situation should not be one that is imposed externally. Real problems must be set up in such a way as to make them genuine problems of the club member. The environment must be such that it will stimulate responses satisfactory both to the individual and to society. The problems set for solution and the environment in which the child meets these problems are, therefore, the main consideration in the ways and means of Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club work.

The problems should be those which arise naturally in connection with the activities of the farm, the home and the community. They are problems of livestock production and management, of crop production, of soil management, of learning and practicing health rules, of conjoint community enterprises. These are problems which engage the minds of adults. They are fundamental and perennial. The youth of today needs to know about them and meet them in actual experience so that he may deal with them effectively when they become his responsibilities.

The environment through which the club member gains experience with these problems is of both formal and intentional, and the informal or incidental type. The school supplies the formal type and life outside the school the informal. Both types are needed. One supplements the other

The tendency of the school is to become bookish, academic, and dissociated from the actual experiences of life. Through Boys' and Girls' 4-H club work, the farm and home become the laboratories for the practical application of the school instruction in agriculture and home economics. The compelling interest of a situation that is rooted in life-experience puts meaning into the school instruction that deals with that situation. Hence, the school should foster 4-H Club work if for no other purpose than to secure a perennial infusion of dynamic force emanating from the real issues of life.

The A. & M. College, through its Extension Service, is responsible for co-ordinating the various agencies that supply the informal type of environment suitable to club work. Under the stimulus of this environment, children actually share the experiences of adults in a way that contributes to the social continuity of life. Through the office of the county agricultural agent, co-operating with the state club force, and extension specialists, the county agent formulates a program of activities that calls for co-operative participation of youth and adults. Thus the A. & M. College is the institution which society maintains to organize and supervise the agricultural and home economics extension activities of a community. The extension service of the state agricultural college should assist the counties and communities in organizing and carrying out programs for improving farm practice and home-making and for the enrichment of rural life. For economy of time, energy, and money, and for the effectiveness of effort, these programs should be constructed on a basis

that would avoid duplication of workers and expenditure of funds and prevent working at cross-purposes. On this basis the Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club demonstrations would be integral parts of the home, the farm, and the community program for agricultural and home-making improvement. Thus the children would participate in the life-experience of the community in a manner that would not motivate their school instruction in agriculture and home economics and that would insure continuity of that experience. By this process of renewing the social group, the two main objectives of club work are recalled in^a high degree.

The results which 4-H Club work hopes to achieve are summed up in the two primary objectives which are set up in the first section of this paper. Both the individual club member and the social group are beneficiaries. The former is assisted in finding himself vocationally and in preparing himself for maximum social service. The latter must perpetuate itself by communicating its ideals its spiritual standards to its youth from generation to generation.

Tangible results contributing to these ends have been achieved. The Boys' Corn Club work (out of which grew the great 4-H Club movement, as it is known today), originated in Holmes county, Mississippi in 1907, when about 100 boys were enrolled by Mr. W. H. (more familiarly known as "Corn¹² Club") Smith, who was then county superintendent of education.

The growth of 4-H Club work for Boys' and Girls' in

¹² This information was secured from "MISSISSIPPI TODAY" 1928 pages 8-9. By Jas. E. Tanner, State Boys' Club Agent, A. and M. College, Miss.)

Simpson County, In 1924 A. D. Stewart was appointed County Agricultural Agent and faced the gigantic task of introducing and organizing boys' Club work in a county that was entirely inglorious of cooperative club work. With the assistance of F. J. Hurst, District Club Agent, 136 boys were signed up to carry out a definite program of work. Of this number, 96 joined the cotton club and 40 joined the corn club.

The success of these clubs was evidenced from the beginning. The 96 cotton club boys planting one acre each produced 91 bales of cotton. The merchants of the county, sensing that a step had been made in the progress of modern farming, came to the aid of the cause and after the cotton was pooled, graded and stapled by an experienced cotton classer, paid the boys a little over 2 cents a pound above the market price.

The work of the corn club boys was no less a success, though not such a startling one. In the face of the worst drouth the county had ever experienced, and average yield of 42.5 bushels of corn per acre was realized, as compared to an average yield of less than 12 bushels per acre in the county as a whole.

Due to the success of the 136 boys in club work in 1924 it was very easy to increase the membership in 1925 to 516 boys, and the enrollment was further increased in 1926 with an enrollment of 549 boys; in 1927 the enrollment increased to 712 boys; in 1928, to 875 boys, and 1929 it reached its peak with an enrollment of 881 boys. The influence on adult

farmers of the county by these demonstrations carried on by these 4-H Club boys is shown by the following actual statement taken from Mr. Stewart's 1927 Annual Report: "In placing their orders for fertilizers last spring when asked what kind of fertilizers they wanted, fully 75 per cent of my farmers replied, 'Give me the same kind the Club Boys are using.'" Mr. Stewart further states that the influence of the 4-H Club demonstrations on our adult farmers is shown conclusively in the fact that Simpson County, as a whole, has doubled its per acre yield of cotton during the past five years. Club work in Simpson County in addition to increasing the crops, corn and cotton, has developed a fine spirit of cooperation on the part of the people possibly more than any other influence in the development of cooperative marketing, etc., as the 4-H clubs in each community were the nucleus upon which was founded the 4-H Community Program, covering every problem in the community.

In 1928, the record shows that the average production of cotton alone in Simpson County, by the adults adopting the improved practices demonstrated by the 4-H Club boys, increased from 8,000 bales, the five year period prior to the beginning of club work, to an average of 16,000 bales for the four year period in which club work was conducted. This was done in the face of the fact that the acreage planted to cotton in Simpson County showed a decrease.

It might also be noted that Simpson County had one of the largest 4-H Clubs, so far as we know of in the United States. This was the Martinville 4-H Club, with a membership

of 158. At their County Club Rally, this club won the prize for having the largest attendance of any club in the county, when 143 of the 158 members attended.

In addition to corn and cotton clubs, pig, potato, peanut and various other clubs were organized. Also, dairying was introduced.

In the meantime, Mr. Stewart had resigned to assume a state position and was ably succeeded by Mr. R. G. Prescott, of whom it can readily be said: "The torch ye flung we caught." Mr. Prescott answered the call of the farmers at any hour of the day or night to help them in any problem where in his training had been superior to theirs. He served the people as County Agent for eight years, and was succeeded by Mr. John M. Hennington, January 1, 1935.

It has been thoroughly established in the County Agent's mind through association and past experience with those who had training at an early age that more is accomplished by working earnestly with the boys and girls of today for they are unquestionably the future farmers and farm women, and by establishing in their minds and activities the importance of the better phase of modern agriculture and its policies we will be on a high limb to all the problems that will confront us in the days that are to come. Realizing these facts the County Agent has spent the greatest amount of time possible to the development and training of the 4-H Club boys of Simpson County. In this county there are twenty active clubs

13 SIMPSON COUNTY NEWS; Vol. 59 July 31, 1930.

with an average membership of a fraction more than twenty-two each, making a total of 451 members. The Agent is ably assisted with each of these clubs by the interested leader, and realizing the comparatively short time he has to devote to these individual clubs, it can readily be seen the importance of having the most interested and alert leaders possible.

At the beginning of the year 1935 it was deemed advisable to stress with the boys the necessity of increasing the production of corn and hogs in this county. All outlooks for the year pointed to a scarcity of these and more especially in this county. Through emphasis on this point there were enrolled 256 corn club boys or approximately 57% of the total club members. Cotton projects accounted for the second largest enrollment and through the 123 club boys having this as their project it was attempted to establish more thoroughly in the minds of the producers the desirability or necessity of using the better varieties of cotton as recommended by the experiment stations, and the savings occurred by the proper method of preparation and cultivation. These boys have in a majority of cases, proven the ease by which instances the yield and proportionate value received may be more than doubled by following the better methods as outlined by the County Agent.

The interest and enthusiasm has been very desirable, and Mr. Hennington has endeavored to create more by rallies, camps and fairs. It is evident that the county club show

create a friendly competitive competition among the members as much as any other one thing.

The farmers were quick to catch the meaning of the cooperative buying and selling, and took advantage of it. They have begun to readily find it not only a great convenience but a direct godsend to have a county agent to call when the cows and mules and horses are stricken with a disease of which they know nothing.

Consequently, Simpson County now ranks among the first ¹⁴ in her rate of advancement.

The work of the County Demonstration Agent and Home Demonstration Agent has of necessity been done with perfect co-operation and unity of spirit, but as each embraces a different type of service the records have been kept separately.

Following is an account of the organization and growth of club work for the women and girls of the county:

In 1925 the Board of Supervisors of the county employed a Home Demonstration Agent, Miss Mary Biggs. Only twelve girls joined this new adventure at first, but gradually others followed.

In 1927 Miss Biggs was succeeded by Mrs. Cora E. Graves who with an intuition for knowing how to win the confidence of people, a thorough knowledge of her work, and tireless energy set about making the county really know what club work meant. At first her work was confined to girls activities,

but now nearly every community in the county has an active organized ladies club.

The following data gives on the facts about the progress of club work among the girls and women so strickengly that its benefits cannot be doubted:

In 1925 there were 57 poultry projects, 18 home improvement, 37 gardening and canning, making a total of 112. In 1927-28 there were 142 poultry girls, 182 gardening and canning, 128 home improvement, making a total of 452. In 1928-29 there were 143 poultry, 178 in home improvement, 128 in gardening and canning, 14 in dairying making a total of 463. In 1929-30, there were 150 girls in poultry, 198 in gardening and canning, 140 in home improvement, making a total of 488. In 1930-31 there were 152 in gardening and canning, 128 in home improvement, 57 in poultry making a total of 337. With 290 completions. In 1931-32 there were 87 in home improvement, 101 in gardening and canning, 192 in poultry, making a total of 380. With 240 completions. In 1932-33 there were 171 girls in gardening and canning, 95 in home improvement, 96 in poultry, making a total of 362. With 174 completions. In 1933-34 there were 296 in gardening and canning, 111 in home improvement, 63 in poultry, making a total of 470. With 134 completions. In 1934-35 there were 294 girls in gardening and canning, 146 in home improvement, 65 in poultry, making a total of 505. With 166 completions. In 1935-36 there are 212 in gardening and canning, 109 in home improvement, 85 in poultry, making a total 406. The completions are not complete as yet.

Since 1927 the women in Simpson County have become very

interested in the different phases of club work. They have organized into a regular County Council, meeting on the first Monday in each month. At the meetings the ladies assist the Home Demonstration Agent in planning progress for the ladies clubs and all county-wide activities, that come under the head of their supervision. At each meeting some phase of home improvement is taken up, such as installing home made running water systems, treating of floors, paints, varnished and enamels that give the most service; ~~cuttain~~ making, not only from expensive materials, but from sugar sacks, etc., labor savers for the housewife; the beauty of neat, clean surroundings, and the value of flowers, shrubs and every branch of work that tends to make a home comfortable and beautiful, ways and means of making money have been brought to the farm women. At each demonstration a state worker is present to acquaint the members of the council with each new thing learned by the state to make home work lighter and to help give leisure to the housewife to pursue whatever study she most desires.

A few years ago Simpson County was known only as one of the Southern counties in the state of Mississippi, but today Simpson County has been heard of throughout the length and breadth of the United States. The greater part of this advancement has been due, in common with the establishment of a progressive school system, to the employing of a County Demonstration Agent and Home Demonstration Agent, who have diligently organized various clubs for boys and girls, and have carried to the remotest corner of the county and into the most menial homes the knowledge of how to take the means

at hand and turn into the greatest amount of service.

Countless farm women have been taught to can and preserve enough food during the summer months to make a long, hard winter more profitable.

4-H Clubs have been organized, poultry clubs, cotton and corn clubs, gardening and canning clubs, home gardening and canning clubs, home improvement clubs, and various other clubs particularly suited to certain localities.

Skeptical, as always, of trying a new system, the fathers and mothers looked on the first few years as the boys and girls ventured into the various branches of club work, but now they have joined the ranks of progress and accept eagerly each new demonstration.

Better homes week is observed once a year at which time homes all over the county are visited and studied and also the home of those who want them remodeled, repaired, and the furniture improved,

The Home Demonstration Agent and as many women as possible attend the Club Congress at Miss. State College, each year to keep abreast of the times.

d. Agricultural schools.

Under an act of the Legislature, through the untiring efforts of R. A. Maddox, Superintendent of Education at the time, in 1909, the Agricultural High School was established for Simpson County and located at Mendenhall, Mississippi.

Rapid strides marked the development to a most noticeable

degree.

Many hundreds of our boys and girls were given an opportunity that could never have been given had the A. H. S. not been offered. This school featured all professional courses and lay stress upon farming interest, that interest most peculiarly suited to this section.

Better stock raising and farm terracing was sponsored, better poultry breeding and more growing of fruit advocated, as well as a literary foundation marked its growth.

The Agricultural High School had a Home Economic department well fitted for developing girls into better home builders. A commercial department fitting the boys and girls for office work.

There were six affiliated schools, Harrisville, Pearl, Pinola-Stonewall, Braxton, D'lo, Magee and Union, well equipped and affording advantages second to none in this section to a minor degree stressing the training of boys and girls for all walks of life and acting as feeder for the Simpson County A. H. S., as well as feeder for all Colleges.

Many of her graduates, have entered the farming interest and have settled within the borders of the county as well as other sections of the country, and have added much toward bettering rural life wherever their lots have been cast.

The Superintendents of the school were; Monroe Ball, Bebbie Russum, Walter Huddleston, Ethan Allen, A. P. Smith, and John Lumpkin.

The Simpson County School board during the administration of E. C. Buckley, county Superintendent of Education,

in 1933, thought it best to discontinue the Agricultural High School as such and the Board of trustees of Mendenhall, established the present Smith Hughes School. It is now a ¹⁶ Smith Hughes School and is doing creditable work as such.

Vocational, Education in Simpson County. With approximately 80% of the population of Mississippi being farmers. Simpson County stands out in the training of its boys and girls in the vocation of farming. Surely farming is a vocation because it is a challenge to the highest learned people of our day.

Before the Smith Hughes act was passed in 1917, Simpson County had one school in which students could study Vocational Agriculture. Since 1933 this school has been converted into a Smith-Hughes school and one other has been added at Magee. The other at Harrisville is the oldest Smith-Hughes school in the county, having been organized in 1927. At this time we have in Simpson County three Vocational departments in full swing.

The general plan of Smith - Hughes training. There are only three ways of getting Vocational Education. The first is to get vocational training on the job alone. This is one of the best known and is one of the best. This plan was followed almost exclusively by generation after generation on down to the dawn of the "Scientific Age" in which we now live. This "Scientific Age" has ushered in sweeping changes. The 'job alone' plan which has served so well and so long for giving vocational training is now breaking down and is too slow and inefficient to keep pace with modern

progress.

The second plan is get vocational training through the school. This plan is too expensive and on the whole has not proved satisfactory.

The third plan is to get vocational training through a combination of the first two plans; that is, to get vocational training from both the school and the job. This is the most modern plan and is the plan followed by all Smith-Hughes schools. A student of Vocational Agriculture in Simpson County gets at school a knowledge of WHAT to do in farming and the WHY, and he gets the skill of HOW to do it on the job and on the home farm.

The boys that have the privilege of enrolling in one of the three vocational classes in Simpson County are ^a drawn closer together because of the things they have in common. They believe in their work with a faith born not of words but of deeds,-- achievements won by present and past generations of farmers and the promise of better days through better ways even as the better things we now enjoy have come up to us from the struggle of former years. They realize the joys and discomforts of farm life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which even in the hours of discouragement they cannot deny.

They believe in their own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, With such knowledge and skill as they can secure, and in the ability of organized farmers to serve their own and the public interest in marketing the product of our toil. They believe they can safeguard these rights against

practices and policies that are unfair.

They believe that rural America will and can hold true to the best traditions in our national life and that they can exert an influence in their home and community which will stand solid for their part in that inspiring task and through training received in these schools the Future Farmers of America can hope to establish a permanent agricultural policy.¹⁶

e. Fairs.

Community and county fairs play an important part in building a better agricultural and in making rural life more worth while and satisfying. The fair shows a cross-section of the community at its best, brings the whole country-side together once a year, develops community spirit, awakes community pride, brings about a better understanding of common problems, presents new objectives, disseminates helpful information and sends the people back home inspired to do better farming and home making.

The community and county fair utilizes local leaders from many fields, puts them to work at worth while tasks, gives them a new insight into each others problems, and ties them closer together in mutual efforts to achieve a common goal.

New leaders are discovered, latent talents are developed, and people learn new ways and means of cooperating and working together. At the fair, people see the best products from

¹⁶ This information was secured from Vernon May, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Magee High School, Magee, Miss.

field and orchard, from herd and flock, from garden and pantry. They get new ideas and helpful suggestions.

The fair is a great social institution. Folks from all sections meet together; they make new friendships; they enjoy the fun and the frolic; they revel in the entertainment; they have a good time. There is need for more fun in farming and the well planned fair helps provide fun for farm folks.

The fair shows the different kinds of crops that are grown and the quality of live stock produced. It popularizes the best varieties and boosts the best breeds. It teaches higher standards and develops the desire to grow better crops and raise finer livestock. Exhibits show market requirements as to grades, packs and containers and helps farmers solve marketing problems.

A study of exhibits at fairs reveals that the fair visitor may learn many things about farming, home-making, from conservation of soil fertility to the selection of the best variety, cultural methods, fertilizer uses, disease control, harvesting and marketing.

The successful fair is the well organized fair-- the fair that is planned months in advance of fair time, and the fair that includes everybody in the community and in the county. No one is left out.

County extension agents and fair leaders realize the importance of effective organization and constant supervision. They will see to it that the most wide awake and public spirited leaders are elected as officers, that the necessary committees and department superintendents are appointed, and

t that each individual clearly understands the part he is to play in the whole program. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the necessity of having hard working committees and alert superintendents on all important features of the fair-- such as arrangements, program, parade, entertainment, publicity, exhibits, contests, etc.,

Capable superintendents should be selected for each department including farm crops, home department, fruits and vegetables, schools, four-H clubs, live stock, poultry, floriculture and such others as may ^{be} needed.

The local people should take the lead and assume the responsibility for putting on the fair. However, too much emphasis cannot be placed on the importance of local leaders calling in the county and home agents to discuss and advise with them on every phase of the undertaking.

With a varied list of entertainment features to select from, splendid programs may be prepared using local talent to meet the needs of any community or county fair. Features which have proven popular and which may be adapted to a wide variety of conditions include the parades, pageants, plays, concerts, contests, special shows, presentation of prizes and awards, short talks and practical demonstrations. P

Parades before, during or after the fair, of live stock, prize animals, prize winners, home-raised mules, floats and fun makers, such as boys' circus, fat men, tall men, other features have proven exceedingly popular.

Contests of many kinds including livestock judging, crops judging, plowing match, better babies, style dress review,

quartets, choral groups, one-act plays, mass games, athletic stunts, arouses enthusiasm and keeps interest at a high pitch.

Special entertainment features include band concerts, local orchestras, old fiddlers, harmonicas, football games, horse shows and rodeos.

One-act plays and pageants put on by schools of the county in competition for some suitable award have been highly entertaining and instructive. Such events call for large participation by local people and do much to increase interest and attendance.

The fair directors should have the fair program well organized with each feature under direction of capable leaders who have had experience in their respective fields such as agriculture, athletics, music, dramatics, home economics.

Attractive educational community exhibits are important features in any well-balanced, successful county fair. How to improve the quality and increase the value of community leaders and to every county extension agent and fair officials.

The people of the community who are interested in putting on an exhibit at the fair meet at the local school house several weeks before the fair. The county farm and home agents meet with them. The first job is to determine the type of exhibit that will be shown and the main idea that will be featured.

The county agent usually takes charge of the meeting and asks for suggestions as to type of exhibit and the central feature. These are listed on a blackboard. Finally the group decides on the idea that will be presented. A definite plan

for the exhibit is then drawn up and the caption^{ai} which attempts to present the central idea in the fewest words possible is selected.

An estimate of the kind and amount of exhibit materials needed is then made and those present requested to contribute such materials and products as they may have. A committee of not more than five persons is then selected to take charge of the materials and put on the exhibit.

Some of the more important suggestions given by successful exhibitors or planning and installing the exhibit include the following: Have a definite purpose. Concentrate on one main idea. Avoid overcrowding the exhibit either with too many ideas or too much material.

The exhibit should show the progress, growth and improvement that have been made or emphasize some method or practice that should be followed. The exhibit should be well balanced with just about equal amounts of material, charts and placards on each side supporting the central theme in the center. The same general design should be used throughout the whole exhibit. If curves are used on one side they should be used on both. If straight lines are decided upon, they should be used throughout.

Similarly a definite color scheme should be used throughout the entire exhibit with the decoration blending harmoniously with the exhibit material. Don't use artificial decorations. Natural products are more desirable. Never use crepe paper on the background. Desirable background colors include shades of brown, buff, tan.

The floor plan selected should fit into, supplement and strengthen the central theme. The exhibit should be placed within the range of the eye, not lower than 18 inches from the floor or higher than 8 feet. There should be plenty of light on the exhibit, but a window or any strong light at the back should be avoided. Sloping floors may be used to advantage with certain types of exhibits.

Attractiveness, neatness, simplicity are important. Orderly and logical arrangement of products and material is essential. Charts, placards, maps, labels when properly and wisely used, help to bring out the ideas and facts to be presented and give important information.

Successful community fairs frequently award only ribbons, joy in competition, pride in the community, and hope of winning being sufficient to lead local people to put on their best exhibits.

At county fairs cash prizes and other awards are usually considered necessary, as more expense is incurred in putting on exhibits. Awards should be large enough to stimulate keen competition and justify high quality exhibits. However, a large number of moderate prizes are more desirable than a few big prizes.

In Simpson County, the Board of Supervisors appropriate enough money to give a moderate cash award to First and Second places in 4-H Clubs. The Business Firms and Citizens of the county donate articles, products, and money to be given as premiums in the Home demonstration departments.

17 Material secured from Home Demonstration Agent,
Mrs. Cora E. Graves, Mendenhall, Mississippi

IX. HORTICULTURE

a. Varieties of cultivated flowers and shrubs.

Through the help of our Home Demonstration Agent, in order that the girls and women of the county may be able to make their homes and grounds attractive, the landscape gardening project is correlative to the home improvement project.

For the past two years Mrs. Graves has ordered 1600 rose bushes, and about 500 dahlia bulbs. These have been put on home grounds, with flowers, shrubs and trees.

A number of Farm Homes, school grounds and public grounds have been landscaped by Mrs. Cora E. Graves, our present Home Demonstration Agent.

b. Extent and importance of Nurseries.

We have no nurseries in Simpson County.

c. Extent and importance of Orchards.

Simpson thus far does not occupy a front place in Horticulture, at the present time very little can be said concerning it, however along with general agriculture fruit is successfully grown in Simpson County, Peaches, pears, plums, apples and berries grow abundantly under cultivation. Plums, huckleberries, blackberries and goose berries grow wild in the idle spots and swamp lands. On most every farm can be found a few fruit trees especially peaches, pears and apples. A few farms of the county have orchards that produce enough fruit for home consumption and sell enough through local sales to furnish them ready cash, so much needed at this time of the year.

We have no shipping production from orchards of the county. The following is a few orchards of value in the county:

There are many places in Simpson County that attracts the attention of the passer by, but there is not a more attractive place than "River Bend Truck and Pecan Farm," formerly owned and operated by Mr. R. E. Gullledge, of Mendenhall, and Mr. R. T. Hilton, of Jackson. Now owned by Mr. T. B. Durr, of Mendenhall, and Mr. R. T. Hilton, of Jackson.

In 1922-23 there were 150 acres planted in big Stuart pecan trees bought from the Bass Nursery, Lumberton, Miss.

The owners have a family who live on the place and care for the pecan trees. The land in this section is especially adapted to the cultivation of these nuts.

For the past few years there has been hardly any profit from the sale of these nuts. There being a production of about 4000 pounds in 1935, selling for twenty-five cents per pound. All being disposed of through local sales.

On Highway 49 near Magee, Mississippi there is a pecan orchard about one hundred (100) acres consisting of 2200 trees. About 1200 trees were set out in 1917 and 1920, and 1000 trees set out in 1925.

The yearly production a year being 4000 pounds, which are sold through local sales.

This orchard is in care of Mr. George Phillips, Mendenhall, Mississippi.

Mr. Claud Trussell of D'Ilo, Mississippi has an orchard

of about one acre consisting of fifty pear trees. This year 1935 he sold 115 bushels with a net profit of about \$80.00.

Mr. Lawrence Bush near Pinola, Mississippi, has about three acres consisting of about 300 trees.

Mr. Bush has owned this orchard for fifteen years. This year(1935) he sold \$125.00 worth of fruit from this orchard through local sales.

Mr. Tom Gill, near Magee has an orchard of about 2 acres they have an abundance of fruit each year for home consumption, but scarcely enough for local sales. He states the value of his orchard at present to be about \$350.00.

d. Garden Club Activities.

The Garden Lover's Club of Mendenhall, Mississippi, was organized in 1930. The following presidents have served:

Mrs. F. E. Walker-----1930-31

Mrs. H. P. Gates-----1931-33

Mrs. H. O. Middleton-----1933-34

Mrs. F. E. Walker-----1934-35

Mrs. H. O. Middleton-----1935- 36

This Club, with a membership of thirty, has been greatly interested in the Home and Town Beautiful. It has sponsored the campaigns for Clean Up Days, installation of gas, the clean back yard, the weekly garbage truck, the planting of more trees, shrubs and flowers and have a Loving Cup for the most artistic outdoor Christmas decorations each year. The meetings of the Club on the lawns or in the homes are most helpful, using a Year Book with well planned programs.

An interchange of flower seeds, bulbs or plants, as well

as ideas has an appreciated feature. This Club says,

"If thou hast something, bring thy goods;

A fair exchange be thine;

If thou art something, bring thy soul,

And interchange with mine."

18

- e. Agencies Encouraging flower raising
1-Garden pilgrimages
2-Flower Shows
3-Beautification projects.

We have no agencies in Simpson county encouraging flower raising except through Mrs. Cora E. Graves, Home Demonstration Agent, and the Garden Lover's Club.

18 This information was secured from Mrs. H. O. Middleton, Mendenhall, Mississippi.

Mrs. Callie Thames
(Mrs.) Callie Thames
Supervisor Historical Research

ASSIGNMENT # 17

AGRICULTURE-HORTICULTURE

REFERENCES

- No.
1-3-6 B. S. McLenore, Ass't in Agricultural Conservation
Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 2 Mr. Lem Fortenberry, Vocational Agriculturist Teacher
Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 4 Food Facts, Wheat Flour Institute,
309 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago.
- 5 Mr. B. F. Beauchamp--Stockholder in Mendenhall Motor Co.
Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 7 Mr. Troy Neely, Manager Simpson County Farm Bureau,
Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 8 Mr. John Hennington, County Agent, Simpson County
Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 9 Mrs. L. E. Cline, Rural Resettlement Clerk
Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 10-14 County Agent's Annual Report.
Dec. 1, 1934 to Dec. 1, 1935
- 11 Miss Caroline Gibson, Secretary to Home Demonstration Agent
Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 12 "MISSISSIPPI TODAY" 1928 pages 8-9, By Jas. E. Tanner,
State Boys' Club Agent, A. & M. College, Mississippi
- 13-15 SIMPSON COUNTY NEWS, Vol. 52 July 31, 1930
- 16 Mr. Vernon May, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Magee High-
School. Magee, Mississippi
- 17 Mrs. Cora E. Graves, Home Demonstration Agent.
Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 18 Mrs. H. O. Middleton, Mendenhall, Mississippi.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-CONSULTANT

CALLIE THAMES, HISTORIAN
WILMA GLADNEY, SENIOR TYPIST

SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 13
MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE ASSIGNMENT # 17

SUBJECT: 4-H Club, Boys and Girls

The year 1910 marked the beginning of Club work in Simpson County, through the untiring efforts of F. W. Smith, later known as Corn Club Smith because of his ability in organizing Corn Clubs over the State of Mississippi.

We had no County Agent at this time but Simpson was by no means at the bottom of the list in prize winners.

The following boys were winners in the Boys Corn Club in 1910 at the State Fair, Jackson, Mississippi.

George Garner, 1st prize	\$25.00	126½ bushels.
Frank Barnett, 2nd prize	15.00	90 5/28 bushels.
Jonnie Williamson 3rd prize	10.00	77 bushels.

A great many other boys made as high as 70 bushels per acre on land that had heretofore made only 18 and 20 bushels per acre.¹

Simpson Counties first County Agent was F. M. Smith, January 20, 1917.

Prior to this time there was no active organized club work in the county.

We have been unable to find any record of club winners prior to 1925 save the above mentioned.

The following is a report of Lewis Fortenberry about his trip to Chicago. He was prize winner in 1925 but failed to get other information than his trip.

¹-Simpson County News Vol. XXXIX Nov. 3, 1910 No. 5.

Saturday, November 28th, at 12 O'clock, we left Mendenhall. We arrived at Memphis at 6 p. m., and ate supper in Memphis at the Eagle Cafe. We then went back to the Grand Central Depot and Mr. Dean and Mr. Tanner gave us a short talk. After that we took a walk down in town. We visited the Peabody Hotel, and also the Commercial Appeal office. We saw them printing their large printing press.

Then we got a pullman out of there at 9 p. m., for Saint Louis. We rode all night and arrived there at 8:30 a. m. We ate breakfast at the Evans Cafeteria.

We left St. Louis at 9 a. m., on Sunday for Chicago. We saw large corn fields where they had been shucking and hauling it. They were storing it in large cribs, and too, while on our way, we sang lots of club songs.

We arrived at Chicago at 6:25 p. m. We ate supper at the American Restaurant. Monday morning we ate breakfast at the New Southern Hotel where we stayed all time we were there.

We spent Monday at the International Live Stock Show. We saw some large horses, cows, sheep and hogs, and saw them judging them.

On Monday afternoon all the club boys and girls from all over the United States marched from the Live Stock Show to Thos. E. Wilson Co., where we were given a banquet and entertainment. After the banquet we marched back to the Live Stock Show where our pictures were made.

Tuesday morning, Armour & Co., gave us our breakfast and showed us through their packing house. We saw them killing hogs, sheep and cows. They killed 250 cows in an hour, and 100 sheep and hogs in an hour.

The Chicago Athletic Association gave us our dinner, and we had the pleasure of hearing the President of Kentucky speak.

Wednesday, we visited a large wire company, known as the Cyclone Wire Co. We saw them making net and barbed wire, and also wire gates.

Then we visited a large Furniture Company, where they gave us dinner.

Thursday afternoon, we visited the La Salle Hotel, where they gave us a banquet and entertainment, and we had the pleasure of broadcasting one of our famous club songs over the radio.

On Friday morning we visited the Marshal Field Co. They carried us all over their plant, and showed us where they make candy. We went upon the thirteenth floor so we could get a good view of Lake Michigan.

Then we went back to the hotel to get ready to come home.

We left Chicago at 6:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, and arrived at Memphis Saturday morning. We left Memphis at 8 a.m. for Jackson at 3:30 p.m. We changed trains there and arrived at D'LO at 5:25p.m.

We had a wonderful trip and saw many great things.

LEWIS FORTENBERRY

Samuel Polk, Shivers, Mississippi was also a winner in 1926 but we were unable to secure any data on him.

Ernest Dilmore is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Dilmore of Mt. Olive, Mississippi where Mr. Dilmore is engaged in farming.

Ernest was a member of the 4-H Club for a period of two years and was a prize winner one year. At the age of 12 Ernest won a trip to Chicago. The donors of this prize were the Hastings Seed Company and the county. The county donating \$15. and the remainder given by the above mentioned. This was given for corn noting that one acre of corn produced 104 bushels of corn. He also won a pocket watch the same year, given by the Hastings Seed Company. At this

2. Simpson County News, Vol. 54 Jan. 7, 1926

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time Ernest was a student of the seventh grade. He made the trip to Chicago and reported it to be a real treat in his life. He has lived on a farm all of his life. Since his marriage he has been engaged in farming which has proved very successful.

Norman Purvis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Purvis of Magee, Simpson County, Mississippi where Mr. Purvis makes farming his profession.

Norman was for four years a member of the 4-H Club. In 1926 he won a trip to Chicago, the prize was given for corn by the I.C. Railroad Company. He also won a \$30. prize for the most corn produced on one acre (the amount being 106 bushels on one acre). At that time Norman was 12 years of age and in the seventh grade.

A few years later he entered Hinds Jr. College where he completed one year's study. He is married and at present he is attending Theological Seminary in Texas.

Vigil Lang is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Lang of Magee, Mississippi, where Mr. Lang is engaged in farming.

Virgil was a member of the 4-H Club for a period of six years, and was a prize winner three years. In 1925 he won \$15.00 and 2nd prize at the county fair, the prizes being won on a cotton project.

In 1926 he won \$8. for the best eight ears of corn at the South Mississippi Fair held at Laurel, Miss. In 1927 he won a trip to Chicago, the donor of this prize was the I. C. Railroad Company and he also won a cash prize of \$25.00, when he was 18 years of age and a pupil of the eighth grade at Old Hickory school. At present Mr. Lang is engaged in farming near Magee, Simpson County, Miss.

Kara Stubbs, Magee, Mississippi was a winner in 1928. We were unable to secure other information on him. This report on his trip

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to the International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago is very interesting to note written in his own words for the County News.

I left Mendenhall at 11:40 Saturday a.m., December 1st. After going a short way I recognized a party of four boys and five girls who were winners from other counties. In this party of boys I discovered some that I had met at the club camp at the Coast, this past summer. We arrived in Jackson at 1:10, there we met several trip winners. Mr. Fred Hurst, the state club agent, met us there. He advised us and saw us safely on the train for Memphis at 1:20. We arrived at Memphis at 6 o'clock, there we met the rest of our party. A party of forty-six represented Mississippi.

State club agents with us were Mr. James E. Tanner, Mr. Major Johnson, Miss Elaine Massey. Miss Massey took charge of the girls and Mr. Tanner and Mr. Johnson took charge of the boys. We went out in town for supper. Then we met back at the depot, Mr. Tanner advising us. We were then carried up and placed on a pullman which left Memphis at 11 o'clock on its way for Chicago. We arrived at St. Louis next morning at 7:30, there we saw a beautiful city. We ate breakfast there and were ready to board the train for Chicago at 9 o'clock. As we were leaving St. Louis we crossed over the Mississippi River on a bridge that cost millions of dollars to construct. As we traveled on our journey we had the pleasure of seeing the finest corn belt in the United States, which was Illinois. The land was level and fertile. We arrived in Chicago at 5 o'clock that evening, Yellow cabs met us there and carried us to our Hotel, which was the La Salle, there we signed up for our rooms and went to bed for the night.

Monday morning, we were out early for breakfast and were ready to catch the train for the International Live Stock Exposition at seven o'clock. When we arrived we were carried to the boys and girls

4-H Club building, there we were advised by the general manager of boys and girls 4-H club work. We were then divided into small groups. Mr. E. P. Ford was our leader. We went through the exhibit building where we saw the champion exhibits of every state in the United States. Then we were carried through the stock barns where we saw the men getting stock ready for the judging contest which was a real lesson to any farm boy or girl. At noon we gathered at the 4-H club building for dinner. We had the pleasure of eating dinner with Sears Roebuck. After dinner, we went into the Live Stock Exposition building, where they were judging Live Stock. We had the pleasure of seeing the judges as they gave the blue ribbon to the boy who had the finest 4-H club calf in the United States. He was a boy of twelve years old. This club calf was sold for \$8,000. This was the most interesting thing I saw while in Chicago. At 4:30 we were carried to Wilson Theatre where we were entertained with a good show and singing. At 6 o'clock we were carried up to Mr. Wilson's dining hall for supper, while eating supper, we were entertained by singing and large bands of the best in Chicago. After supper we had the pleasure of hearing a talk on 4-H Club Work from Mr. Wilson, chairman of national committee of boys and girls 4-H club work, then we went to the Fair grounds and marched into the large building where they judged the Live Stock. Many thousand people were there to see us march. The boys and girls who won at the International show were carried in a wagon with eight horses to it. As we marched and sang our club songs we had large bands playing music for us. Then we were carried to the train and returned to our hotel.

Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock we boarded the train for Armour Packing Company and entertained by singing and band music by some of his negro workers. After breakfast we were conducted through the

slaughter pen. We visited the Hog, Cow and Sheep Slaughtering. We were then escorted through the Armour Packing Plant which was very interesting. This plant covered 136 acres of land. At 1 o'clock we caught special trains and went to the Morrison Hotel for dinner, there we were entertained by some of the best singers in Chicago. At 2:45 we went to the Art Institute in Chicago, there we had the pleasure of seeing the finest painted pictures in the United States and furniture of olden times. At 6 o'clock we were carried to the Sherman Hotel and there we were entertained by a banquet. At this banquet the winners of the International show were announced. After the banquet we were carried to our hotel for the rest of the night.

Wednesday morning, we were out early for breakfast, then went to the Union depot and caught special trains to the Refining Co. at 9 o'clock. There were special men to carry us through the factory. We first visited the Karo Syrup Plant, then the Corn oil, making of starch, sugar and feed of all kinds from the husk and brand of the corn. This plant covered 56 acres of land. At dinner we were carried up to the dining hall of the Refining Co, and served dinner, after which we went to the depot and caught special trains for the International Live Stock Show and had great pleasure in watching them judge Live Stock. We then went to the La Salle Hotel for supper after which this Hotel gave us a party which we called a "tacky party". We were all dressed tacky. I'm proud to say that we Southern club boys and girls won the prize over the other states. After the party we went to our rooms and retired for the night.

Thursday morning after an early breakfast ~~and~~ we were ready to take special trains for the International Harvesting Co. We arrived at the Factory at 8 o'clock. There were special men to carry us through the factory where they were melting and molding all different sizes and shapes of iron. Then we went to the factory where they were

putting this iron together. We had the pleasure of seeing them put up an International Truck and some Tractors. We watched them as they would put the first piece down, and every man would add something to it and when it came out on the other side it was ready to run. It took them fifteen minutes to put them up. We then went to the dining hall for dinner, there we were entertained by music of all kinds and a talk from the President of the International Harvesting Co. which we were visiting. After seeing the large Factory we went to a Picture show in a large beautiful Theatre near the Hotel where we stayed. Then we returned to our rooms to prepare for a banquet. At 6 o'clock we went over to the Ball Room of the Palmer House, furnished by the Railroad Company. They gave us our final banquet and we had the pleasure of hearing good talks on 4-H club work. After the talks, we were entertained by a Picture Show after which we returned to our hotel for the night.

Friday morning we ate breakfast at 6 o'clock, and were ready to start on our trip to the Field Museum of Natural History. We arrived there at 10 o'clock. We went through the building and saw the history of ancient times things I have studied in history and things I have seen the pictures of in histories, and not only things which we had seen and studied in history, but also in Geography. Out on the campus of this large building was one of the largest Lakes we have learned about ~~the~~ our Geography, Lake Michigan. It was about 200 yards from the building and on the other side of the building was a beautiful park where all the large ball games were played, and here in this park was where Dempsey and Tunney fought. We ate dinner there at the Field Museum, then we took great pleasure in taking pictures and playing in the snow on the campus until about 2:30, when we started on our way to the hotel to get ready to come home. On our way home we ~~xxx~~ visited the largest Hotel in the United States, which was a

very beautiful building. We were ready to board the train at 6 o'clock that evening for home. After boarding the train we arranged for pullman and all retired. Next morning, which was Saturday, we arrived in Memphis at 9 o'clock, there we changed trains and started for Jackson. We arrived at Jackson at 3:30, and changed trains and arrived in Mendenhall at 5:40 Saturday evening, after having a wonderful week's trip—a trip I'll never forget.

KARA STUBBS

Ernest Womack was 21 years of age when he won the trip to Chicago through the work of the 4-H Club. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Womack of Weathersby, Mississippi where Mr. Womack is engaged in farming.

Ernest was a member of the 4-H Club for a period of three years and was a prize winner each time. In 1932 he won \$2.50 for a pig at the Simpson County Fair.

In 1933 he won a trip to Chicago. The prize was given for corn by the I. C. Railroad Company. 73 bushels of corn was produced. Ernest was in the 11th grade at this time.

In 1934 he produced 94 bushels of corn for which he won a Hammerless double-barrel shot gun, given by the Chilean Nitrate Soda Company.

Ernest was a student of Copiah-Lincoln Jr. College for one year and at the present time he is employed in the County Agent's office.

T. J. Garner is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse M. Garner of Magee, Simpson County, Mississippi where Mr. Garner is engaged in farming.

T. J. was a member of the 4-H Club for a period of five years. In 1934 he won a trip to Chicago. He was 13 years old and in the ninth grade. He also won second prize in the southern district this same year. The prize was given by the state for corn (one acre producing 96 bushels).

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At the present T. J. is attending Magee High School after being out of school two years.

Guyselle Griffith is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Griffith of Mt. Zion Community. A promising young man seventeen years of age. Guyselle was born and reared on a farm in this thriving little rural community. At present he is a student of the tenth grade in Pinola High School, and has been a club member for several years but only for the past two years has he taken special interest in his club work. He was prize winner in 1935 and 1936 in the corn club. In 1935 he made a total of 126½ bushels on one acre. One prize given was a trip to Chicago by the E. C. Railroad company with only transportation paid, but misfortune kept Guyselle from making this trip. A few days before time for beginning his trip while playing on the school ground he found a dynamite cap, not knowing what it was he secured his knife from his pocket and began to cut into it, which of course caused it to explode tearing, off three of his fingers which necessitated his staying in the hospital for several days.

Besides the trip he did not get to make the Mississippi State Fair gave him a bicycle and the Chilean Nitrate Co. gave him a \$50. watch. These of course aided greatly in consoling his disappointment and misfortune and created a greater desire to be a winner again in 1936, when again he made a total of 194½ bushels of corn on one acre. This time winning a trip to Chicago and all expenses paid. The I. C. railroad company was donor of this prize.

J. C. Harris of the Union 4-H Club made the highest score of any club member in the leadership contest in 1928 and has been awarded the free trip to the national 4-H Club Camp in Washington D. C.

The National Camp is provided by the National 4-H Club Committee and the U.S. Department of Agriculture co-operating. Each State is allowed 4 representatives at the camp, two girls and two boys. In order that a member may qualify for this contest, he or she must have been a 4-H Club member for four consecutive years, and must have made outstanding achievements in community and club leadership, completeness of records, creditable exhibits and a good health score.

It is a signal honor to J. C. Harris to be acclaimed the outstanding member in a contest with 23000 other boys. It reflects credit upon the Union Community; because J. C. could not have won had he not had the cooperation of the other 4-H club members, and the backing of the parents of the entire community. It is an honor of which all Simpson County should be proud, to give to the State of Mississippi the highest scoring individual in a contest of this kind.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Harris of Harrisville, Mississippi was 20 years of age and in the twelfth grade when he won this trip.

Mr. Harris was a student of Mississippi State College for four years. Since then he has married and is now employed as County Agent in Madison County, where he seems to be making a wonderful success in his profession.

The following is an article written by J. C. on the value of 4-H Club work:

I find that the 4-H Club has been a wonderful light to this community in the past, and I think it should still be greater than what it is. For my part as a leader, it will be greater in the future. Every member in this community is willing to make it more beneficial than ever.

By the improvement s made thus far I know that there can be more made.

A. My Experience in Public Demonstrations:

- a Chicken culling
- b Demonstration on cotton fertilizer
- c Demonstration on sugar cane fertilizer
- d Demonstration on corn fertilizer gatherings
- e Rendering programs at public
- f Demonstration on terracing
- g Reforestation

B. WORK AS ACTUAL LEADER OF MY CLUB:

- a Secured new members every year I was in the club
- b Helped in the club by making the best better
- c Carried out 4-H club socials successfully
- d Helped boys fill out record books
- e Helped club members to put on their exhibit properly
- f Assisted in putting on programs and stunts at the County rally
- g Served on program at the County rally
- h Assisted the County Agent every way possible
- i Won a free trip by being the health champion of my club and county "To A. & M. College."
- j In my club I have assisted the boys in measuring off plots of land, and getting started off. There are members of different phases of work, namely; Cotton, Corn, Potatoes, Chickens, and Pigs. Each member is doing their work with greatest zeal. They have been a help to their fathers by improving the cotton standard. The club boys averaged over a bale of cotton to the acre. The club enabled many farmers to have pure bred hogs. They have also helped secure pure bred chickens.

C. WHAT THE 4-H CLUB HAS DONE FOR THE COMMUNITY:

- a Brought the community to the top
 - b Got everybody interested in their work
 - c Promoted better production to the land
 - d Better method of cultivation
 - e Helped protect the forest lands
 - f Pretty homes
- The community as a whole is doing better work since the 4-H club was introduced.

D. ORGANIZATION OF YEAR 1926-27

- a Organized in November 1926 with county agent A. D. Stewart present. The proper officers were elected at this time.
- b There were 55 members enrolled into the community.
- c The number of boys and girls eligible in the community
- d Enrolled about 75 per cent of eligible members
 - Twelve meetings during year
 - 75 per cent average attendance at monthly meetings
 - 100 per cent attendance at rally
 - Hold club camp in July
 - At least one boy and one girl be at the club congress at A & M College

100 percent completion and turn in records
75 per cent of member exhibiting at County Fair
Community Promotion Day in November

E. RESULTS:

- a The progress of our club has been very good. We have come up to standard in everything
- b The influence of the club has helped the schools, churches and homes. It has also promoted better farms and better roads.
- c I find that there is no other club that has the pep that a 4-H Club has.

F. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- a In summing up everything I find that leadership is the heart of a 4-H club. "Real live leaders." No phase of work is complete without real live leaders.
- b As I stated in my Composition on Experience as Leader, "I have done my best to make the best better at all times, and intend to do this from now on. 5

That Simpson County Boys have established enviable records during past years as winners in crop production contests, is recalled by W. H. Milam, District Manager, in announcing final contest plans and prize lists offered by the Chilean Nitrate Educational Bureau, Inc., of Jackson, for 4-H Cotton and Corn Club members and Smith-Hughes students of Mississippi.

In 1928 three Simpson County Youngsters topped the list of 4-H prize winners in cotton and corn production. These lucky boys were Sylvester Jones, of Mendenhall, who won first place in cotton with a yield of 2350 pounds per acre; Douglas McLendon, of Mendenhall, who won third in cotton with a yield of 3200 pounds per acre; and Herman Duckworth, of Pinola, who did the unusual by taking fourth place in cotton production with a yield of 2280 pounds per acre, and won second place in corn production with a yield of 104 bushels per acre.

1929 found Simpson County still in the class of winners. This time Herman Duckworth, of Pinola, again won a place, being third in cotton with a yield of 2340 pounds per acre, and Hancell Harris, of Harrisville, won third in corn with a yield of 87 bushels per acre.

5. Simpson County News Vol. 57 July 26, 1928 No. 6

The following is all the data we were able to secure on the 4-H Club Girls of Simpson County.

Ossie Harris won a trip to the International Exposition at Chicago in 1928.

I left Mendenhall at 11:40 Saturday, December 1st. I soon recognized a girl I met at the Club Congress at A. & M. college last summer. After investigation we found a party of four girls and five boys who were trip winners. At Jackson we met four more girls and boys. Mr. Fred Hurst, District Club Agent, was there to see us off.

We arrived in Memphis Tennessee about 6 o'clock where the rest of our party was waiting. A party of forty-six represented Mississippi. State Club Agents, Miss Elaine Massey and Mr. James E. Tanner, accompanied us on this wonderful trip. We had supper in Memphis and then boarded a pullman. We awoke the next morning as the train was pulling into East St. Louis. It was a beautiful city. The sun was just rising and here I was introduced to my first real northern temperature. We crossed several river bridges that cost millions of dollars to construct. Having had breakfast in this city, we left on the fast train for Chicago.

All day Sunday we rode. The country is level in the north and the soil is very rich. As we rode through the beautiful state of Illinois I realized why this would be identified as a typical corn state. About four o'clock we came to the edge of the city. For one hour we rode before arriving at the depot. From the station we rode in taxies to the La Salle Hotel where we registered and retired for a night of real good rest.

Monday morning we were up bright and early. After having breakfast we met delegates from other states. From there we marched

to elevated tracks where we boarded street cars to the International Livestock Exposition. An address of welcome was given by Mr. B. H. Hiede, General Manager of the Livestock Exposition. There we saw some of the most beautiful horses, hogs, cows and sheep. Some of the horses weighed twenty-two hundred pounds.

At noon Sears Roebuck & Co. served the club girls, boys and leaders a delicious dinner at the 4-H club building. In the afternoon we watched judges as they judged livestock.

Promptly at four o'clock both battallions assembled in front of the club building, leaving immediately for the plant of Wilson & Co. We boarded motor coaches provided for us by Wilson & Co. From 4:30 to 6 o'clock club girls and boys were entertained in the Wilson Auditorium with music, tricks, jokes and a picture show. At 6:00 PM a bountiful dinner was served us as guest of Mr. Thomas E. Wilson, chairman of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. Promptly at 8:15 we left. At 9:00 PM a parade of the entire delegation was staged in the amphitheater. Each member wore a green cap. In the center was a large wagon pulled by eight large horses that wore an H. The champions rode in a wagon.

The next day, Tuesday, all had the pleasure of going through the packing house of Armour & Co. This plant is said to cover one hundred thirty-seven acres and has sixteen hundred employees. We went through the slaughtering pens where hogs, cows and sheep were killed, dressed, cut up and packed. All meats were inspected by the packers.

Luncheon was served the entire group by courtesy of the National Livestock Producers Association at the Morrison Hotel.

In the afternoon we went to the Art Institute. Special Guides were furnished by the Institute who explained the most important

things. This institute ranks among the best Art Galleries in the world and contains vast stores of masterpieces of paintings, sculpture, furniture, tapestry, architecture and beautiful Old-World and American antiques.

At 6:00PM club member met in the Grand Ball room of the Sherman Hotel for the annual banquet and rally. Interesting talks were made and good music was furnished for the occasion.

Wednesday morning motor coaches called for the girls at the La Salle Hotel. We arrived at Montgomery Ward's plant at 7:30 breakfast was served at 8 o'clock, after which a short trip through the plant was enjoyed by all. This plant is said to cover forty acres and employs sixty-one hundred people. It was very interesting to see them pack orders and put in mail sacks. We had the pleasure of going through the laboratory where everything was tested.

We left there for a trip by motor coaches and special trains to the Model Farm at Mundelien, Ill, forty miles from Chicago, as guest of Public Service Company of Northern Ill. I just wish every club girl and boy could have seen this farm. Everything was run by electricity. Very pretty cows and horses were seen on the farm. Dinner was served on the train as guest of those people.

We arrived back at the Livestock Exposition located in the Union at 2:00 o'clock. The stock yards are one of Chicago's greatest points of view. It covers four hundred seventy-five acres. Approximately fifty meat-packing plants centers here, employing seventy-five hundred. We were entertained there by a special matinee featuring Horse Stunts.

Thursday was the most important trip of the week. It was an educational tour through the Harvester plant as guest of Cyrus McCormick, Jr. We saw tractors, mowers, rakes, ~~sums~~, bolts and wheels

of all sizes in process of making. Moving pictures were made of us marching through the plant. At noon this same company served us a delicious luncheon.

In the afternoon we went through the twine mills, which was very interesting. Every twine is tested for its strength and all balls of twine are weighed.

Thursday night we were guest of twelve different railroads who had a representative present. The final banquet was in the ball room of the Palmer House. Winners were introduced and presented with a prize.

Friday was left open for a visit to other places of interest. Mississippi's delegation went to the Field Museum of Natural History. This magnificent new marble structure costing approximately seven million five hundred thousand dollars houses a wonderful collection of anthropological, botanical, geographical and zoological exhibits. Many the results of famous world wide expeditions. Here already on exhibition are many of the trophies brought back by Theodore and Kermit Roosevelt from their expedition through the Asiatic wilderness, an expedition made expressly for the Field Museum. Here are also some of the finest jewelry collections in the world and some of the finest taxidermy species known.

We left Chicago Friday at 6 PM after a delightful weeks stay.

OSSIE HARRIS

Ruth Berry, Simpson County, Mississippi. The daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Will L. Berry Shivers, Mississippi. She was 16 years of age at the time she won the trip to Chicago, and in the 10th grade. Ruth started with fifty chicks and has developed a flock of Rhode Island Reds valued at \$91.50. In 1929 she has made a total cash profit of \$136.33.

Such outstanding poultry work was rewarded with a free trip to
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the Chicago Congress as a gift of the Illinois Central railroad, whose lines pass through Ruth's home county. Few 4-H girls in the state have developed flocks of the quality exhibited by Ruth's or have made as much net profit on the same amount of capital.

Ruth has completed four years in poultry and three years in cotton club work, with a total profit of \$351.65. Besides earning money she has been trained in modern methods of farming and home-making won educational trips, attended camps, short courses, and has been of valuable service to her fellow 4-H Club members.

The following is a report of her trip to Chicago:

On November 30, 1929, I left Mendenhall, Mississippi, on the 11:45 train. There were six 4-H trip winners already on the train. At Jackson, Mississippi we were joined by several more boys and girls and Miss Eva Leggett.

We arrived at Memphis, Tenn. at 6:50 o'clock. After supper the rest of the Mississippi party joined us, and we boarded the Pullman cars at 9:30 PM we rode all night and arrived at St. Louis, at 7:15 AM Sunday. We ate breakfast while at St. Louis, and at 9:00 o'clock we boarded the North bound train. We arrived at Springfield, Ill. about 11:00 o'clock, and ate dinner on the train about 11:30. After dinner we sang club songs which were led by Mr. Johnston who was our cheer leader. While we were singing the 4-H club delegates from the state of Oregon joined us. Miss Lis Bailey, the girl making the highest leadership record for the year, winning the 1929 Moses Trophy, was introduced to us.

We arrived at Chicago about 4:20 o'clock Sunday PM and hurried in taxicabs to Hotel La Salle where we were assigned rooms.

Monday we ate breakfast across the street from the hotel, at Child's Restaurant. Afterwards we were lined up in the hotel lobby

for the National 4-H Club Parade. We marched to music furnished by the 4-H club band from Kansas. We marched all the way to the station and all traffic stopped until the club members passed. We boarded the elevated train and went to the International Livestock Exhibition. In the International buildings, we saw all the livestock and 4-H club exhibits.

At 12:00 o'clock Sears Roebuck and Company served lunch to all club boys, girls and leaders.

In the afternoon we went to the Arena and saw the horse judging.

From 4:00 until 9:30 we were given supper and entertained by Mr. Thomas E. Wilson.

Tuesday morning we left the Hotel at 6:00 o'clock and were given breakfast at Swift and Company. Swift and Company had just finished a large new dining hall and the 4-H'ers were the first to eat there. After breakfast we went through Swift's slaughter, packing and cooling plant. We saw how they killed dressed, and prepared the ham, bacon and other meats.

At 1:00 o'clock the girls were served a delicious dinner by Chicago Mail Order Company, and were shown over the entire plant. The boys were given dinner at Marshall Fields, the largest department store in the world.

Tuesday night we went to the 4-H club annual banquet and rally at the ball room of Hotel Sherman.

Wednesday morning the girls were served breakfast at Montgomery Ward and Company, and were shown through the buildings.

When we left Montgomery Ward's, we went on the train to Model Home Farm, fifty miles from Chicago.

From 2:15 to 3:30 we visited Field's Museum, there were preserved animals, birds and people from ancient times. The most interesting thing from America was the Indian and his life.

Thursday, both girls and boys went to the International Harvester Company. At noon we were served lunch there. At 3:00 o'clock we visited the Art Museum. At 5:30 o'clock we attended the complimentary Banquet to the 8th National Boys and Girls 4-H Club Congress at the Grand Ball Room, Palmer House. We enjoyed a program and took part in broadcasting over the radio.

Besides the 1200 club member, there were 600 railroad men and other people from Chicago who attended this banquet, paying \$2.00 per plate to eat with us. This banquet cost the railroad men \$3360.00.

Friday we went shopping in the main parts of the city. At 6:00 o'clock we left for home carrying with us souvenirs of every place visited.

In addition to enjoyments while in Chicago, we had an enjoyable time enroute there and back.

Evelyn Bush, Pinola, Mississippi is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bush. She won a trip to Chicago in 1933. Following is a report of her trip to Chicago:

The Mississippi delegation to National 4-H Club Congress arrived in Chicago, Sunday, December 3, at 10:30. The thirteen girls registered at the Great Northern Hotel, while the boys registered at the Harrison Hotel.

After lunch, we took a bus tour of the "World's Fair Grounds." It was a city itself. A building was there to represent almost every country. The Chinese Temple was the most beautiful. It was decorated with gold molded in different shapes. After the tour, we visited Shedd Aquarium. Here we saw fishes of every description. One of the most interesting was the "sea Horace". It has a propeller and causes it to swim very gracefully.

Sunday night we went to the Art Institute to attend a religious

service. As seats were all filled the guard wouldn't let all the Mississippi delegation in. The ones who were left out thought they would have time to look over the Art Institute. Before we had visited many exhibits closing time was called, so out we had to go and wait for the others. From here we marched back to the hotel ready for sleep.

After breakfast Monday morning the 500 from forty-six states and Canada were divided into two battalions. Mississippi getting into Battalion 2. Battalion 2 left the Auditorium Hotel, it being general headquarters for the 4-H Club Congress, for the International Live Stock Exposition. Here we saw Angus and Hereford beef cattle judges. We also went through the livestock exhibits. There were hogs, sheep, cattle, and horses of every breed. Each was groomed to look its best.

Luncheon for the Club Congress delegates was provided by Sears-Roebuck & Company at the stock yard Inn. We also had music and other entertainment by different parties.

At 4:00 we boarded coaches provided by Wilson and Company, and went to the Wilson Auditorium where we were entertained. At 6:00 we had dinner as guests of Thos. E. Wilson. Special entertainment for the occasion of "Thomas E. Wilson Night" was provided by the Sinclair Radio Minstrels, broadcasting their program. Lieut. Comm. T. G. W. Settle and Majoy Chester L. Fordney, the stratosphere Balloonist, made an address. They made the official world's altitude record of 61,237 feet.

Awards totaling several thousand dollars were made personally by Mr. Wilson to National 4-H winners on this night. At 8:30 the entire delegation returned to the International Live Stock Exposition Arena for parade and introduction of champions by R. A. Turner. After singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee," we boarded special elevated trains for our hotels.

On Tuesday, the boys assembled and boarded special trains to plants of Swift & Co., and Armour & Co. the girls left in taxicabs for Field's Museum. Here animals and animal skeletons of all ages were displayed. The most interesting was the groups of stone age men and prehistoric animals. From the museum we went to Adler Planetarium and saw a demonstration conducted by Miss Maud Bennett. The stratosphere was reproduced in the dome shaped building. The demonstration showed the relationship of the sun, moon, stars and planets, to each other. It was perfect as any night.

We were guests of officials of the Chicago Mail Order Company for luncheon. We were shown a style review of this company's clothing. The rest of the afternoon was for rest and preparation for club members' own banquet and national rally. This was the best of the week's events. Mr. J. Gilbert Pearson, president of the "National Association of Audubon Societies" made a very interesting address on birds and their enemies. If everyone could have heard this fine speaker our feathered friends would get better protection than all the laws give them.

R. A. Turner presented the awards to the National 4-H Club winners. We all envied these lucky boys and girls. I am sure each one present made a resolution to work harder this next year than ever before.

Wednesday the whole delegation boarded buses for a tour of Chicago. We went through Lincoln Park by the Chicago University, and through China Town, a city within a city. It has its own government, laws and traffic regulations. We passed the home of Millionaires. They were beautiful.

The Fountain of Time is something to be remembered. It was carved to represent youth, maturity, old age, the ones who are willing to die and those who fear the unknown.

On Tuesday, the boys assembled and boarded special trains to plants of Swift & Co., and Armour & Co. the girls left in taxicabs for Field's Museum. Here animals and animal skeletons of all ages were displayed. The most interesting was the groups of stone age men and prehistoric animals. From the museum we went to Adler Planetarium and saw a demonstration conducted by Miss Maud Bennett. The stratosphere was reproduced in the dome shaped building. The demonstration showed the relationship of the sun, moon, stars and planets, to each other. It was perfect as any night.

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We went through the McCormick Works and show room Lunch was provided by the International Harvester Company, Fowler McCormick made an address. In the afternoon we attended a Matinee Horse Show. Horses for every kind of work were here. We saw a polo game between Chicago University and Statford Polo Club. The game was very exciting, the score being 6½ to 7 in favor of Chicago.

Wednesday was opened for leaders to take their delegates to any form of entertainment. We went to Chicago Theater to see "Clara Bow in "Hopla."

Thursday we were entertained by Montgomery Ward and Company. We were shown through the plant and the laboratory where all their goods are tested before being put on sale. From Montgomery Ward's we went to Marshall Field and Company. We were guided through the building. On the eighth floor were rooms furnished to represent every kind of house such as the modern house, budget house and Chinz House. Looking up from the first floor the famous Tiffany dome could be seen. The Mosaic Dome consists of 6,000,000 pieces of Tiffany facrile glass. It is the largest piece of glass Mosaic in the world. It is also the first dome ever built of iridescent glass. After being entertained at luncheon, we went to the Museum of Science and Industry for a trip down into the coal mine. After entering the cage it drops a distance of 500 feet. There is a blast of cold air and a musty smell. At the bottom of the shaft we stepped into the pump room where water is pumped out to keep the mine dry. We went through the mine on an electric train. Coal was all around us. The only light was from the miner's lamp. Machinery for drilling, cutting and loading was controlled by one man. We went from here to our rooms to prepare for the final party. It was on the ninth floor ball-room of the Auditorium Hotel. Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun, yet it was a bit sad for

we knew we would have to say farewell to our friends from other states. On Friday, we went again to Marshall Field for Luncheon in the Walnut Grill room. Here we saw their style review.

From here some went shopping, while others went to see Joan Crawford in "Dancing Lady".

About 5:30 the Mississippi delegation left the hotel to board the train for home. We were glad to start toward the land of sunshine. We did not see the sun while in Chicago yet the thermometer didn't drop below 40 while we were there. After being entertained as the 1500 boys and girls were at National Club Congress. I know some of our greatest business men see a great future for agriculture and 4-H workers.

One speaker said we could write all we do well on a square inch of paper. How many of us would have to leave the paper blank?

And though it was a wonderful never-to-be-forgotten trip, we were all happy to be home again.

Following are the names and address of girls who won trips to Chicago, that we were unable to secure any data on: Maynelle Teunisson, Pinola, Mississippi. Mae Bucksorth, Magee, Mississippi, Rt. # 2. Bernell Roberts.

LOCAL GIRL WINS 4-H CLUB HONORS

Mrs. Cora E. Graves, Home Demonstration agent, has this week presented Maxine Alexander, daughter of Mrs. D. T. Alexander of this place with a beautiful gold medal, suitable inscribed, which Miss Alexander was awarded for having the best exhibit of canned food products from this county at the World's Fair, in Chicago.

Maxine has been an outstanding 4-H Club Member, and her many friends rejoice with her over this distinctive honor.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI

SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-CONSULTANT

CALLIE THAMES, HISTORIAN
WILMA GLADNEY, SENIOR TYPIST

SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 13

4-H Club Boys and Girls

REFERENCES:

- 1-Simpson County News, Vol. XXXIX, Nov. 3, 1910, No. 5
- 2-Simpson County News, Vol. 54, Jan. 7, 1926
- 3-Simpson County News, Vol. 57, Jan. 17, 1926, No. 30
- 4-Simpson County News, Vol. 56, April 19, 1928 No. 44
- 5-Simpson County News, Vol. 57, July 26, 1928, No. 6
- 6-Simpson County News, Vol. 57, Dec. 27, 1928
- 7-Simpson County News, Dec. 28, 1933, No. 26

Mrs. Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames, Historian
Historic Research Project
Simpson County, Area # 13

August 5, 1936

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI

SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-DIRECTOR

Dimple Slay, Wilma Gladney
Canvassers

SIMPSON COUNTY
DISTRICT #5

Assignment #20
INDUSTRY

COUNTY'S MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY, OR INDUSTRIES:
Simpson County, Mississippi, has only a few minor industries at present, but with her large industrious white population, she bids fair to an awakening some day that will invite a liberal share of smoke stacks that are on the way to this favored part of the state. This county at one time had one of the most outstanding saw-mill industries of the south, located at D'Lo, Mississippi. This naturally helped the surrounding communities prosper as well as giving employment to hundreds of people. Someone has said that humanity passes from the present into the future, from the old to the new over an imaginary bridge supported on the three columns of Agriculture, Manufacture and Transportation, all other occupations are dependent upon these three.

Realizing the many valuable resources of Simpson County, such as cotton, which seems to be an economic waste, the people are working fast to bring Factories to the Fields where the source of supply and process of manufacture can be brought close together; for it is a well established theory that all

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the income of Industry comes from the consumer and the opposite is also true that all the income from the consumer comes from Industry. Simpson has many other resources other than cotton. Oil has been found in two places in Simpson County, also all kinds of clay, and bentonite and fullers earth that are now used largely in the Oil Industry.

"The following statistics, taken from the twelfth U. S. Census for 1900, relate farms, manufactures and population; no. of farms 2,161, acreage in farms, 222,949, acres improved 74,281, value of lands exclusive of buildings \$770,750, value of buildings \$301,320, value of livestock \$369,313, total value of products not fed to stock \$698,362. Number of manufacture establishments .27, capitol invested \$68,985, wage paid \$20,207, cost of materials \$64,311 total value of products \$121,274. The population in 1900 was 7,864 colored 4,954, total 12,800, increase over 1890, 2,662. The population in 1906 was estimated at 15,000. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in Simpson County in 1905 was \$2,233,826 and in 1906 it was \$4,009,701 which shows an increase of \$1,775,875 during the year."¹

"Some facts about Simpson County Statistics for the State at the opening of the year 1929 which showed 23 establishments² in Simpson County employing 1,926 at a total wage of \$1,023,926. Rent and taxes on these businesses amounted to \$151,776 and the cost of the material was estimated to be \$1,090,977. The value of products before manufacturing amounted to \$3,146,700 and the manufactured articles added \$2,055,723.

¹ Encyclopedia of Mississippi History by Dunbar Rowland. p.667 Vol. II. Courtesy of Dept. of Archives and History.
² Mississippi Builder, 1929- Dec. issue

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"From these statistics it will be seen that this section at this time was not a mean manufacturing center."

Simpson County has advanced in many respects since 1905-06 and has lived through rapid changes for the betterment of prosperity. With thousands of acres of cut-over land and hard wood timber of all kinds, Simpson Countians are striving for new enterprises to work out Governor White's plan, to "Balance Agriculture with Industry."³

From the following past-mill histories you will note the advancement of this county since before the year 1824, when the county was organized.

"About 60 years ago, Abram Cook and Befford Gates settled on Strong River near the Northeast corner of the county, on the south side of the river and Rhesa Kennedy, grandfather of Rev. J. R. Johnston, on the same side of the river, in the vicinity of whom lived the Ponders and Moses and Wm. Layton, ancestors of the present generation of those names. 40 or 50 years ago, Hugh Thompson and Dick Swor lived on the north side of the river, nearly opposite Rhesa Womack, settled the place on the north side of the river at what is now known as Floyd's bridge. He sold his place to Everett Floyd, the present occupant about 40 years ago lived about 50 years where his widow now resides, near where Campbells creek empties into the river. About 50 years ago Brewster Jayne, who then lived near Jayne's Bridge (which took the name from him) built a large set of mills on Strong river, near D'Lo, P.O. L. C. Gibson, John McIntosh and a man by the name of Brothers all of whom have since died were the machanic who did most of the work in erecting these mills

³ The introductory of this manuscript was given us by Mr. B. F. Beauchamp of Mendenhall, Miss., who is connected with Miller Motor Co., Mendenhall.

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Mr. Jayne, being an energetic and progressive man, doing a mercantile business in connection with his mill borrowed money from the banks, mortgaging his property, was one of the victims of the financial crash of 1837, in consequence of which his mills soon went down. These mills were built on a rock foundation, and the groves that were chiseled out to imbed the mud sill, are still visible at low water. W. R. May availed himself of the water fall by keeping a fish trap at this place which at times furnished him with more fish than he needs for home use, while Mr. Jayne lived at this place, Mrs. Juliet Jayne, his wife, presented to a newly married lady friend of hers a set of dishes and plates, some of which have been so well cared for that they are still in existence."⁴

"J.B. Mendenhall and his father, of North Carolina by private conveyance through the Indian nation, visited this State in 1831; and in 1834 he returned to this county and settled permanently. In 1894 while on a tour north he bought, at Patterson Jew Jersey, the wool carding machine that is now owned by C. Burns. This set to running the old mills near here and there being no factories near at that time when most of the ladies spun and wove with their own hands woollen clothes that were used and it being a laborious task to card the wool by hand, the machine was considered a great boon and labor saving institution. Consequently, wool was brought here to be carded from all the surrounding counties. The machine was frequently so crowded that it was often run day and night making from twenty to twenty-five dollars a day. Mr. Mendenhall removed from here to Mobile in 1855 and in 1867, from there to Brazil afterwards returning to Florida in 1874."⁵

⁴ Reminiscences of Simpson County and its early settlers, by the late Hon. T. L. Mendenhall.)

⁵ same as no. 4

SIMPSON COUNTY, INDOUSTRY

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where he died four years ago."

Sylvester Walker now (1937) owns and operates a small steam mill at this same place, it was started several years ago.

Westville and Carter Mills.⁶

The Westville mill was located on Brown's creek, also known as Westville Mill creek. This mill or the Belk mill was built by Elmo Belk in the early forties, beginning with a shoe factory, and tanning shop. Later a grist mill and gin were added, then the saw mill. This mill furnished lumber for building a good many of the first houses ever built in Westville, Simpson County, Mississippi. After bein operated by Mr. Belk for a number of years it passed into the hands of Hugh Thurman, it was in operation more than 50 years, but like the others of its kind was no longer in service after the steam mills were built.

The Carter mill was built by a man by the same name in the early forties. It was a gin and grist mill, and at a later date the saw mill was added, thus, operating more than fifty years. This mill was also operated by a Mr. Clark and furnished lumber for some of the first houses to be built in Westville.

The Weathersby mill⁷, located on Sellars Creek where the town of Weathersby now stands, was built by Daniel Weathersby about 1870. Mr. Weathersby owned and operated this mill for a number of years. At his death it was owned by his son, Tom Weathersby who operated it about 1900, when it was destroyed by high water. Material was sawed at this mill for building some of the first houses ever built in this section of the county.

⁶ Information given by Mr. O. E. Berry, Mt. Zion, Simpson County, Mississippi

⁷ Information given by Rev. W. E. Coleman, Weathersby, Mississippi.

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also, for other sections where it was hauled by wagon and teams. In connection with the saw mill was a grist mill and gin, near this mill site the more up-to-date steam mills have been erected.

The Womack mill was located on Sellars Creek built by Arthur Gibson in 1865; sawing lumber for local use. This mill was operated by William May for a number of years and was sold to R. T. Womack in 1870. Mr. Womack added a grist mill and bolting chest. The bolting chest was used for cleaning wheat and was the only one in the county at that time.

This mill was washed away during an overflow in 1880.⁸

The first Smith mill was built in the year 1905, and was located where the town of Magee now stands. This mill employed about fifty men with a pay roll of about \$250 per month. In the 1911 two more mills were added working about 400 men with a monthly pay roll of over \$2000, these mills were in operation about 20 years and cut millions of feet of lumber, the approximate amount would be 200,000,000 feet. This opened Simpson to adjoining counties and them the best farming sections in the country.⁹

The Burnham Mill¹⁰ near Merit, Simpson County, Mississippi, was built for Joe A. Warren by a northern man, name Joe Woods, in 1860. A two-story building combination saw-mill and grist mill and cotton gin was the consistance. There was not much consideration of pay rolls as most labor was done by slaves. This mill sawed lumber for local use only and a ~~to~~ mill was charged for the grinding of corn and ginning cotton, it proved of great

⁸ Inf. given by Mr. G. M. Phillips of Mendenhall, Miss., who has been an employee of the Eastman, Gardiner Lumber Co. for a number of years.

⁹ Inf. given by Mr. J. C. McKee of Magee, Miss. an employee of this mill(bookkeeper) for six years.

¹⁰ Inf. given by Mr. Cladde Westerfield, of Merit, Miss.

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help to the community on account of the convenient location and the scarcity of mills in Simpson County at that time. The mill was operated several years by Louis Howell, who was in charge at the close of the Civil War. One day he called all the darkies together and told them they were free and finished with these words, "Now go and eat."

This mill changed hands in 1882, when it was purchased by Mr. G. M. Burnham, he continued to operate a grist mill and saw mill until 1918 when he sold part interest to Mr. M. L. Culley of Jackson, Mississippi, who immediately begun the construction of a new Hydro-electric plant, re-enforcing and raising the dam so as to give the plant much additional power. This was the only hydro-electric plant in the state at that time. This project was born in the mind of Mr. Burnham and proved very successful generating electric current for the town of Mendenhall and vicinity. In 1922 Mr. Culley and Mr. Burnham sold their interest in this plant to the Central States Power Company. The dam blew out in 1925, was rebuilt and blew out again in 1926, since then it has not been rebuilt. In 1926 a large motor was installed generating 160 horsepower, and in 1927 one of 320 horse-power was installed. During this last year the property was bought in by the Mississippi Power and Light Company and the Plant is still used as a source for light and power for the town of Mendenhall, the county site of Simpson.

SAW-MILL INDUSTRY OF THE SOUTH¹¹

The large saw-mill industry of the South came in about the year 1900. Prior to that time we had a few mills scattered

¹¹ Inf. given by Mr. Bruce VanZandt of D'Lo, Miss., who is connected with the State Tax Commission.

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along the Gulf Coast which were built at the mouth of the larger streams so as to make it possible to get their logs by water, that being the only transportation of any consequence prior 1900.

In 1898 to 1900 railroads were built through the interior which of course made new routes for transportation, both for logging and freight. Immediately following this new line of transportation for the proper hauling of raw materials and also the finished products to the Eastern and Northern markets, large tracts of timber were purchased along these railroads and large manufacturing plants were then built up. Among the largest and most complete mills in the state was one built at D'Lo, Simpson County, Mississippi, in 1914. It was erected by the Finkbine interest at the cost of more than a million dollars. This saw-mill consisted of two nine-foot bands and a large re-saw and had a daily capacity of more than 225,000 feet. To operate such a plant the necessary preparations was something immense. To be able to control the proper kind of labor, wage conditions and labor conditions had to be taken into account. With that in view the company built more than 150 good residences, equipped with light and water, and a large ice plant, a large store, drugstore, hospital, up-to-date Y. M. C. A., school, electric light plant, water system, picture show, logging camps, turpentine camps, railroad camps in which many miles of railroad was built into the forest to move the logs to the mill. They also maintained an up-to-date baseball team, grand-stands, etc.

This saw-mill was operated for 13 years and the average daily labor was about 400 men. The average daily labor in the by-products department was 100 men; the daily labor required to run the turpentine department was about 100 men; the daily average to run the logging wood was about 250 men; making a

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total daily capacity upwards of 800 men. The average weekly pay-roll was approximately \$21,000, and an annual pay-roll of not less than \$1,100,000. In addition to furnishing an annual pay-roll upwards of \$1,000,000 this mill furnished to the railroads more than 20 cars of freight daily. During the life of this mill they manufactured more than 600,000,000 feet of long-leaf pine timber and built a beautiful city of several thousand population which was all soon to go to waste when the last tree was cut. Within three years after the close of the plant, the entire city had moved, houses were all gone, and town site property was in the farm.

"FINKBINE-GUILD LUMBER COMPANY COMPLETES BIG DEAL"¹²

Work commences in California, many more years cut for local mill. Wiggins doomed to greater Prosperity.

WIGGINS ENTERPRISE:

"The Finkbine-Guild Lumber company, the new corporation with Mr. W. E. Guild, president and general manager, at this date have completed arrangements for complete facilities for handling the large tract of Redwood timber purchased sometime ago by this corporation.

"The tract is in Medocine county, California, and Rockport will be the sea port on the Pacific, from which the Redwood timber will be shipped down the Pacific through the Panama Canal into the Gulf of Mexico to Gulfport, loaded train and dispatched over the G. & S. I. railroad to Wiggins and D'Lo mills.

"Mr. Shobert, who built the Electric Mills at D'Lo for the Finkbine Lumber company is a civil engineer, among the best in his profession, and he will build the mill, docks and railroads needed in California, he being already there and states that the

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work will begin at once. Joe D. Alexander is in California and will be the resident manager, having been resident manager at D'Lo since the erection of the mill there, he is fully qualified for this position. J. W. Summerville, of Gulfport is in charge of the Marine Department and Ocean transportation, and reports that he has completed negotiations for three steamers to transfer the timber.

"The company will also have docks facilities at the receiving point, Gulfport. It will possibly be a year before the timber will begin coming to the Finkbine Mills here and at D'Lo, but authorities in the new company assure us that the mills will be in operation twenty-five years longer as about two or three million dollars worth of this redwood was in the tract bought.

"This will give employment to many more than the present mill employs. The plant here and at D'Lo will undergo some repairs and enlarging the yard space, within the year."¹²

The Gulleage mill located in the town of Mendenhall began operating February, 1917. There were about 200 employees with a pay roll of around ten thousand dollars per month. This mill was owned and operated by Mr. R. E. Gulleage and sold to Mr. W.C. Wood in July, 1925. At the time Mr. Gulleage operated this mill it had a capacity of about 50,000 feet of lumber per day.

W. C. Wood Lumber Co. began operating the Old Gulleage plant October, 1925 and operated until 1930. The Wood Lumber and Material Co., planing mill and Retail, has been

¹² Simpson County News
Thursday, September 24, 1925
Vol 54 No. 15

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operating since 1930 at Mendenhall and Collins.¹³

The Ponder mill is located in the suburbs of the town of Weathersby on Highway 49, on the Old Weathersby Mill site. It was built by E. D. Ponder in 1934, it furnishes employment for eight men. The average pay roll a month is approximately \$400. This mill furnishes building material for local use only.

Mr. Ponder gave this information. He is a native of Simpson County, having been born and reared in the northern part of Simpson, where he has resided most of his life.

Rice Mill.

Mr. J. B. Buckley tells us about this rice mill.

During the year of 1876 a rice mill was located near Palestine, west of Harrisville. It was owned and operated by a deaf and dumb man by the name of Weeks. The people of Simpson County who grew rice carried it to this mill to have it threshed.

Dr. W. N. Neely of Harrisville tells us about an old mill site. Jimmie Rogers owned a saw-mill, located north of Harrisville. The mill was founded and begun work in the year of 1870. Mr. Rogers carted his logs to his mill with a two wheel cart and two yokes of oxens. This mill was in operation during the Civil War, employing eight to ten men. Mr. Rogers did not ship any lumber. He disposed of it in the community.

A NEW INDUSTRY FOR SIMPSON COUNTY¹⁴

¹³ Inf. given by Mr. J. Q. Wood
Mendenhall, Mississippi

¹⁴ Simpson County News, Vol. 61-
No. 33- Feb. 16, 1933

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"The Berry Corporation with a capital stock of \$35,000.00 has come into our county with the determination to bring us a new industry. This corporation is composed of some of our home boys. The charter members of this corporation are native Simpson Countians. Three of the four are men with college degrees and all are well qualified to handle the affairs of the corporation in a capable way. The Board of Directors is composed of men of intelligence and experience, some with years of legal and financial experience.

"The Corporation has now under lease several thousand acres of land situated over an area with very favorable geology for oil and gas. The Surface geology as well as geology determined with instruments is indicative of good oil and gas possibilities. It is believed, and the belief can be substantiated by several concluded facts, that the lands under lease contain pools of oil feeding or supplying gas to the Jackson gas field. The leases held by this Corporation cannot be transferred until production is obtained. 10,000 acres of this leased land has been set aside as a development project. A reasonable valuation has been placed on this tract of land and the valuation has been divided into 1,000 undivided units of interest. The Corporation is selling these units of interest to secure additional capital to enable the development of the fields. The Corporation proposes to put down three oil or gas wells to a depth of 4,000 feet or to a productive horizon. Buyers of any part of these units of interest will be entitled to their pro rata share of the three wells and the profits in and to the 10,000 acres of land set aside for development. The leases

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covering this tract of land have been put in escrow to be held by the trustee until production is obtained.

"The corporation has a research laboratory and office which are located between Mendenhall and D'Lo on the old highway No. 49. The laboratory is equipped for accurate tests and analysis of most any problem that may arise in the proper development of the field. A driller of long experience has been secured and these men have the ability and determination to bring in a number of oil wells that could and should have been brought in several years ago.

"Let us give the men behind this project our assistance and cooperation that Mississippi and Simpson County may rightfully share in the development of their resources and that this county and state may reap some of the benefits of their hidden wealth of mineral resources."

PRIVATE INDUSTRIES:

E. S. Berry of Pinola, Mississippi owns furniture shop in Mendenhall, Simpson County, Mississippi.

A small shop for the manufacture of furniture is located in the county site, town of Mendenhall, owned and operated by Mr. E. S. Berry. He was for twenty years foreman in the Butts Construction Company of New Orleans, leaving this firm in 1930. In 1933 he opened a shop in Pinola to make cedar chests and other light furniture of cedar and pine.

In 1935 he moved this shop to Mendenhall where his business has proved successful. The shop is well equipped for the work to be done. The equipment consists of woodwork machine, turning¹⁵

¹⁵ Information given by Mr. E. S. Berry, of Pinola, Simpson County, Mississippi, who is the owner of this shop.

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lathe, drill press, mortice machine, scroll saw, band saw, rip saw, cut-off saw, shaper and sanding machine.

Mr. Berry undertakes to make all kinds of furniture. Most of his work is from cedar, but he also uses pine. His trade is confined mostly to local demand. This small factory is a credit to the county, being operated as it is by a workman of excellent training and experience.

Another industry that has brought employment to a few unemployed in the county is the furniture factory in D'Lo.

The furniture factory which has been in Simpson County for the last two or three years was originated in Troy, Alabama by a man named Pinkard. From there the factory was moved to southern Alabama. Mr. Pinkard, the originator of this spite of furniture (the full suite consisting of a settee, swing and two rockers) made it known by carrying the furniture in a wagon and a horse and sold a suite for \$22.00, which now sells for \$10.

Some time later, two men, Thompson and Tendall of Clanton Alabama, looked for new location and territory for these sales of furniture and brought a load to Jackson, Crystal Springs, Georgetwon, and Mendenhall, Mississippi, but settled at White Oak, Rankin County, where they trucked furniture for a period of two months to be sold from White Oak, later moving the plant to D'Lo because of vacant buildings being plentiful. They moved to D'Lo, October 1935, where they stayed for a period of five and one-half months and sold approximately 20,000 pieces of furniture.

From this one shop in D'Lo, there are four in the state, beginning from the origination and settlement of this one factory.

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Each shop has a fleet of trucks, that carries furniture out on consignment, the suite is sold to salesmen for \$5.00 and the average truck can carry from 20 to 40 pieces to the load. The Thompson & Tendall pay roll was approximately fifty to sixty dollars a week. This plant employed nine salesmen, 11 workmen in the shop.

The equipment was as follows: blocking-saw, rip-saw, jointer, band-saw, and a sanding machine. The lumber was blocked, then ripped into different dimensions, jointed, and the back slats and rockers were cut out by a band-saw then all carried to the sanding machine to be sanded.¹⁶

The factory that is now in operation in D'Lo, Miss. is owned and operated by Mr. H. L. Mangum of that place. The shop employs five salesmen and have worked out the surrounding section, thus making a new location in Batesville, Miss. for a warehouse. The furniture is trucked from D'Lo to Batesville, knocked down without backs and finished in Batesville, selling about 200 or 300 pieces of furniture a week. This truck in route to the warehouse at Batesville is a chevrolet, long-wheel base, capacity 140 pieces a load.

The lumber used is oak; in erecting a chair seven-eight inch dress two sides. Nothing under 4 inches used in width, ripped into $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 21 in. for the post, there are two sides 14 in. by 5 in. The front and back rails are 4 X 18, the arms are 3 by 21 in., the back post being $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 27 in; the back slats cut $2\frac{1}{2}$ by 17 in., these slats are designed by a band-saw, they are trimmed to 16 in. in length, rip each design (2 slats

¹⁶ Information given by L. B. Nelson of D'Lo, Mississippi, a former employee of the Thompson and Tendall factory.

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to one design). One back rail is 3 by 21, the bottom rail is $2\frac{1}{2}$ by 18 in. Rails are doadoed to thickness of back slat.

They have slat forms, arch-bottoms; bottom slats are out $\frac{1}{4}$ by 21, the corner block fits in each corner and there is a $\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. bolt through each corner, and keeps chair stronger. They are put together by piece-work.

Settees are made same as chairs with the exceptions of the fronts which are 36 in., the backs are $34\frac{1}{2}$ in. and the bottoms and tops are the same length.

Swings are built same as chair and settee; arch-bottom with front and back rails 42 in. long and same back as settee. The articles used for making the chairs, and other furniture of this kind, are: ten-penny common nails, $\frac{1}{4}$ by 17 gage wire brat, and two quarters by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. bolts to a chair and 4-quarters by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. bolts to one chair.

Each worker or employee has one special trade or duty: one man frames and forms, while another places corner blocks, bores holes and puts bolts through furniture. One workman saws bottom slats, and several nail in the bottoms. One man places the arms and another places rockers.. The backs are made and put on with a snur by $2\frac{1}{2}$ bolt.

The Farm Bureau has been of great help to the farmers of Simpson County therefore a narrative on this from the Manager of this organization follows:¹⁷

In 1922 the leading farmers of Simpson County under the leadership of the county agent, realizing that where seed, feed and fertilize were handled in large quantities could be bought

¹⁸ Information given by Mr. A. T. Neely, of Mendenhall, Mississippi, Manager of the Simpson County Cooperatives.

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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at a large saving to the farmers, also realized that where cotton seed, field peas and other farm products could be marketed in large quantities a much better price could be obtained and the merchants commission which was very large could also be added to the price of the farmer's commodity, therefore a meeting was arranged and the Farm Bureau organized to handle better grades of seed, feed and fertilize and market products for the farmers.

This Farm Bureau has operated very successfully and saved the farmers thousands of dollars each year. In 1935 Government officials being in sympathy with the farmers of the nation realized that shipments consigned to Farm Bureaus cost more than the Farm Bureaus could pay cash. Therefore, the New Orleans Bank for cooperatives was organized to finance Farm Bureaus at a very low rate of interest, and the Farm Bureaus name was changed to County Cooperatives and are still operating under the same name.

This is a farmers organization and every farmer in the county is urged to advantage of the opportunity offered as the more members in the organization, the more cash dividends the farmer will receive.

The Resettlement Supervisors are soliciting each client to become a member, and so far many has already paid their membership fee. Farmers cooperation in the past has been very much appreciated, and are urged to continue using this organization, for buying seed, fertilizer, and to market farm products. No greater service could be rendered elsewhere.

A. T. Neely

Public Industries-

The town of Mendenhall is one of the most outstanding towns

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in the county. Mendenhall has its own lighting fixtures including light poles and lines, also, small transformer, but rents big transformers and power from the Mississippi Power and Light Co., and then selling it to citizens of the town at \$1.25 flat rate. The town also owns its water plant at least will own it in 1949 it will take that long to pay off the bonds. No other town in the county has a better water system, analysis show we have the purest water in the world coming from a deep well. This town had no water system until the year 1928.

The town employs H. L. Thompson at \$85.00 (paid from light and water fund) per month and as he needs help to aid in general upkeep of lines and mains. Other helpers are employed and paid by the town. The town employs Wilbur Slay as truck driver at \$35.00 per month paid from street funds; only two full-time employees at present. The annual pay roll for full-time workers and helpers as needed would average more than \$1860.00 per year.

The benefits to the town and community from these are great giving every home in the town the convenience of city life. Fire prevention, refrigeration, sanitation and other uses to numerous to mention. A good water and lighting system is essential for the citizens of small or large towns to be a successful, healthy and happy people.

Mendenhall like lots of other towns could have sold out to the Mississippi Power and Light Company long ago but decided by a vote of the majority to keep their own fixtures and buy power from them, and by so doing can furnish its citizens a cheaper rate for electricity used.¹⁸

¹⁸ Inf. given by Mrs. V. C. Williams of Mendenhall, Miss., who is now Town Clerk.

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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MAGEE WATER SYSTEM

McNair Springs, a couple of miles south of the town, is the source of supply; water being pumped by electrical energy supplied by the Mississippi Power and Light Company to Magee's elevated storage tank.

The people of Magee enjoy a dependable water supply. The records show that during the three year period ending August 31, 1935, a total of \$14,171.73, was collected from wather consumers in Magee, operating expense claimed \$8,653.67 leaving a net gain of \$5,519.06 over cost of operation. The town officials hope in the near future to establish a way where by they may secure lower water rates as the cost of operation and rates seem rather high. Some seem to think it might be to the best interest of all concerned, to install meters or other devices that will insure a more accurate check on water consumption. thereby, causing every consumer to pay in proportion to consumption; it is believed that revenues will increase and operating cost will find a lower level.¹⁹

We are unable to secure history, concerning the telephone system in Simpson county, however, the telephone lines traverse the county and is owned by the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph company with exchanges at Magee and Mendenhall with seven employees in the two towns at present.

With reference to the benefits of telephone service to the community we feel that it is one of the most valuable adjuncts to present day community life in that it provides business and social communication facilities both locally and to

¹⁹ Extracts from Magee Courier, April 17, 1936-
Vol. XXXV No. 26

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT FOR MISSISSIPPI

SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-DIRECTOR

DIMPLE SLAY & WILMA GLADNEY
Canvassers

REFERENCES:

- 1 Encyclopedia of Mississippi History by Dunbar Rowland. Courtesy of Dept. of Archives and History.
- 2 Mississippi Builder, issue unknown.
3. Mr. B. F. Beauchamp, information on Industries.
4. Reminiscences of Simpson County and its early settlers, by the late T. L. Mendenhall.
5. Mr. O. S. Berry, Mt. Zion, gave inf. on a mill.
6. Rev. W. E. Colman.
7. Mr. G. M. Phillips of Mendenhall, Miss.
8. Mr. J. C. McKee of Magee, Miss.
9. Mr. Claude Westerfield of Merit, Miss.
10. Pinbine Mill of D'Lo, given by Mr. Bruce VanZandt.
11. Simpson County New, Vol. 54. No. 15.
12. Gulleage mill given by Mr. J. T. Wood. Mendenhall.
13. Simpson County news. Vol 61. No. 33.
14. Inf. from Mr. E. S. Berry on Furniture Shop in Mendenhall, Simpson County, Mississippi.
15. L. B. Nelson gave information on Chair factory, of beginning and present.
16. A. W. Neely, manager of Simpson County Cooperative, gave inf. concerning Farm Bureau.
17. Mrs. V. C. Williams, Town Clerk of Mendenhall, gave information on town water.
18. Extracts from Magee Courier, Vol. XXXV. No. 26.
19. Simpson County News, Vol. 51- No. 44.
20. Inf. secured from Mississippi Builder, 1925- page ninety-nine.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-CONSULTANT

WILMA GLADNEY ENUMERATOR
SIMPSON COUNTY

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION

Assignment # 23

I.

"Prehistoric man's first method of transporting goods was his own arms or his back. He carried what objects he could and those too large were dragged. Early man, in casting about for methods of transporting his possessions with less effort, brought about the use of a cluster of branches on which objects were laid for dragging to the "squatting place" or to the cave. This naturally led to the addition of runners under a platform of sticks, Man first dragged these sleds, but with the subjection of animals, they were hitched to the sleds.

"In the development of the wheel, the first stage was undoubtedly in the form of a log. With the passage of time, man discovered that a log under a very heavy object greatly aided in moving the object, and by very gradual stages he evolved a wheel. At first a number of wooden rollers were placed under the object being moved. The outgrowth of this was the invention of a cart consisting of a platform or rollers with a pin or some sort of an anchor to prevent the rollers from moving out from under the load. Centuries passed before the wheel as it is known today came into use.

"The first wheels were hewn from solid wood; later wheels of solid stone appeared.

"The first carts were used for carrying building materials or grain. Man preferred to walk rather than ride the unwieldy and rough riding carts. When a chief or notable traveled, a litter, or the back of a beast of burden, was used. At a much later date two and four wheel chariots appeared.

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"All this occurred long before there were written records.

The discovery of the wheel (often considered man's greatest discovery), the taming of the horse, ox, man could record his achievements."¹

The three chopped way passed through Simpson County, and possibly followed the same trail known as the Indian path shown on the Official Map of Mississippi 1824.

It entered the county about Bridgeport thence to vicinity of Westville, thence to Jim Hays place, Weathersby. (Possibly our Rials or Goodwater ridges) thence to the White Oaks Springs. Jefferson Davis is said to have spent the night at the Jim Hays place one time on his way to Tennessee (the date is not known).

Near Pinola is Indian Springs said to be along this route.

Old citizens tell us that at one time this was a large indian camp and recreation park. A huge pile of dirt and sand still marks the sight of this old camp and older people think the soil of this is composed of is a different type from any other found in the county, or State.

It seems that this was used as an observation tower. on the west side of this spring which marks the center was the ball park where Indians of many different tribes gathered to enjoy the recreation of the camp.²

II.

The members of the Highway commission are: Brown Williams, Chairman, Philadelphia; Hiram J. Patterson, commissioner, Monticello; F. L. Linker, commissioner, Oxford; E. D. Kenna, Director; J. Bl Burns, Jr. Secretary.

For road construction in Simpson County during 1937 the State

¹-Secured from Miss. Highway Magazine.

²- Personal interviews with Old Citizens

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is spending \$142,945.00 and the Federal Government is spending \$116,955.00 making a total of \$259,900.00. No federal funds are available for maintenance, this is taken care of entirely by the state. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1934, the State spent \$19,444.50 for maintenance of State Highways in Simpson County.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935, The state spent \$35,708.75 for same, for the year ending June 30, 1936 approximately \$26,000 due to the fact that as yet all information and expenditures has not been compiled. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1937, an estimate of approximately \$21,000 will be spent for maintenance. This reduction in maintenance cost is due to the fact that highway # 49 is being completed and therefore maintenance is decreasing.

The county appropriation for roads during 1936 is \$50,000. The county is divided into five beats or districts and each district gets its portion of the fund. Simpson is by no means at the bottom of the list, but gradually climbing upward and onward toward better roads. Highway # 49 traversing the county is a national highway, about one-half of the distance is paved, and the other half is under construction. From Weathersby to the Rankin county line is one of the most beautiful stretches of paved highway in the State. The state highway Department sponsored a beautification project along this highway from D'LO to Mendenhall during 1936. The banks, where needed, were sloped and sodded with grass, on the level places; pines, magnolias, dogweed, cedars and red buds were transplanted. In a few years this particular stretch of road will present a beautiful scenery to the passerby. The state highways through the county are thirteen and twenty, highway thirteen intersects highway forty-nine $\frac{1}{4}$ mile South of D'LO near Strong River Bridge, thence to "Teapot Dome". Highway 20 intersects highway 49 at the coal chute on the out-skirts

3-These figures were secured from State Highway Dept. by John E. Phillips, Engineer for road construction in Simpson County.

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of Mendenhall thence to "Teapot Dome". Here is the junction of 13 and 20 to Pinola. Highway 13 leads out of Pinola to Coulumbia and 20 to Georgetown across Pearl River. These roads are good graveled highways and Simpsonites hope in the near future to see these roads paved.

The secondary roads are all in fairly good condition, under the capable supervision of the Supervisor of each district in the county. These roads have been greatly improved in the past year, however, Simpson has for the past several years elected efficient Board members, who believed in good roads, and today most of the major secondary roads are graveled. With WPA aid the county has made rapid stride toward road construction, and after the road projects that are in progress are completed several of the major secondary roads will be ready for the State highway to take control, at least, the supervisors are working toward that end. The year of 1930 marked the beginning of a permanent bus line through Simpson County namely, the Tri-State Transit Co., of Louisiana. Eight busses pass over this route daily, giving the travelers through the county every convenience of a modern bus line. The conveniences which could not be had were it not for this mode of transportation. In order for Simpson to keep pace with modern means of transportation, we consider the bus line an asset to the county.

Good roads are essential to the success of any county and a great inducement to Industries to come and cast their lot in this section.

III.

The History of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad dates from the passage of the Mississippi Internal Improvement bill in 1839, although the project did not take definite form until March 5, 1850.

Promoters of the enterprise failed to raise the necessary fund to

SIMPSON COUNTY, TRANSPORTATION

carry on the work however, and the companys charter expired.

The charter was restored in 1856 and by the aid of a federal grant a little more progress was made. During 1859 to 1860 came the out break of the War between the States which put a complete stop to the work. The charter again lapsed, and during the War and the trying years of Reconstruction that followed no effort was made to revive the project.

Eight years later Captain W. H. Hardy became interested, was successful in forming a company, who with their determination were successful, and actual construction begun in 1886.

The acient adage that "The greatest darkness is just before dawn" applied in the case of the unfortunate Gulf and Ship Island. Its hectic career, its years of grief and woe, which had finally landed it in the bankruptcy court, were about to end.

During 1899 and 1900 the construction of this railroad was extended Northward which meant that Simpson Countys dream of a long needed railway was soon to materialize.

The Steel was laid through Braxton the second Sunday in June 1900. As in the History of many towns the people began to move to the railroad so they could ship their produce easier and receive things from other places. The main occupation of the people at that time were lumbering and farming.

The county has at present three railroad lines, one from Columbia to Mendenhall a distance of 57 miles was completed in 1906.

The lines from Saratoga to Laurel was opened for operation in 1900 a distance of 40.9 miles has since been known as the Laurel Branch. These two branch lines connect with the main line which was completed in 1900.

Rapid strides marked the development of the county after the completion of the railroads through the county and today citizens enjoy

the services that lots of other counties do not have the privilege of enjoying.⁴

An interesting story is told of the first appearance of a train on the track at Saratoga. Quite a few had gathered at the station to see the train go by for their first time or, some called it the Iron horse.

The Engineerman was amazed at the excitement of the crowd, so he decided to have a little fun along with all the attraction.

When he begin to get ready to pull out from the station with the engine puffing and the smoke rolling he could see the crowd began to step back, he yelled at them "alright you all better get out of the way in a hurry I'm going to turn this thing around", and suddenly people ran in ever direction so frightened they hardly knew what to do, but soon realized the engineerman was only having his fun as he made his first trip on the new line.

Another story is told of the first passing of a train through D'LO, a farmer and his son from near by came to town early in the morning of the day the train was due to pass through, they came in a wagon, upon arrival hitched their horses near by, where the train was to pass, but did not take them loose from the wagon.

The father told the son before time for the train probalby they better loose them from the wagon, that they might get scared of the train and run away with it, so they proceeded to go and release the horses from the wagon, about the time they got them loose and the father got hold of the wagon tongue to push it out of the way the train arrived, and he got so frightened himself at the thundering and puffing of the train as it pulled in he ran away with the wagon.⁵

The county has materially increased in population since the advent of its railroads. In 1850 the population was 4,734 and in

4-Extracts from Illinois Central Magazine August 1925.

5-Interviews with old Citizens.

1930 the population was 20,899 and increase of 6,163 in 80 years.

The 23 industrial establishments of Simpson County, chiefly connected with her lumbering, employed nearly 1,300 hands in 1919, paid over \$1,000,000 in wages to them, and put out products to the value of \$3,000,000. Agriculturally speaking, the farms and all their properties (including live stock) were valued at \$3,226,000 in Simpson County; while its crops, also for 1919, were valued at \$2,770,000. The cereals and vegetables formed nearly one-half of this wealth. More than 6,000 bales of cotton were raised from about 24,000 acres. Further, the live stock of the county had an estimated value of \$1,203,000.⁶

The taxes of the railroads in Simpson County totaled \$20,461.48 in 1931. Included in the county figures were railway levies of \$10,655.45 for school support and \$809,315.31 for roads and bridges. The Illinois Central System was only railroad paying taxes in the county. The payment of taxes identifies the railroads as a useful citizen of every locality in which it holds property.

These taxes make clear that the railroads owns the property it uses in producing transportation and that the continued utilization of such property is essential to the payment of its future taxes.

Many necessary governmental functions, including the education of thousands of school children, depend upon the continued ability of the railroads to meet its tax mill.⁷

IV. A

An amusing business incident once occurred at Jaynes Bluff on Pearl River, a steamboat landing where cotton was hauled for shipment during the early forties.

Sarah A. Harper had cotton stored there and so did H. V. Standard, and it got mixed so that it was difficult to ascertain to whom it ~~belonged~~. The Heart of the South. Dunbar Rowland Vol. II-
7-Simpson County News Vol. 63, Feb. 14, 1935

it belonged. Since by inverting the Brand it was either H.V.S. or S.A.H. Mr. Standard succeeded the early merchants of this particular section of the county, (who merchandised in the days of what was then called shiplaster, which was a kind of individual general banking system by which merchants and traders would issue small scrip or bills redeemable at their office.) He later moved to Brandon where he, his wife and three children died of yellow fever.

(This is the only place in the county we can find any record of where there was a steamboat landing or shipments of any kind by water)⁸

Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames, Historian
Historic Research Project
Area # 13, Simpson County

8-Reminiscences of Tom Mendenhalls writings.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT

Wilma Gladney Enumerator

Assignment # 23
"TRANSPORTATION"

REFERENCES:

- 1-Secured from Miss. Highway Magazine.
- 2-Old Citizens
- 3-These figures were secured from State Highway Dept. by John E. Phillips
Engineer for road construction in Simpson County.
- 4-Extracts from Illinois Central Magazine August 1925.
- 5-Old Citizens
- 6-Miss. The Heart of the South. Dunbar Rowland Vol. II.
- 7-Simpson County News Vol. 63, Feb. 14, 1935.
- 8-Reminiscences of Tom Mendenhall's writings.

Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames, Historian
Historic Research Project
Area # 13, Simpson County

June 16, 1937

SIMPSON COUNTY, TRANSPORTATION

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI

DIMPLE SLAY-----LELAH ROSS
CANVASSERS
SIMPSON COUNTY

ASSIGNMENT # 16

FINE ARTS

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE

1. Novelists

Name authors; give character of work; short biographical sketch; mention principal works.

We have no Novelists in Simpson County.

2. Historians

Name authors; give character of work; short biographical sketch; mention principal works.

There are no Historians in Simpson County.

3. Poets

Name authors; give character of work; short biographical sketch; give one poem in full.

Mrs. Josephine Saunders Cross, was born in Hinds county near Jackson, she began teaching in the Public schools in her teen age and for the rest of her life until her death April 13th, 1936. I doubt if any one was more interested in better schools, better equipment and loved to work with children more than she did.

She was married in 1903 to T. F. Cross, at that time she was principal of the Anguilla School. She moved to Mendenhall, in 1907. After her marriage she gave up her profession of teaching or rather she was not on the county pay roll but she never lost interest. Often visiting the school rooms, attending teachers meetings, lectures, etc., taking correspondence courses from State

2

SIMPSON COUNTY

Teachers College at Hattiesburg also Chicago University.

She wrote many poems and some stories until her health began to fail then she turned her study to child Psychology and working with children in church and home, this work she loved so much for several years, and at her death she was Superintendent of the Children's department of Sunday school at the Mendenhall Methodist church, and I doubt if any one ever loved the work more, showed more interest and done more effective work in that department than did Josephine Saunders Cross.

The following is a poem composed by Josephine Saunders Cross:

I clasp my own hand in greeting
To Simpson's forces today
Who're delving, and digging and hewing
And making old mother earth pay.
Plodding away, lugging away,
making another earth age yield better today.

I echo the wave of Thanksgiving
The glad Hosanna of cheer
And glad-hand our christian workers
To those who create our ideals
Who uphold ideals today
Plugging away plugging away
Making old Simpson better today.
Envoy! The Hiltons and Kimballs and Stewarts
To the Geigers and Williams and Ball,
Could I sit at your councils in fancy?

SIMPSON COUNTY, ARTS

SIMPSON COUNTY

I'd not intrude at all,
 But ask to write the songs for our people,
 Be your guest in a humble way
 And make the task sweeter the reward completer
 While- you're plugging away, plugging away,
 Making old Simpson better today.¹

Mrs. Una Mae Touchstone Owen was born in Simpson County the daughter of Thompson and Sudie Touchstone. She received her education in the public schools of the county, and taught school in this county for a number of years.

The Touchstone family were pioneer settlers and among the most prominent.

Mrs. Owen's is numbered as one of our poets, and from her book of poems, Broken Shadows, we select this poem. Dedicated to her child-hood home and to those of like memories.

I LOVE TO GO BACK HOME

I love to go back to the home of my childhood;
 Where the whippoorwill calls at night in the wildwood,
 To live again and recall familiar places,
 To look upon the few left of old loving faces.

The old house front each day greeted the sunrise;
 The old rock chimney seemed as tall as the skies,
 In my little child-mind it all seemed so fine,
 This country place, this old home of mine.

I love that stalwart majestic oak I see;
 The beauty and symetry of this great tree,

SIMPSON COUNTY

Seems with its strength holds its arms,
 Ready to still protect me from wind and storm.

The yellow jasimine and the honeysuckle bloom,
 In the spring as of old where I often roam,
 The same old creek winding its way,
 Thru fields and pastures as it did in that day.

The old deep well with bucket and windlass,
 The refreshing drink were ever endless,
 The fruit so abundantly on the orchard trees,
 The many, many hives of honey bees.

Father, and Mother, Sister and Brother;
 The hired men and neighbors loved each other,
 Only by service was shown their love,
 And were loyal and true as stars above.

I love to think how we played seek and hide,
 In the evenings to the pastures for old Pide,
 To chase the yearling calf over the lot,
 Life was all play, joy was always on the spot.²

Daniel C. Myers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isom Myers was born in Smith County October 8, 1912.

He moved with ^{his} parents to Simpson County in 1920. Received his education at Magee High School, graduating in 1931.

Accentuated by inheritance to serve his country in some way, he joined the U.S. Marines in March 1932, serving in that

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capacity for 27 months.

His health became impaired the latter part of 1934, and he was discharged from the Marines July 15, 1935. He has spent most of his time since he was discharged in the U.S. Naval Hospital, Brooklyn, New York and Veterans hospital, Biloxi, Mississippi.

During his confinement he has written many beautiful poems. His poems have been published in the Simpson County News for the past 3 years. They are always inspirational to any one who might read them.

Mr. Myers is at home with his parents at present, who live at Good Water, near Magee, Mississippi.

The following poem was written by him during his confinement at Brooklyn, New York.

CHRISTMAS

At this best season of the year
In thinking of your friends so dear
When hearts are full of highest glee
Because of pretty things you see,
Which you desire to buy and give
To those you love, with whom you live;
Pray don't forget the Giver true
Who gave His only son for you.

Remember how He came to earth
With such a lowly humble birth;
Upon His brow, no laurels of fame;
The manger was His only bed
Out where the sheep and cattle fed;

SIMPSON COUNTY

But angels gathered near to sing
Because He was our saviour King!

Long ages now, have passed away
Since Christ was cradled in the hay
But down the cycles of the years
He calmed men's hearts, and dried their tears;
Has been a saviour and a friend
To journey with us to life's end.
Then take us to our heavenly goal
Where we can rest our weary soul.

When Christmas comes again with glee
When many hearts are so carefree;
Remember there are those around
Whose lives with sorrow great abound;
Who need your prayers and helping hand
To help them to their heavenly land;
If Jesus then, you want to please.
Pray, help such needy ones as these.

If you would make the Saviour smile
Just do some deed that is worthwhile;
Speak some sweet word or breathe a prayer,
For some one who is in despair;
Then take your mind from earthly toil
From all upheavels and turmoil,
And lowly at the Saviour's feet,
Worship Him with a spirit sweet.

SIMPSON COUNTY

"SOLDIERS AND SAILORS BEWARE"

World War Veterans, so brave and true,
Again this world is in love with you.
They'd like to know how much you drew,
And help you make your life accrue.

You have waited for quite a while,
And now the world begins to smile;
Take your money and get in style
And try to make your life worth while.

Your pal, your buddy and your friend,
They'll stick to you until the end;
Fragrant flowers to you they'll send
As long as you have the cash to spend.

They'll give you warnings and advice,
And there are many who will entice
You in giving them a slice
Of that good old Bonus Ice.

They've got your number, Bonus Man,
For you they each have a plan,
And somewhere in this distant land,
You'll soon be back upon the stand
They'll come from near and afar,
And on your Bond they'll leave the scar,
So my advice is Beware!-by gar!

- 1-This information was secured from Mr. T. F. Cross, Mendenhall, Mississippi.
2-Extracts from the Touchstone genealogy.
3-This information was secured from personal interview with Daniel C. Myers, Magee, Mississippi. R.F.D.

SIMPSON COUNTY

4. Drama
Mention actors; stage and motion pictures; short biographical sketch.

There are no actors in Simpson County.

5. Miscellaneous
List other writers; give character of work.

We do not have any other writers in Simpson County.

B. MUSIC

1. List outstanding musicians; give brief biographical sketch.

a. Piano

Mrs. Elma Pickering Walker, was born October 2, 1896 at Harrisville, Simpson County, Mississippi.

Mrs. Walker received musical and literary education in Mendenhall Schools and Blue Mountain College, Mississippi. She has taught music since 1918, fourteen years in Mendenhall public and high schools, two years in Pinola high school and six years private studio. Mrs. Walker has also served as pianist for the Baptist Church of Mendenhall, Mississippi since 1918, and it can be truthfully said that no one has ever been more loyal in this particular service than she.

Former pupils who are now actively engaged in teaching music are Elizabeth Davis, Lucille Middleton of Mendenhall, and Mariam Hilton of Jackson, Mississippi. All are splendid teachers in their profession.

Among one of the most educated musicians in Simpson County we shall name, Miss Elizabeth D avis, daughter of Mrs. A. S. Davis, Mendenhall, Mississippi. Mr. Davis died a few years ago, and was widely known in the county as he was President of the People's Bank in Mendenhall, where the family

4- Personal interview with Mrs. Elma Walker.

SIMPSON COUNTY

has resided for a number of years. Miss Davis was born in 1911 in Mendenhall, and when she was still a small child she started musical training under Elma P. Walker, Mendenhall. She received her B. M. degree from Mississippi Woman's College, Hattiesburg, during which time she studied three years piano with Elwood S. Roeder, later of the Hollywood Institute of Music and Fine Arts, and with much determination Miss Davis also studied voice with Barbara Stoudt-Roeder for a period of three years, and has a certificate for this course. One year of piano was taught her under the direction of Grady Cox.

After much labor and hard study Miss Davis completed two full summers master work at the American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, Illinois, with work in piano under Tomford Harris, one of the most outstanding of the younger pianists of America. One summer's study of voice was completed under Florence Howard, in Washington, D.C.

Miss Davis is from one of the most prominent families of Simpson County and she has shown great ambition and gratitude to the county as a whole. She has spent the last four years of her career as a teacher. One year at Mount Olive, Mississippi, and three years at the Harrison-Stone-Jackson Junior College, Perkinston, Mississippi.

This young Simpson Countian has written a few pieces of sheet music, namely: Lullaby, I Know A Lassie, and Gavotti. Besides these Miss Davis has given numerous recitals and concerts, of her own compositions. She is a person with courage and ambition along this line and has made a wonderful success; a success to be proud of.

SIMPSON COUNTY

Following is a Fantasy in Three Acts-

THE TOY SHOP

Characters:

Little Girl
Toy Maker

Dolls:

Buster Brown	Boy Doll
Red Riding Hood	Girl Doll
China Doll	French Doll
Painted Doll	Gypsy Doll
Talking Doll	Pirate Doll
Negro Doll	Soldier Doll
Any other Character dolls desired may be added or substituted.	

Costumes:

Toy Maker wears the costume of an old Man.
Little Girl may wear anything that she desires--not too elaborate--a dark silk sport dress suitable.

Stage settings:

Act I-

A toy shop scene. Use wagons, tricycles, tea-sets, automobiles, dolls dressed in same costumes as children placed around over the stage just as you wish children to be in Act II. Children walk like dolls throughout the play--knees stiff, hands moving stiffly up and down from elbow with each step; all motions mechanical. Have stage as colorful as possible --colored lights helpful. Piano is on right of stage (to directors right when facing stage.)

ACT I

Little Girl:

I got so tired of practicing
I thought I'd walk awhile
I don't know where I am
And everything looks strange--
I must have come a mile!
(sees toys)

But what is this place that I see?
It looks like Santa's shop to me
At least there are so many toys,
Some for girls and some for boys.
So many dolls I've never seen
Such pretty dresses, red and green
And every color most, I think
The prettiest dress of all is pink.

Toy Maker: --(Seeing little Girl)

Oh ho! who's this? My little miss
Won't you stop in for awhile?
If You will 'twill make you smile
To see the dollies in a row
Just waiting for the ice and snow.
I guess they know that then I've planned
To send them on to Santa Land.
They're having such a lovely day
You should watch them at their play.

Little Girl:

I wish that I a doll could be
And never have to do a thing
But sit upon a chair
For that is all that dollies do
All the livelong day.
They never have to practice scales,
Nor say their lessons scores of times
Until their patience almost fails--
And they cannot tell what rhymes.
But now I think I will sit down
And rest, before I start back to town.

Toy Maker:

You're welcome here to rest, or play
With all my dollies if you care to stay.
While you rest I'll play for you
For my work today is through.
(Winter Sports, by Adam Gable) you will hear
If you listen (sleigh bells) will give you cheer.

(Plays solo. As he plays Little Girl falls asleep)

Well, well as I live, little maid,
You've fallen asleep in your chair!
I will now on my errand go
And leave you sleeping there.

(Curtain)

First Doll

Sleep, little girl, and take your rest,
For you have worked and done your best,
And now you shall in dreamland see
That dolls are not as you think free
But in the night when children sleep
Dollies must then study sleep.

Second Doll

Yes we practice, study too
Do all the things that children do
We will give for you a concert
Show you what we've learned this year
We hope you'll like it, little girl
But of that we have no fear.

Red Ridinghood Doll

Red Riding Hood am I
I guess you already knew
Like a real little girl I'll try
And read (or play) (name of piece) for you

Buster Brown Doll

Buster Brown am I
I'm the smallest doll in the shop
I'll read-----then-----
Then back to my place I'll hop-

China Doll

I'm only a china doll--But dollies never forget
So I can play very well--I'll play for you (my pet)

Painted Doll

I'm a painted doll so bright
-----is my speech tonite-

Boy Doll

(Different Viewpoints) I'll read for you
You men all know that this is true

Girl Doll

The-----I will play
We see them in our toyshop every day.

Doll

You will hear if you listen well

In-----a tale I love to tell

Talking Doll

-----, my speech will be
For I'm a talking Doll you see.

Any Two Dolls:

-----is our duet
It's the prettiest one we've learned yet.

Doll

(Bud's Question) is my number
If you listen you too will wonder.

French Doll

(Little Wooden Shoe) a French Melody
I will play you'll always hear it
sung when Dollies are at play.

Doll

-----by-----I will play for you
I hope you'll enjoy it, I truly do.

Doll I

And now we have a nice surprise
You want believe your eyes,
But we as Doll land fall in love too
As really truly people do
And tonight is the night we'll set aside
For one of our number to become a bride.

Doll II

These dolls have been engaged for weeks
And we're wishing them happiness, just heaps,
And today we've declared a holiday
Is last from now til break of day
Is celebrate the wedding bright
Of the Painted Face and the doll knight.

.....
Wedding in pantomime to "Wedding of
the Painted Doll,
Played and sung

(Curtain)

(Plays Solo)

Was it a dream, or where am I

Do dollies really practice and never cry?
(Toy maker enters in time to hear last two lines)

Toy Maker

A dream you're had, but not so bad
For a dream that's true has come to you
For dollies play and dollies dance
And dollies even have romance.
But dollies never fuss nor fight
For dollies have to work at night.

L. G.

Thanks to you my stranger man,
I've enjoyed my trip to Dolly land
I've learned a lot I didn't know
But it's getting late and I must go
But I'll come again if I might
And play with the dollies again some night!

5
(Curtain)

Miss Lucile Middleton daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. O.

Middleton, was born at Mendenhall, Simpson County, Mississippi
August 9th, 1911. She received her Grammar and High school
education in the Schools of Mendenhall. During Grammar and
high school days she studied music and expression under her
mother, who is a former expression and music teacher.

After finishing high school, she graduated from Whitworth
College, Brookhaven, Mississippi. While at Whitworth she
studied music under their artist teacher, Miss Inches. Public
School music under Miss Jordan, and expression under Miss
Winfield, she received her Diploma and did outstanding work,
representing her College at M.S.C.W. in the Play Tournament.

While attending S.T.C., Hattiesburg, Mississippi, for
two years she studied voice under Mrs. Robin Sweatt Longre,
Public School Music and piano under Dr Marsh, Music Director.

One incident in her studying at S.T.C. was indicative

5-Information secured from Miss Alice Davis, Mendenhall, Miss.

of her versatility. The Royal Russian Artist Chorus was giving a program and one of the leading singers a Princess became ill, the manager in a dilemma appealed to Dr. Marsh, who at once placed Miss Middleton at his disposal and so dressed as the Russian Princess she carried her part so well that, not even her near friends or room-mate discovered the substitution.

In 1935, Miss Middleton received her degree from Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee majoring in music. Her Public School Music Teacher, Dr. D. W. Richards, native of Wales, being an outstanding teacher in U.S.--now Supervisor of Music at Cleveland, Ohio. She studied piano under Mrs. Gebhart, mistress of piano at Peabody and voice under Dr. Gebhart, Director of music. Miss Middleton distinguished herself as a leading musician of the school, in the light Opera, *Maritana*, Dr. Gebhart directing, Miss Middleton carried on of the four leading parts.

While teaching successfully as Supervisor of music for the grammar and high schools of her home town, Mendenhall for three consecutive years, 1932-33-34, Miss Middleton went up to Jackson once a week for a voice lesson under Mrs. J. T. Caldwell of Belhaven College.

Miss Middleton is now teaching her second session as Music Supervisor of the Hickory Consolidated school, Hickory Mississippi.

Miss Rochelle Jones, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Jones was born October 6, 1914 at Mendenhall, Mississippi.

Miss Jones received her Grammar school education at

6-Secured information from Mrs. H. O. Middleton, Mendenhall

De Ridder, Louisiana and McComb, Mississippi, and her High school education at Meridian, Mississippi. She represented Meridian High School in music at the field meet in 1930, and in General Science and music 1931, winning first place in General Science; Won first place in Meridian City Music Contest 1928 and 1931; Second place in State contest sponsored by National Federation of Music Clubs in 1931.

Miss Jones attended Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain Mississippi, from 1931 to 1935. Receiving her Bachelor of Music Degree, Bachelor of Arts Degree and Diploma in Expression. She was an Honor Roll Student, and member of Polyhemian Music Club and Dramatic Club. Miss Jones attended Belhaven College, Jackson, Mississippi during the summer of 1935.

Since Graduation Miss Jones has been teaching music and expression in Mendenhall Schools.

Following is a short poem composed by Miss Jones in 1932

Oh beautiful night so calm and serene
A glorious night for repose and quiet dreams
Oh lonelist night aglow with star light
Thou bounteous heavens, God gave us to-night

A mysterious hush is prevailing the air
And many a soul pours forth a felt prayer
To the Great God who is dwelling above
Who answers his children in echoes of love.

I feel his presence in every star
I see his spirit in the moon afar
And I know he is waiting beyond the sky
To receive his children into heaven on high.

7-This information was secured from Mrs. C. C. Jones, Mendenhall, Mississippi.

SIMPSON COUNTY, ARTS

Miss Mary Roberts of D'lo, Mississippi is a musician of a splendid ability. She was born in Scott County but moved to Simpson County in 1898. She started studying piano when she was eight years of age.

Miss Roberts is a pianist of a wide range in study of music. She went to school in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, South Mississippi College and University of Chicago. She studied under Edna Seigler from Chicago and Ethel Powe. Also Mr. Riggs from the University of Berlin.

Miss Roberts is a very devoted teacher of piano, and has spent her entire life along this line. She has taught in Hattiesburg, Union, Carson and D'lo, Mississippi.

One of her past pupils, Myra Burns, is now teaching piano in Mansfield, Louisiana.

Miss Roberts is now teaching in D'lo, and has a class⁸ of about twelve pupils.

Mrs. Myrna Lee Albritton Robinson is another of Simpson County's artists. She studied piano at Mt. Olive High School when she was first interested in music. Mrs. Robinson completed a post graduate piano course with Mrs. L. C. Cummings, graduate of Boston, New England Conservatory. She also studied teaching methods and piano under Mrs. Al Dunlap of Jackson and Mrs. E. C. Buckley of Ellisville Junior College. After teaching in this county fourteen years she has won many friends and is a prominent primary teacher⁹ in Magee High School.

8-This information was secured from a personal interview with Miss Mary Roberts, D'lo, Mississippi.

9-Personal interview with Mrs. Robinson, Magee, Mississippi.

Through experience and education Mrs. Dorothy P'Pool Ware numbers among Simpson County's famous musicians; Mrs. Ware was born in Rochester, New York. She studied piano through High School in Huntsville, Texas and received diplomas in Piano and Expression from Mississippi Woman's College, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Also, voice and violin, were interesting subjects and she made a study of these instruments at Mississippi Woman's College for two years. Mrs. Ware was a special student for four years under Mrs. Florence Lamont Hinman, voice teacher and head of Lamont School of Music of Denver, Colorado. She was violin pupil of David Abramowitz and Helen Hoover of Denver, and Arthur Uhe of Linsburg, Kansas.

Mrs. Ware has taught violin, voice, expression and piano in Hattiesburg, Mississippi; New Orleans, Louisiana and for the past six years in Magee High School. She has done a great deal of entertainment work by stage and radio.

Mrs. Ware traveled with her father, Rev. E. S. P'Pool in Evangelistic work for four years. She assisted her mother head of Expression Department of Miss. Woman's College,¹⁰ Hattiesburg, Mississippi, for several terms.

- b. Violin
- c. Organ
- d. Other instruments
- e. Voice
- f. Composers; character of work
- g. Indian music
- h. Negro Folk Songs and Spirituals

We have none in Simpson County.

10-Personal interview with Mrs. P'Pool Ware, Magee, Mississippi.

SIMPSON COUNTY, ARTS

2. Bands, orchestras, other musical organizations as choirs, etc.

3. Public school music

Bands, orchestras, choruses
Schools where music is taught.

Ebon Gay was born in Natchez, Mississippi in 1890. Moved to Alabama when a small boy. His first music teacher was John Stackhouse under whom he studied piano and string music. He later came to Jackson, Mississippi and studied under Harold Pearson, and he also studied under Carl Leake of Meridian, Mississippi.

Another instructor whom he gives much credit for his success in music is Miss Mattie Hart of Meridian, Mississippi.

Mr. Gay took a post graduate course and received his diploma under J. M. Strawhour, German instructor at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Prof. Gay came to Mendenhall, in 1929, was elected Band Instructor and started the first class, in fact there wasn't a band in the county at that time.

Under his instructions and leadership in just a short while,¹¹ Mendenhall, and surrounding communities boasted a splendid band.

HISTORIC SKETCH OF THE MENDENHALL BAND.

As early as 1907, when the citizens of Mendenhall began to feel that the community was destined to become a town, there were those who were persuaded, and still think, that no town, or city is quite complete without a good brass band, and this is in no way intended as a reflection on any musical organization, or effort, in that direction, as their philosophy holds that both are not only important, but occupy their unique, and 11-Personal interview with Prof. Ebon Gay, Braxton, Miss.

essential places in the social order and that any other line of reasoning would, to say the least be lop sided.

However, the brass band is indispensable if public functions are to be carried out with the proper dignity. And when they begun to lay corner stones, hold patriotic meetings, school field days, and quadrennial elections, the need became so acute that they felt that something must be done about the matter. But it rocked on for sometime before anyone did anything.

In 1929, Dr. C. M. Wells, a dentist, now of Canton, Mississippi, who was at that time a member of the school board of trustees, took the lead, and with the help of G. M. Welch, Tom Berry, R. K. Mahaffey, and Dr. R. E. Giles, the other members of this progressive board of trustees of the school, elected Prof. Ebon Gay, of Meridian, Mississippi, (now of Braxton, Mississippi) as director, and made the band, as it should be a part of the school activities. Prof. Gay will be long remembered in Mendenhall for his patient, and painstaking efforts, and to say that he was successful would only mildly express his achievements, for out of the raw material that he had to work with at the beginning of the term in September 1929. By early spring of 1930, they were able to fill with credit, the long felt need of such an organization at public functions.

CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT AND PLAN

About this time, the late and lamented depression had begun to be felt so keenly, until it was deemed necessary that those participating in the band would be charged a tuition fee, for the purpose of paying the director, as the

school felt that they could not carry the whole load even during school months, and none of course, during the vacation, and since there was around two thousand dollars (\$2000.00) already invested by individuals in instruments, it would not do to give up and lose this investment.

But this plan did not work well, it being found that the personnel would be so reduced, by inability to pay tuition, that there would soon be no band. So it was decided that a board of trustees would be elected for the band, outside of the school, and on February 5th, 1931, the band elected Hon. Bee King, H. L. Miller, and W. P. Howell trustees for the year 1931, and they in turn elected Prof. Gay to continue as director.

An appeal was made to the citizenship individually for support, and be it said to their credit that notwithstanding the pinch of the depression the people responded that year in a great way, and the band continued to make progress.

This was done again in 1932 with H. L. Miller, Prof. Monroe Ball and W. P. Howell as trustees, and Prof. Gay as director. But Prof. Gay resigned and left on September 14th, to take up other work in Denver, Colorado and Prof. George H. Mackie, of Clinton, Mississippi director of the 155th Infantry, and Mississippi College band, kindly consented to come to the rescue, and divided his time with the band here, and took charge as director on September 19th 1932.

Prof. Mackie made splendid progress, and when H. L. Miller, T. H. Vinson and W. P. Howell were elected trustees for 1933 they promptly re-elected Mr. Mackie as director. But during the year his other duties became so pressing until he was com-

pelled to substitute Mr. R. H. Longmire, of Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, as director, and he too at a time when the band was struggling for existence proved not only a good director, but a friend in need.

But the support had dwindled to where the sacrifice was so great until he was forced to discontinue toward the end of 1933.

The band was revived in 1934 electing Hon. J. D. Smith, Prof. F. M. Ball and W. P. Howell trustees, and Mr. Homer Hall as director, who for the very love of the organization sacrificially served with compensation faithfully and efficiently, as long as the band members gave him their cooperation. But the membership had been reduced, by removals, and members going off to school, until the effort was abandoned until school begun here for the 1934-35 session, when Prof. Gay came back and taught a tuition band in the school for the duration of the session.

The town is under lasting obligations, first, to these members of the band who spent their own money for instruments, and played so faithfully, as long as there was any incentive to carry on, for every occasion where their services were in order, and consistent with their ideals to cooperate with the home, the church and the school to promote a better citizenship. Second, to these directors, who gave unsparingly of their time and talents, to improve the band at all times. Third, to Mr. Robert E. Bell, Miss Mary Kennedy and Miss Sue Gullledge, who so faithfully served during these years, in the order named, as secretary of the band, and kept the books and accounts.

The band is also under lasting obligations to the school

authorities, to the citizenship, who came to their rescue, and made it possible for them to reach the stage of efficiency which they did, causing some of them to obtain considerations in their college work, which otherwise, they would not have gotten, to certain ladies, of the best little town on the map, who assisted them in a play which they gave in 1933 for the support of the band, and to everyone, who by word or deed, gave encouragement to their worthy undertaking.

At this writing. November, 1936, this organization has passed into history, and now with the passing of the depression, and with a progressive school board, and superintendent of schools, the town is delighted to see, Prof. W. J. Carraway, employed as director.

Mr. Carraway is building up a splendid band in the school and the old band salutes its successor, and bids them Godspeed. Offers their cooperation and congratulations on the progress, made. This is an ideal plan for operating a band in a town this size, and it is hoped that this method will be continued and that Mendenhall will always have a brass band to stimulate interest in the affairs of the community.

Among Simpson County's talented, educated, and successful musicians we shall name Mr. C. W. Woods, who is the present director of the Magee School Band, Simpson County, Mississippi.

Mr. C. W. Woods was born August 6, 1880 in the town of Mt. Olive, Alabama, and spent a few years of his childhood days on a farm. He began the study of violin in school at the age of twelve. After entering college Mr. Woods became assistant teacher of violin in the Fourth District Junior College,

¹² Information secured from Mr. W. P. Howell, Mendenhall, Miss.

at Sylacauga, Alabama, a military college, and was drummer in Company A of the college unit. During the war with Spain Mr. Woods served as drummer in First Alabama Company M, and after the war he went to Birmingham where he joined the Bijon Orchestra as first violinist in second rank, thus, being soon advanced to the front Choir in Birmingham, where he studied prior to this time, and instruments and directing, at Birmingham Southern.

He studied violin under Professore Schumochu of La-Grange Georgia, and was a member of the 1902 class of Bremen College, Gainesville, Georgia. Mr. Woods completed a Post ^{graduate course} Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi. He organized and directed the W.O.W. Band at Tuscalusa, Alabama, and came to Mississippi in 1908, where he organized a W.O.W. Band at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and was director and leader of this band nine years. After many years of success Mr. Woods left Miss. and went to Port Arthur, Texas, where he began the American Petroleum Company Band, and from there went to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he directed the Standard Oil Company Band for a period of twelve months. From Baton Rouge he came to Picayunne, Mississippi and organized a new school Band. Mr. Woods has won much popularity throughout the county, having been director of East Central Jr. College Band, of Decatur, Mississippi in 1931-32, also by being band director of Union School for four years.

Mr. Woods came to Magee, Mississippi from Union, Mississippi May, 1st, 1935 and organized the Rainbow Band, composed of College students from Magee, Mendenhall, Mt. Olive and Hattiesville. He then started a beginners band with eleven en-

rolled, and taught them through the Summer of 1935. At the beginning of School in September he began teaching with this, same eleven pupils, and at the beginning of the second semester twenty three more joined the Band making a total of thirty-four in number.

This class entered the 1936 State Contest at Jackson, Mississippi and won second rating.¹³

Public School music has been taught in Mendenhall Grammar School for the past four years.

All the fundamentals are taught just as in private lessons, special attention is given to sight singing. Each Grade has a song book to be used with their music work each year, and when pupils give time and practice to this work they are advanced to where they are able to sing and can play the more simple sheet music. They are assigned lessons just as in other school books and graded on report cards each semester.¹⁴

C. PAINTING

1. List Artists

Give character of work; short biographical sketch.

Among the outstanding artists of this county we shall mention Irma Mangum. She was born May 31, 1910 in D'lo, Simpson County, Mississippi.

Miss Mangum finished D'lo, High School and entered Belhaven College in 1929, where she studied Art under Bessie Cary Lemly. She is a graduate of Belhaven and received her certificate in Art, 1933.¹⁵

¹³-This information was secured from Mr. C. W. Woods, Magee, Miss.

¹⁴-Information secured from personal interview with Mrs. Elma P. Walker, Mendenhall, Mississippi.

¹⁵-Personal interview with Miss Erma Mangum, D'lo, Mississippi.

Ralph Currie Williamson was born in Mt. Olive, Covington county, Mississippi, January 9, 1914. He moved to Simpson County at the age of four, and entered school at D'lo, Mississippi when he was five years of age, and this was the year that his drawing was first known to anyone.

Mr. Williamson is a person of decided talent, and his sketches to prove his ability along this line. He has done mimeograph sketches for the Home Demonstration Agent of this county, and has done sign painting for private firms throughout the county. Mr. Williamson's natural talent is marvelous, and has been proved by many signs that he has painted, in Phoenix, Arizona where he now resides. In looking through his sketches and paintings one would think he was a graduate of Art, however, he has never had one lesson along this line, and a God given talent like this certainly deserves mentioning in this chapter.¹⁶

Among Simpson County's talented Artist we find Mrs. J. J. Parker, who was born in Overton, Rush county, Texas. At the present Mrs. Parker resides in D'lo, Mississippi, where she and her husband have been welcomed residents of Simpson County since 1934.

Mrs. Parker and her girl friend, Mrs. Hartsfield of Pasadena, Texas, learned to make sketches of different scenes when they were very young, and were able to cultivate their art, by practicing together. She has painted many beautiful pictures.¹⁷

¹⁶- Personal interview with Mr. Ralph Currie Williamson,
¹⁷- Information was secured from Mrs. J. J. Parker, D'lo, Miss.

Percy Hob Hill was born at Collins, Covington County, Mississippi April 23, 1910. He received his High School education in the schools of Collins finishing in 1927.

His parents moved to Simpson County in 1927 near Mendenhall having resided here since that time. Percy finished a two year course in theatrical landscape painting at Omaha, Nebraska. Also an eight months course in Chicago School of Fine Arts and portrait painting.

Mr. Hill does beautiful work, in homes all over the county can be found Fire Screens, wall pictures and numerous other paintings always interesting and beautiful to look upon. He is considered the best Artist in the county at this time.

Bernel Walker was born in Simpson County, Mississippi Aug. 28, 1930. The son and only child of Mr. And Mrs. Estus Walker, Magee, Mississippi. At the present time he is a student of Magee High School, and has never had a lesson in Art but is a talented Artist.

He's taking Piano and Band music, and hopes in the near future to have the opportunity of cultivating his talent for Art. His sketches are splendid and deserve creditable mention in this chapter.

2. Old Portraits and Rare Paintings a. In homes of county.

Mrs. H. P. Gates of Mendenhall, has in her home a Reproduction of the "Sistine Madona", which was painted by her father, Captain Lewis Saxon Terry. Captain Terry was an Artist of recognized ability, and this particular Portrait was painted as his graduating work while in the University of Pennsylvania, in 1840.

- 18-Personal interview with Mr. Percy Hill, Mendenhall, Miss.
19-Information secured from Mrs. Estus Walker, Weathersby, Miss.
20-Secured information from Mrs. H. P. Gates, Mendenhall, Miss.

b. In public buildings

A few years ago Mr. Bee King of Mendenhall, Mississippi brought seven old Portraits of pioneer citizens and officers, who helped make Simpson County a county to be proud of, and placed them in the County Court Library, at Mendenhall. These portraits were brought here for the purpose of beginning a hall of fame.

Among them, we find Mr. T. L. Mendenhall, for whom the county seat of Simpson was named.

"Hon. T. L. Mendenhall was born August 19 1830, in Anson county N.C. When fifteen years of age his father, Dr. William Mendenhall, died, in consequence of which he received only an academic education. In 1849 he emigrated to Westville, Simpson County, Mississippi, where he now lives. In 1855 he was elected clerk of the circuit and probate courts of said county, and performed the duties of these offices twelve years, having been reelected five times. During his service as clerk, he devoted his spare time to reading law, and after he declined to become a candidate for reelection, in 1867, he obtained license to practice law, which profession he has followed ever since. In 1873, he was elected democratic state senator from the counties of Simpson, Smith, Covington, Jones and Wayne, for the term of four years, and consequently was a member of that body during the notable impeachment trials of Governor Ames, Lieut. Gov. A. K. Davis and G. W. Cardoza. In 1890 he was elected a delegate to the state constitutional convention from Simpson county and represented his county in that capacity."

"Dr. D. McCallum, physician, Westville, Mississippi inherits sturdy Scotch blood from his ancestors, both his paternal and maternal."

and maternal grandparents having been natives of Jura, that country. They came to the United States prior to the Revolutionary war, and located in the Old North State. Grandfather McCallum was on the whig side and participated in one battle of the war. Dr. McCallum's father, John McCallum, was a native of Robson County, North Carolina, and was a very successful farmer.

"He married Miss Lovdy Brown, also of the Old North State, and reared twelve children, eight daughters and four sons, of whom the Doctor is the tenth order of birth. The latter was born in the same county as his father, in 1835, and received a thorough academic education at Ashland high school, taking a classical course. After leaving school he was engaged in teaching for two years, a part of which time he taught school. In 1859 he went to the Lone Star State, but the same year returned to North Carolina, where he began the study of medicine under his brother, Dr. W. D. McCallum, with whom he remained until the breaking out of the war. Immediately after the first battle of Manassas he enlisted in the fortieth, North Carolina regiment, company D, heavy artillery, and was captured at the last fight of Fort Fisher. He was held a prisoner at Point Lookout for six months, and after cessation of hostilities he returned to North Carolina, at Charleston, in the class of 1866 and 1867. After graduating he began practicing at Bladenboro, Bladen County, N.C. and there continued until in March, 1870, when he removed directly to Westville, Mississippi., where he has been successfully engaged in his practice since. He has an extensive practice and stands high in his profession, keeping well posted in the advance of medical science. He is an honored member of the Mississippi State Medical Association, of which he has been vice-president

and to which he has contributed numerous articles of merit. In 1875 the Doctor celebrated his nuptials with Miss Kate McLaurin, the daughter of D. A. and C. McLaurin, and to them have been born four interesting children, two sons and two daughters. He is a member of Westville Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and he and family hold membership in the Presbyterian church." ²³

Another portrait, is that of Judge T. R. Gowan, who was not a native of this state, but live in Simpson county practically all of his life.

Mr. Gowan was an outstanding citizen of the county, he served several time as member of the State Legislature, and served several terms as County Superintendent of Education; was a lawyer and served one term as Second Chancellor Court, District of Mississippi.

We shall mention the following as prominent citizens but we are unable to secure any further information about them.

Mr. Tom Dixon, who was a native of Rankin County, Mississippi. He was by profession a lawyer and was also a distinguished orator. He moved to Westville, Simpson County, Mississippi when quite young, where he resided for a number of years, and was at one time State Senator.

Mr. Alex Banks, the grandfather of Mims Williams, of Magee, Mississippi, was by profession a lawyer. He was at one time a member of the Legislature, also State Senator and representative.

Another portrait is that of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson. Mr. Thompson was a native of North Carolina, and came to this section in 1821, three years before Simpson County was organ-

ized. He was one of the best farmers in the this section, and at one time Sheriff, tax assessor, and member of the Board of Supervisors. He lived to be about 90 years old.²³

3. Art in Public Schools and Colleges

a. Character of work

b. Schools where art is taught.

Art is not taught in Public Schools of Simpson County.

D. SCULPTURE

1. Outstanding Sculptors

Give character of work; short biographical sketch.

There are no Sculptors in Simpson County.

2. Name statuary and sculpture in county.

(Whether done by Mississippi artist or not)

We have no statuary and sculpture in the County.

II. DIVISION OF PRACTICAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

A. HANDICRAFT

1. Wood carving.

2. Handicraft in schools

a. Where taught

b. Character of work

a-Manuel Training Department of Magee High School.

Until this year, Nineteen Hundred and thirty-six, there was no Division of Arts or Crafts in the Magee School. In this year Mr. M. L. Bott became Superintendent of Magee High School, and Mr. Vernon May of Mendenhall, Mississippi, became the director of the Agricultural Department of this school. They were deeply interested in manual arts and decided to organize a class. Several of the students agreed to back this movement and with their cooperation the class was organized with Mr. May as instructor, in charge.

²³-This information was secured from Mr. Bee King, Mendenhall, Miss.

This class had very limited possibilities at first, but gradually expanded. There was only a very limited supply of material and tools with which to begin a class, however, the instructor courageously stuck to his post and the department soon began to receive necessary equipment.

The first few weeks, the students were taught (1) the proper use of the various tools and instruments with which they were to work, (2) how to read blue prints, and (3) how to judge material as to value and adaptability for numerous purposes. When these points were mastered by the pupils they were then required to apply this knowledge. In the beginning the work turned off was rough and crude, but as they became more familiar with the tools and material, the touch of a master workman began to be evidence of a great headway to success in this department of Manual Training. Most of the members of this class of 1936 can now turn out the most delicate work with rapidity and sureness. The members of this class are as follows: D.C. Ainsworth, Shelton Allen, Corthell Flint, Preston Gordon, Curtis Meadows, Ottis Meadows, Johnny Magee, Rufus G. Parker, Charles Rainey and Miles Russell.

b. This department comes under the Vocational Education Act. The boys that are taking Vocational Agriculture work in the shop a certain per cent, this is controlled by instructions from the director or teacher. The purpose of this division of work is to teach how to make articles useful and necessary in a home, reducing a hardware bill for parents. In other words, they are taught to use their hands as our forefathers did; as they carved their homes into the embankments of mother earth. So many of us seem to forget or have a tendency to

draw away from the idea that God gave us our hands to create things with and this we must do if we prosper.

This department, under the heading of Fine Arts in our assignment, is now firmly established in Magee High School and is the only class of this kind known in Simpson county. ³⁴

3. Basketry

- a. Made by whites
- b. Made by Indians
- c. Made by Negroes

a. The making of baskets of pine needles seems to have originated during the Civil War. However, there was very little work done in pine needle basketry in Simpson County before it was taken up by the Home Demonstration Agent. Instructions was given by the county Home Demonstration Agent to club members in this county as early as 1917. Basketry is now a part of the regular Home Demonstration Program.

Exhibits of these beautiful baskets at Fairs, have inspired girls and women all over the county to attempt the art of pine needle and honeysuckle basketry.

Use of these baskets-

Honeysuckle vines makes such dainty baskets they are especially suitable as containers for cut flowers. The trays are appropriate for sandwiches, fruits, and candy. Mats for the dining table are very useful, also very attractive. These, however, should not be painted or varnished.

The tall baskets of the honeysuckle vine or of the honeysuckle vine and oak splints combined are suitable as containers for flowers used for decorating a home, church, or other public building. The smaller ones make beautiful containers for either pot plants or cut flowers for living room, hall or dining table.

24- Written by R. S. Parker, a member of the Magee Vocational Department, Magee High School, Magee, Mississippi

Hanging baskets for porches can be made of the prepared materials or the skin may be left on to make attractive rustic baskets. The small baskets are sometimes used as trinket baskets.

b. Done by Indians

No certain amount of basketry is done by Indians in Simpson County. We have only a few Indians come through the county during the year. They camp on Strong River near D'lo, Mississippi, for awhile, and use the cane and willow trees to make baskets and other articles which they tour the towns and sell at a very reasonable price or even trade for food.

c. Made by Negroes

We have a few negroes in some sections of the county that make cotton baskets from Hickory strips for their own use, but none for the markets.

4. Weaving

- a. Done by whites
- b. Done by Indians
- c. Done by Negroes

Before the Civil War and for some time afterwards weaving was done in most every home in the county. Thread was spun by hand on the spinning wheel then woven into cloth by hand looms. Cloth was made in the home to supply clothes for each member of the family. Scarcely any weaving has been done in Simpson County for the past 40 years, and today not any at all. ²⁵

5. Miscellaneous

B. ARCHITECTURE

1. Ornamental Buildings

- a. Public buildings
- b. Churches
- c. Homes

2. Outstanding Architects.

25- Secured information from Mrs. Cora E. Graves, Home Demonstration Agent Simpson, County, Mendenhall, Mississippi.

There are no professional Architects in Simpson County, we have only one in the county that has ever studied this line of work, and Mr. Kennedy writes in his own words the brief facts of his education. He is now connected with the State Highway Department at Jackson, Mississippi.

"I entered the Georgia School of Technology, September 16, 1928 to study Architecture. The course is a study of Fine Arts and Structural Engineering. The Fine Arts part of the course consists of , Tenderings, or Wash drawing, in Monitone using Chinese inks, Tempera, India inks, etc., Drawing and sketching, with charcoal, pencil and pen and ink. Painting in still life with oil paints and water color.

While in school I studied Life Drawing and portrait painting at High Art Museum for two years, three nights a week.

Since I have been out of school I have done no professional practice. I have followed another profession altogether except for a little work in residential plans and Designs for past time and Friends."

26

C. LANDSCAPING

We have only one licensed landscaper in Simpson County.

A. E. Holmes born October 31, 1893. Mr. Holmes finished a 7½ year course at Iowa State College in Agricultural and Mechanical Arts, Forestry and Landscaping Architect.

He had charge of all landscaping and construction work of The Philadelphia Sesqui Centennial in 1926.

The latter part of 1926 he came south and built an 18 hole golf course at Yamakita Club in Birmingham, Alabama. Also Hollywood club in Birmingham laying out and engineering work for 26-Mr. Will Kennedy, State Highway Dept. Jackson, Mississippi

sub-division for this Club.

He worked eighteen months in forestry work with Wichita, Kansas Park department.

Mr. Holmes landscaped a nine hole golf course and 10 acre formal garden on Mr. Vickers 1000 acre estate of Wichita, Kansas.

He served 23 months in the Army.

Mr. Holmes has been employed by the State of Mississippi for the past eight years. Having charge of landscaping, beautifying and general up keep of the Sanatorium grounds.

Much to the credit of Mr. Holmes for his untiring efforts in making these grounds the most attractive in the County.

Under his capable supervision a splendid golf course has been constructed, the only one in the County.

27

1. Parks

There are no parks in Simpson County.

2. Grounds of Public Buildings

a. Schools.

We have no outstanding grounds to mention but through courtesies of the Extension Department, many public grounds in the county have been landscaped under the supervision of Mrs. Cora E. Graves, County Home demonstration Agent.

The school grounds are as follows: Grammar School and High School, Mendenhall; Union, Bridgeport, Pinola and Dixie Schools.

b. Colleges

We have no Colleges in Simpson County.

c. Courthouse

The Court-House ground located in Mendenhall, was also

27-Personal interview with Mr. E. A. Holmes, Sanatorium, Miss.

landscaped under the supervision of Mrs. Cora E. Graves, under same direction as the preceding paragraph, (a).

3. Home Gardens

- a. Mention owners
- b. Arrangement of gardens

The Home-Gardens that have been landscaped by the Extension Department; Sponsored by Mrs. Cora E. Graves, Home Demonstration Agent of Simpson County, are interesting to mention in this chapter.

Mrs. Graves discussed the topic of landscaping at different meetings of her clubs, and much interest was given and practiced among individual members.

She used the following to demonstrate to club members and others how unattractive gardens could be made into places of beauty. Namely:

Mrs. James Stubbs, beat # 1, Mrs. Linnie McInnis, beat #2, Mrs. C. W. Black, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Carmichael, and Mrs. Joe E. Boggan, beat # 3, P. B. Black and Mrs. A.H.Little, of beat# 4.

As an example we shall mention the garden of Mrs Boggan which was once a rough and tumbled hill side, now a site of beauty.

The yard is one hundred and fifty feet long, and one hundred feet wide. The improving of this yard was started in 1934. The first improvement made was the removing of an old garage from the front to the side back. The ground was then graded and soded, with an estimated cost of \$20.00. A Lily Pool was added to one side of the front and a pansy bed on the other.

The improvements of the ground was then ready for shrubs,

plants, flower seed, bulbs and roots. The yard was landscaped at an approximate cost of \$ 107.03.²⁸

²⁸-Information secured from Mrs. Cora E. Graves, Home Demonstration Agent, Mendenhall, Mississippi.

Mrs. Callie Thames

Mrs. Callie Thames
Supervisor Historical Research
Simpson County, District Five.

ASSIGNMENT # 16

FINE ARTS: PRACTICAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

REFERENCES

NO.	
1	Mr. T. F. Cross, Mendenhall, Mississippi
2	Extracts from the Touchstone Genealogy.
3	Daniel C. Myers, Magee, Mississippi
4-14	Mrs. Elma P. Walker, Mendenhall, Mississippi
5	Miss Alice Davis, Mendenhall, Mississippi
6	Mrs. H. O. Middleton, Mendenhall, Mississippi
7	Mrs. C. C. Jones, Mendenhall, Mississippi
8	Miss Mary Roberts, D'lo, Mississippi
9	Mrs. Robinson, Magee, Mississippi
10	Mrs. Dorothy Ware, Magee, Mississippi
11	Prof. Ebon Gay, Braxton, Mississippi
12	Mr. W. P. Howell, Mendenhall, Mississippi
13	Mr. W. C. Woods, Magee, Mississippi
15	Miss Erma Mangum, D'lo, Mississippi
16	Mr. Ralph Currie Williamson, Phoenix, Arizona
17	Mrs. J. J. Parker, D'lo, Mississippi
18	Percy Hill, Mendenhall, Mississippi
19	Mrs. Estus Walker, Weathersby, Mississippi
20	Mrs. H. P. Gates, Mendenhall, Mississippi
21-22	Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Miss. Vol II. Pages 1173-1174
23	Mrs. Bee King, Mendenhall, Mississippi
24	R. S. Parker, Magee, Mississippi
25-28	Mrs. Cora E. Graves, Home Demonstration Agent, Simpson County Mendenhall, Mississippi.
26	Mr. Will Kennedy, Jackson, Mississippi
27	Mr. A. E. Holmes, Sanatorium, Mississippi.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI

SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-DIRECTOR

CANVASSERS:
Simple Slay & Wilma Gladney

SIMPSON COUNTY
DISTRICT # 5

Assignment No. 21
"THE LOCAL PRESS"

THE COUNTY'S FIRST PAPER

The Westville News is one of the pioneer newspapers of South Mississippi, and is the oldest business concern in Simpson County. It was established at the old county site of Simpson County, Westville, Miss., in the year 1872 by Joseph L. Meade, a brilliant young lawyer, then located at Westville for the practice of his profession. The paper--a former four page, six column folio, was printed on an old hand press, named for the Father of our country--George Washington, from hand-set printers' type, and 250 copies, 2 pages at a time, was extra good speed, and 250 to 500 copies was considered a large circulation. The paper was ably edited and was a welcome visitor to the rural homes of the county of that day. Mr. Meade made his home in Westville for several years, married a Simpson County girl-- a Miss Williams, daughter of a prominent pioneer planter, living on a plantation near Westville, near where the town of Pinola is now located. Mr. Meade was elected to the State Legislature from Simpson county while serving as editor of the Westville News; Mr. Meade served one term, creditably representing his constituency in that august body.

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After publishing the Westville News several years, Mr. Meade sold the paper to Judge Thomas R. Gowan, a probate judge, residing at Westville, who continued the publication of the paper for a number of years. Judge Gowan was a son-in-law of the late Lewis C. Gibson a prominent citizen of that day, and resided at the old Gibson farm about two miles south of Mendenhall on the Pinola-Mendenhall highway, where he reared a large family. Judge Gowan was also a lawyer, and while editor of the Westville News, was elected County Superintendent of Education, in which capacity he served a number of years, making an efficient official. Tiring of the newspaper business Judge Gowan sold the paper to Rev. Robert A. Whitfield, who had moved to Westville from Rankin County, and was principal of the Westville High School. Mr. Whitfield was a member of the Farmer's Alliance, a very strong farmers organization in the county at that time. He was elected a lecturer of the Farmers' Alliance, and devoted a good deal of his time and considerable space of his paper to this work. He was also elected Superintendent of Education to succeed Judge Gowan retiring after serving one term. Mr. Whitfield was a widower when he came to Simpson county, and married a Mrs. Williams, a widow, living on a farm near Westville, where he resided for several years, later moving to Weathersby, a new town on the Gulf & Ship Island Railroad, just completed through the county, where he and his wife engaged in the apimry business--raising honey.

Mr. Whitfield sold the Westville News to Hugh A. Geiger, a Simpson County product, in 1891, who put new life into the paper and continued its publication at Westville until 1901, when he moved the plant to Edna, now Mendenhall, the new county site, and changed its name from the Westville News to the Simpson County News; its office being one of the first houses built in the new town. He continued the publication of the Simpson County News until June, 1913.

SIMPSON COUNTY

when he sold the paper to Mr. Albert S. Russell, of Smith County.

Mr. Geiger as a young man, took a lively interest in politics, especially espousing the cause of his friends, and in all public questions he could always be found on the side he considered the right and for the welfare of the county and state. Perhaps the most spectacular achievement of his political career was his fight for removal of the county site from Westville to Mendenhall. This fight was bitter and long drawn out. The question was twice voted on in two hot political elections, fought through the county and State courts--going through the Supreme court, and the records of the county were twice moved to Mendenhall before being finally adjudicated in favor of Mendenhall. Mr. Geiger made the fight from start to finish for removal, using his influence personally, as well as the influence of his paper; winning in both elections by handsome majorities--going in many instances against the advice and counsel of his friends.

Since that time he has been signally honored in his political ambitions. Besides having served as Secretary and Chairman of the Democratic party in Simpson County, during his newspaper career, he has served the town of Mendenhall as Mayor several times--being appointed first Mayor by Governor Longino, his personal friend, when the town was incorporated, afterwards serving several terms as Election Commissioner, then as County Treasurer one term, and later one term as Representative in the session of 1928-32. In this election he received the largest vote ever given a county candidate in Simpson County up to that time; his vote being 2505.

In June, 1913, Mr. A. S. Russell, of Smith County, assumed charge of the paper which he continued until about 1920. During his administration he incorporated the News Publishing Company,

SIMPSON COUNTY

Publishers of the Simpson County News, selling stock of the company to certain parties, presumably hoping to align certain material interests with the publication of the paper retaining a controlling interest of the stock. This move, evidently did not prove the financial success he hoped for, as he later sold a controlling interest of the News Publishing Company to a Mr. Burton, of Ellisville. Mr. Burton's policy of the paper proved a very unpopular move. So H. A. Geiger, perceiving the drift of events, in company with Geo. W. May, Lewis A. Myers, representative of the county, Hon. J. P. Edwards, formed a company and bought out Mr. Burton's interest in the paper in 1921.

The new company organized by electing J. P. Edwards, chairman; Lewis A. Myers, editor and secretary; H. A. Geiger, manager, and S. J. Knight, assistant manager. This organization continued a few months when Mr. Geiger bought Mr. Myers' stock in the paper. He was elected Editor-manager. This arrangement continued until 1932 when Messrs. S. J. Knight and E. B. Hales bought Mr. Geiger's interest, since which time Mr. Hales bought the entire stock of the paper and is now the sole owner and publisher of the Simpson County News. He has built an addition to his building and has added new machinery and equipment to his office until he has one of the best plants in South Mississippi, and enjoys a lucrative business--his being the oldest established industrial business in the county.¹

Newspaperdom had its origin in the Sixteenth Century;² the first one recorded being that published in Ancient Rome in the year 1615. One of the earliest English local papers was the Norwich Postman, published in 1706.

It is interesting to know that today, however, nearly every

¹ Mr. H. A. Geiger, former editor of the Westville News, who is now a resident of Jackson, Miss.

² Mr. E. B. Hales, present owner and editor of the Simpson County News.

SIMPSON COUNTY, PRESS

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town in the United States has one or more daily newspapers. The first illustrated daily was the "Daily Graphic," but it proved too expensive, and died in 1888, after a few years' precarious existence. Since then the illustrating of the dailies has become a common feature. Every trade, organization, profession and science now has its representative journals, there are numerous weeklies of literary character, or devoted to science, art, religious or other fields of thought. The great and rapid progress of recent years, the methods of mechanical type-setting, and the cheapness and excellence of photographic illustrations, have been necessary elements of the great sheets and enormous circulations of the present day, and the twentieth century newspaper is one of the greatest achievements in the whole field of human enterprise.

The Simpson County News is our local newspaper. It was established in 1872; the Honorable T. L. Meade being the first editor. It was later purchased by H. A. Geiger, who moved the paper from Old Westville, its birthplace, to the county site, Mendenhall Mississippi.

The paper was later incorporated and several citizens of the county held stock in it. A. S. Russell was the next editor of the paper; later selling his interests to S. D. Burton, who edited the News for a period of three years and sold to Lewis A. Myers. After a two year period Mr. Myers sold the paper back to H. A. Geiger, who continued as the News' editor until the year 1931, when Mr. Geiger sold the paper to S. J. Knight and E. B. Hales, both employees of the News at that time. Later Mr. Knight sold his interest to E. B. Hales, who is the present owner and editor of the paper.

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The editorial policy of the Simpson County News deals solely with common interest of its readers. It is non-partisan and is not controlled by political leaders. Files are kept of each issue and at the first of each year, one complete file is turned over to the Chancery Clerk for his reference in legal publications. (These files date back to 1908, earlier files were burned when the Court house was burned.)

The advertising rate is 35¢ per column inch for Foreign Advertising and 20¢ per column inch for local. Publication day is Thursday of each week, and the News has a circulation of approximately three thousand subscribers. It has a model 14 Linotype Machine, and does practically all the mat casting that is used for pictures in the paper.

The Simpson County News has the distinction of being the Official Organ of Simpson County for more than sixty-five years. It is the oldest established business in the county, and enjoys the patronage of merchants and business men from all over the county and State. The News is housed in a modern two-story brick building; the upper story being used as living quarters for the Editor and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hales and son.

NAME PAPERS AND MAGAZINES DOWN TO DATE

The Westville News established in 1872.

In 1901 the Westville News was changed to the Simpson County News.

This is issue No. 52, marking the end of the Courier's thirty-fifth year. The Courier (better known as Magee Courier, Magee Mississippi) was established March 19, 1899, by Will Jarvis, who was connected with Newspapers in this section of Mississippi forty years ago. Somewhere along the line, there was a break in the sequence of publication, adversity and fire took its toll.

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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causing suspension for a brief period, so we now find ourselves publishing under the numerals Vol. XXXV, No. 52.

The Courier³ like every other newspaper in practically every community, has not found the way easy, nor the sailing smooth. But news paper men do not seek the easy way, or they would all be found in other lines of work, and there would not be any newspaper published.

Being the editor of a newspaper isn't the easy task many people imagine it to be. There's little money, no glory; little appreciation, no prestige to be gleaned from the field of journalism, still, when once you have entered that field and become accustomed to its routine, no other can lure you away.

The Courier enters its thirty-sixth year, carrying with it the distinction of being Magee's oldest business enterprise. Surely its efforts must have been helpful, otherwise it would have passed from the scene of activity years ago. We are grateful for the patronage, good will and esteem, the Courier is permitted to enjoy in this community, and we are glad when an opportunity comes to us to render a helpful service to our community or its people. We would not have you think of the Courier as being the property of the owners, who hold title, but rather as belonging to and being a part of the community.

You may often times find yourself unable to agree with the position taken by the editor of this, and possibly other newspapers, but the editor of a newspaper is nothing more than an individual, and his opinion is nothing more expressed than the opinion of one man. As a rule, an is a pretty plain spoken sort

³ An editorial from an issue of the Magee Courier, published in the town of Magee, Miss., 1936-

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of a fellow. If he isn't plain spoken, his paper isn't worth reading.

We enter our thirty-sixth year with a sincere desire to faithfully and effectively serve the best interest and public welfare of this community and this section."

(The papers are kept from 1928 in the office in Magee.)
Mr. A. P. Russell was editor for a number of years of the Magee Courier, and the latter part of 1936 this paper was sold to Mr. T. P. Bond, who has brought the paper to life again.

The D'Lo Herald⁴ was established in D'LO, Mississippi in the year of 1916, the same year that the Finkbine Lumber Company was set-up and began operating, by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Walker, residents of D'Lo at that time. This paper was distributed throughout Simpson County when it was in circulation and was one of the best in this section then. Mr. Walker died in 1920, leaving Mrs. Walker, who made a splendid editor and she continued the work four or five years after Mr. Walker's death, thus selling the office equipment of the D'Lo Herald to Mr. H. A. Geiger.

There has never been any magazines published in Simpson County.

HISTORY OF MISSISSIPPI

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MESSRS. LOWRY & McCARDLE⁵
To the School authorities of Mississippi.

"The undersigned announce to the various counties; that our history of Miss. for use of schools public as well as private will be distributed by the publisher on the first day of October.

⁴ This information was given by Mrs. W. M. Boggan of D'Lo, Miss.

⁵ Westville Weekly News, Vol. 20- October 6, 1892.

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The book will be published by the university Pub. Co. New York, and will be gotten up in the most elegant style. It will be the most complete school history ever published for Miss. for accuracy of details and fullness of information.

"It has several maps showing the territory of Mississippi as originally laid out, and of the State at various periods of time.

"It is profusely illustrated with an engraving of the State Capitol, a view of Jefferson college the State University, the Agricultural and Mechanical College and the girls Industrial College at Columbus.

"It has the portrait of Hernando De Soto, the discoverer of the imperial river, and a portrait of LaSalle the earliest navigator of the Father of Waters from the mouth of the Illinois to the passes of the great river into the Gulf of Mexico.

"In addition to the foregoing views will be presented of Forts Maurepas at Biloxi, Rosalie at Natchez, and Nogales at the walnut Hills now the site of Vicksburg, the latter being a Spanish Fort, built after the Spaniards wrested the country from England.

"In addition to these illustrations, the book will contain portraits of only two territorial governors, Claiborne and Holmes; the portraits of Gov. Sargent and Williams we could not obtain. The pictures of all the governors of the State, with the exception of Governors Walter Leake, Abram M. Scott, Hiram G. Runnells, Charles Lynch and Alexander G. McNutt, which we were unable to obtain.

The pictures of Chief Justices Wm. L. Sharkey and Cotes-

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worth Pinkey Smith, the portraits of Sargent S. Prentiss, Wiley P. Harris and William Yerger, also the present Judges of the Supreme Courts.

"In addition the portraits of Gen. Thomas Hinds, one of the Heroes of the battle of New Orleans and all General Officers of the Confederate army from the State of Miss. commencing with General Earl VanDorn, that we could obtain. In addition the book will contain a full page portrait of Jefferson Davis, the best loved citizen the State ever possessed.

"In addition to all these illustrations will be found a portrait of the Hon. Lucius Q. C. Lamar, a former representative, Senator in Congress, and Sec. of the Interior and at present an associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the U. S.

"There will be found in the book a picture of the first Miss. Regiment in Mexico, commanded by Col Jefferson Davis, repelling the Mexican Lancers under the command of Gen. Mignon.

"In addition to the list of illustrations contained in the volume, will be found a view of the famous Ram, Ark. before she made her Brilliant attack on the gunboats in the Miss. River scattering and destroying one or two of the Union gunboats.

"We merely ask a comparison of our school history with that of any other school History of Miss. ever written or published, and will be content with the decision of the school authorities.

"Within the cover of the History also in a separate volume will be presented a treatise on "Civil Government" which has been prepared with great care, and in which the student will find an analysis of the Federal and State Constitutions with the distribution and powers of each clearly defined, and especially adapted to the school room.

Lowry and McCardle

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

"The first fixed and official day of Thanksgiving was held in the year 1665. In the old public records of the court of Connecticut we find the following order which the court issued on October 12, 1665, appointing a day of general thanksgiving.

"This court doth appoint a solemn day of Thanksgiving to be kept through this colony on the last Wednesday of November, to return praise to God for His great mercy to us in the continuation of our liberties and privileges both Civil and Ecclesiastick, and for our peace and preventing those troubles that we feared by forriagne enemies and for the blessing in the fruits of the earth and the general health of the plantations."

"It will be noted that the appointed day was Wednesday instead of Thursday, as we now celebrate. The spelling is odd in many cases."⁶

RELIGION

"Religion⁷ and religious activities, agencies of the Most High in the salvation of the world, are, not only essential to the ultimate salvation of the soul of man, but to his peace, happiness and contentment while journeying through this vale of tears. Man's religious connections are recognized as an outstanding index to his character and on this hypothesis ~~the~~ use of religion has been invincibly employed by hypocritical politicians for ages even during the so journ of our Lord upon earth, when he expressed his contempt for the practice in no uncertain terms and on numerous occasions.

⁶ Simpson County News. Vol. XXXI
Thurs. Nov. 24, 1910- Number 8.

⁷ Magee Courier, January 6, 1933
Col. VI No. 17-

"Religion, in the scheme of salvation as promulgated by the Redeemer of the world, has a grand and glorious purpose. It brings man in close touch with his God, who alone can know his thought and purposes. It lifts him above the things of the world and into experiences unattainable through natural means, it brings him to the realization that man is more than flesh and blood and that the important factors in the make-up of the human being is not the tangible things, not things that we see, feel, hear, smell or taste, but that they are crouched behind the veil of the future impenetrable save by faith trained in the school of God. In view of the sacredness of such thoughts, it would seem that no rational being would dare play the role of a religious leader, hypocritically, by commercializing such sacred sentiments, but there is strong evidence that such is the case today, as much so, as when Jesus of Nazareth called upon the hypocrites and vipers to explain, "who warned you to flee the wrath of God."

"True religion does not advise a fellow who is in trouble, involved in court for crime, in bad with society, down and out on account of his close association with the devil to go to church and Sunday school, take an active part in the affairs of the Lord's work to enable him to escape the consequences of his misdeeds. We would call this skin religion, because it is designed to save the hide instead of the soul."

"KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING."⁸

"Magee is a small town as towns go, but that does not necessarily mean that it must forever remain a small town. New York was once a small town, a much smaller town than Magee. The imagi-

⁸ The Magee Courier- Jan. 13, 1933
Vol. VI. No. 18

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nation would have to be stretched terribly to have Magee pictured as a city a decade hence, but that does not mean that Magee can not be advanced, that is can not be made a better town, that it is grown. In the face of conditions existing right now it is mighty hard for a town to hold its own, not to mention growth and progress, but the town that goes to sleep because of "hard times" will forever remain asleep and so far as the future of that town is concerned, there will be no difference between good times and hard times, as the town will be dead, if it is neglected.

"The time worn adage: "Prepare for war in time of peace," has lost none of its lustre in application to the affairs of man. Economic conditions will one day in the no distant future change for the better prosperity will come back again and business will be good once more. That is the hope of every man who is engaged in any kind of business, it is a hope that nestles in the heart of every person who has the welfare of his community at heart. Now, while we have time, while we do not have so much business, would be a mighty good time to strengthen the lines, to take up lost motion, set our house in order, and prepare for the return of better days. No matter how good a town was in the old days, if it goes to sleep during the present lull, it is pretty apt to wake up when conditions improve to find that its patronage has gone to a nearby field that did not take a "nap." Magee can do this very thing and there are nearby fields that would be glad to supply the pasturage.

No it is a mighty good time to create a better understanding among our people, to work for spirit of cooperation, to keep our town before the people, to evidence a greater degree of civic

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pride, to make Magee first and self last. If we take care of the town; the town will take care of us, if we just must look at the matter from a selfish view point. Cooperation will do wonders. Cooperation will build. "Keep the home fires burning," but do not undertake to use selfishness, neglect, pettiness, greed and indifference for fuel."

"The advertising columns of a newspaper are but a mirror that reflects the enterprise of a town. All business & men of capital look to the newspaper as a directory to guide them to places where it will pay them to invest. Ex."⁹

A THING OF THE PAST¹⁰

"The depression, barring catastrophe, can soon be spoken of in the past tense, just another episode in a world's history. America is leading the nations out of the pit of despondent spirits, which after all was our most painful ailment. That so virile a nation as ours could not recover from set backs is the nethermost tenet of pessimism; a national people with the youthful age of only some one hundred and fifty odd years was bound to produce red blooded leadership, courage, and the ability to pull itself out of its troubles.

"The pessimist of six months ago would remind you that this depression was the worst thing that ever hit us, and that these be perilous times indeed. Now, with tender, grassy shoots coloring the earth with the freshness of verdant hues, the winged inhabitants of the air thrilling their carols of welcome to a returned spring, the season of new hope, how can anyone doubt that better times are at hand.

"It has taken grave crises to turn the trick, but our

⁹ The Westville Weekly News- Vol. XX- Dec. 17, 1891.
¹⁰ Simpson County News- Vol. 61- Mar. 23, 1933-No.38.

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strong minded leaders are stepping to the front, and our power to life ourselves by our own bootstraps if necessary is making it evident that we will not stay down. The human race, and our civilization is not so decadent that we are both down and out.

"History will record the 1929-1933 depression as a mere incident, a turning point. Looking back, from the present time, it wasn't so bad, was it? Things could have been a lot worse. We suffered a great many inconveniences, and a few sorrows, yet we were not half so bad off as we sometimes might have imagined.

"Recovery, as it was bound to be, is in process. We are whipping the depression. Moreover, spring is here again, so welcome it with hearty American vim and vigor."

OUTSTANDING EDITORIALS

"As a matter of fact the rules of right living and happiness are very simple indeed and easy to follow. The reason they are not followed is that people do not desire to follow them. They spend their time trying to devise some other plan than that laid down by Christ. No other plan will be found. For many thousands of years the human race has striven to work out a new system-- a human system, but it has not yet succeeded and it never will. There is no diplomacy, no pact, no disarmament, no League of Nations that can be devised that will be more effective than the simple injunction in regard to one's conduct toward one's neighbor. It may be made more ambiguous through court or diplomatic language, but the fact remains that all harmony between nations and men will finally be worked out on the plan given mankind a long time ago. The human race will doubtless have to spend many more thousands of years "wandering in the wilderness" of its own devising before it recognizes that the plan has been in existence

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all these years, but waiting for human application.¹¹

"A local citizen was over heard to say: My father raised five boys and four girls to respectable maturity without ever having possessed \$200 of his own money at any one time; and we never did receive anything from the county or the Red Cross or any other charitable institution." This is a cross section of a great many homes in this country today. Money is desirable but it never has produced good citizens and good character-- often the opposite. The home described above is typical of thousands of American homes and is one of the things that gives the country and society its solid foundation today."¹²

MONEY¹³

"We think we do not have money enough to do the things we would like to do as a race. As a matter of fact there is enough money in the world if properly used to secure everything needed for human enjoyment and human happiness, if the race were smart enough to use the money it does have for good useful things. The money spent for war alone would build hospitals and libraries in every town in the United States that has need for such a thing. In addition to this beautiful parks and recreation facilities could be provided. In addition to the billions spent for war it is estimated that crime costs the people of the United States thirteen billion dollars annually. Here is a nice exercise to sit down and figure how many miles of good roads, swimming pools, libraries, hospitals and parks this would build and equip. These two items alone cause the statement that we do not have money enough for the things we need to appear ridiculous. As a matter

¹¹ Simpson County News- Vol 61- June 8, 1933

¹² Simpson County News- Vol 62- Aug. 24, 1933

¹³ Simpson County News- Vol 62- Sept. 28, 1933

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of fact if the money we do have could be wisely spent for the best things it would transform living conditions in every hamlet and village in the United States within a year."

"The Board of Supervisors on Monday let the contract for two ne Iron bridges. One across Strong River at May's Bridge site for the sum of \$3,800 and the other across Rials Creek at Burnham's mill for sum of \$1,700. The Converse Bridge Company was awarded both contracts."¹⁴

WRECK AT D'LO¹⁵

"The freight train wrecked at D'Lo this morning doing considerable damage to railroad property and inflicting personal wounds on some of the employees. No one was seriously hurt and it is thought traffic will soon be restored."

"Several person of undoubted responsibility have reported to us that they have visited the scene of the recent downpour of flesh and blood and that evidences of such occurrence actually existed. The report that caused considerable excitement emanated from the negroes of the section known as Six-towns a few miles east of here. They say that for a period of about ten minutes flesh and blood fell from the elements and lay on the ground for several days...So far as we have heard there has been but little spectacle as to the cause of the phenomion."¹⁶

THEN HE LEFT TOWN

"Once every so often a story goes around among newspapers

¹⁴ Simpson County News- Vol. XLI- Jan. 9, 1913- No. 16

¹⁵ Simpson County News- Vol. VLII- Dec. 11, 1913
No. 13

¹⁶ Simpson County News- Vol XLV- No. 3

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as to why the editor left town. Here it is for those who haven't heard it:

"Some one went the editor of a certain paper a few bottles of home brew. The same day he received for publication a wedding notice and an auction sale ad. Here's how it came out in the paper: "William Smith and Miss Lucy Anderson were disposed of at public auction at my farm one mile east of town. She wore a beautiful cluster of roses on her breast and two white calves, before a background of farm implements too numerous to mention in the presence of about seventy guests, including two milch cows, six mules and one bob sled, Reverend Jackson tied the nuptial knot with 200 feet of hay rope and the bridal couple left of one good John Deere gang plow for an extended trip with terms to suit purchaser. They will be at home to their friends with one good baby buggy almost new and a few kitchen utensils after ten months from date of sale to responsible parties and fifty chickens."¹⁷

"Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow; it strayed away one day, where lambs should never go. And Mary sat her quickly down and tears streamed from her eyes; she never found the lamb because she did not advertise. And Mary had a brother John who kept a village store; he sat him down and smoked a pipe, and watched the open door. And as the people passed along and did not stop to buy, John still sat and smoked his pipe and blinked his sleepy eyes. And so the sheriff closed him out but still he lingered near, and Mary came to drop with him, a sympathetic tear. How is it, sister, can you tell, why other merchants here sell all their goods so readily and thrive from year to year.

¹⁷ Simpson County News- April 22, 1922

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Remembering her own bad luck the little maid replies: "These other fellows get there John, because they advertise."¹⁸

"Mr. Golden is putting in a grist mill on south main street near the creek, and will soon have it ready for operation. This is an industry that the town and community has long needed and we hop to see it liberally patronized.

"It is said that the way to reach a man's heart is through his stomach. I will win you over if you will eat with me. Up-to-date-restaurant."

E. W. Green, Prop.¹⁹

"Farmers, raise less cotton and more"hog and hominy."

"Mrs. Rosa Berry visited the family of Judge Gowand last Sunday."

"Westville had a right lively fall of snow last Wednesday, the first in several years."²⁰

"Mr. G. M. Burnham has been very sick for several days.

"If you want a hair cut or shave call on Richard Coke in the front part of the News Office, he will do you up in the latest style on short notice. He will keep open only on Saturday evenings."

"Dr. Caraway has certainly laid a good example for Westville people to follow, that of having his yard fence made a new and otherwise improving his home property. Now let others do likewise, and when you finish repairing spread on a little paint, it won't cost much and most anyone can do the work."²¹

¹⁸ Simpson County News- Vol. XXVIII, No. 44-
Aug. 4, 1910

¹⁹ Simpson County News- Vol. XXXIX, March 2, 1911-
No. 22

²⁰ The Westville Weekly News- Vol XX. Jan. 1, 1892

²¹ The Westville News- Vol. XX, July 21, 1892. No.35

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"It is a pity that all the old croakers can't get out of this county."

Mr. T. J. Hubbard and Dr. C. H. Ramsey, of Jaynesville, were in town Monday."

"Mr. Will Walker, who has been employed in Jackson for the past several months has resigned his position and returned home."

"We regret very much to hear of the death of Mr. Geo. Ludlake which sad event occured at his home in Crystal Springs last Sunday. He worked here several months the past year as contractor in building Hon. A. Q. May's beautiful residence."²²

DEMOCRATIC MEETING

"A meeting of the Democrats of Simpson county was held at the court house in Westville on Saturday, 23rd day of October, 1892, for the purpose of transacting business touching the Grand Democratic Rally, Barbecue and Piconic to be held in Westville on Friday, November 4th, 1892. Dr. D. McCallum was elected Chairman, and A. Q. May, Secretary of said meeting, when the following business was transacted, towit:

"On motion, the Chairman appointed the following named persons to serve on the hereinafter named committees, viz:

"COMMITTEE ON TABLE AND RATIONS.

J. I. Bishop, W. R. May, S. Drummonds, J. J. Berry, J. M. Dent, S. H. Belk, H. K. Farmer, P. A. Walker, Dr. G. J. Caraway and A. Q. May."

COMMITTEE ON WATER.

"D. McLaurin, Walter Dent, Billy Mathison, Geo. May, Richard Coke, Will Murray, Charlie Giles, Robt. Dent, Alex Bush, Will Shivers and Jas. Walker.

²² Westville Weekly News. Vol. 22 No.10-Jan. 4, 1894

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COMMITTEE ON SEAT AND GROUNDS.

"J. E. Terry, W. P. Patterson, H. L. Hampton, J. A. Walker, Lee Giles, Wm. Thurman and Elmore Belk.

COMMITTEE ON SPEAKERS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

"I. A. Williamson, Richard Coke, J. A. Walker, and J. P. Bishop

On motion, the editor of the Westville News was requested to publish the proceeding of the meeting.

"On motion the meeting adjourned.
D. McCallum, Chairman
A. Q. May, Secretary;"²³

"Our efficient Circuit and Chancery Clerk, Mr. A. Q. May, left last Sunday on a business trip to Jackson.

The principal of the Westville High School would be glad to see or hear from any one who has children to educate. He will take pleasure in corresponding with anyone who may desire to come or send to school. Good board can be secured here with nice religious families at from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per month. Give Westville High School a trial and you will never have cause to regret it.

"The High School at this place now has an enrollment of one hundred, we have three teachers and will employ another when the free term opens. As it is situated at the county seat, which is the business center, let us all work together and establish such a school here in our county that every citizen will be proud of. High schools are being established in every county in the state, must our county bring up the rear? Now let the people all over the county send in their boys and girls and help to establish a permanent school here. Let it not be Westville High School alone, but the High School of Simpson County/.

²³ Westville News- 1892- issue

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"As lecturer we filled our appointment at Poplar Springs Alliance on last Saturday. There was not a very full attendance, but we are glad to note that the very best of attention was paid to the lecturer.

"That night our stay was at the nice little home of W. G. May, a subscriber of the News. This delightful place is amid the massive pines in the fork of Strong River and Sellar's Creek. Sister May's table was fairly loaded with quite a variety of good eatables. Bro. Boone the pastor of Poplar Springs church, was with us, and we both truly and heartily enjoyed the good eating.

"Sunday morning we filled our appointment at the church, with fine attention from the little audience gathered there, and at 1:30 p. m. we turned our horse's head homeward."²⁴

"Red-bugs are ripe and black berries are turning.

"If you want to laugh and grow fat, come to the concert at the school house tomorrow night, it will only cost you 25 cents.

"There will be a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors next Monday the 6th. Under the new code the Board of Supervisors are required to meet on the 1st Monday in each month.

"The news received this week from Mr. Thos. V. Allen, of Georgetown, a turnip of purple top variety weighing 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. After the editor and family ate two messes of it they had plenty left to feed five cats and cow and calf.

"If one person can't say something good about another it would be a good idea for them not to say anything at all. A long-tongued woman, or man either for that matter, can raise more hell in a day, than fifty preachers can down in six months."²⁵

²⁴ Westville News. Oct. 15, 1891. No. 47

²⁵ Westville News. Vol. XX. June 2, 1892. No. 28

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April 22, 1883, one of the most destructive tornadoes passed through Simpson County. It is known in our State's history as the Beauregard tornado for Beauregard, Mississippi was completely destroyed by the terrible disaster.

This was not a twister like the one that destroyed Braxton it stayed on the ground, a rolling mass, carrying everything in its path.

D'Lo was one of the communities in the path of tornado. It struck the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. May and killed their little five year old girl, Elizabeth. It also injured the entire family. When the family recovered from their shock, there was nothing left of their belongings; a little colt escaped. There was no place to lay the little body except a row of hen nests left from an out house, neighbors came in a short while and carried the family to Mr. Lewis Murrays, father of Mr. L. F. Murray, where they remained until after the funeral of the little daughter. The Murray home lost its roof but otherwise it was left. The reason more people were not killed in this disaster is because the county was not settled as closely as it is now and too many people were at church or visiting in other homes. The J. S. Boggan home was completely destroyed but the family spared, they were attending church at Bethany saw the cloud as they were leaving and went to Mr. Phillips home until the storm passed.

Many communities sent boxes of clothing to the distressed people. In one box was a linen duster and stove-pipe hat. This box went to J. S. Boggan. Had you known him as some of the older ones did, you could appreciate this misfit. However, the spirit of helpfulness was as keenly felt then as it is now.

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Within a month neighbors and friends had pine-log houses built, fences repaired and fields planted, but the honors of it all lasted as long as any of the people, who were in the storm, lived.

This same tornado swept through the town of Harrisville, Simpson County, Mississippi along Pearl River wrecking homes and destroying timber in its path. Two people were killed near Harrisville, one white boy, Robert Bass and one negro girl, Clara Smith. Many others were wounded and left homeless. These were helped by the work of the Red Cross and from surrounding communities.²⁵

"Among the many people that took an active part toward helping the cyclone sufferers, none deserve more praise than Mr. J. I. Bishop, of this place. He has worked almost continuously for their relief, and it mattered not in what form they wanted help they got it. He has furnished hands, provisions, tools, nails, etc., without ceasing. All honor is due him for the part he has taken.

"The disposition shown by our people toward the cyclone suffers is both worthy and commendable. People from as far off as 12 miles came here and worked for days, helping their fellow sufferers repair and rebuild their houses. Such people will long be remembered by those that were in need.

"The NEWS, in behalf of the cyclone sufferers, desires to extend thanks to the good people who so liberally contributed to their aid. We assure them that ever possible effort will be

²⁵ Information of tornado given by Mrs. W. M. Boggan of D'Lo, Simpson county, Miss.

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made to place the means where charity is most needed.

COMMUNICATED

Ed. Westville News:

"I have read with deep sorrow the account of the violent cyclone that passed through dear old Simpson County, causing loss of life and destruction of property to many of my best friends. I arose this morning, determined to see what could be done to relieve the sufferers. I carried the appeal for help and also a temperance resolution with me. I first asked a contribution for the sufferers and then asked him to sign a pledge that he would neither drink himself nor give to others intoxicating liquors for the next twelve months, except strictly for medical purposes. I saw every man and boy above 14 years that could be found in town or at school; and would you believe it? everyone to whom I appeal for help gave me from 25¢ to five dollars (\$5.00); and every one signed the temperance pledge. How does that strike you for generosity and good morals?

"Steens Creek High School, under the leadership of Prof. H. L. Whitfield is progressing finely; we have employed him for a term of three more years. With Whitfield as principal and all the citizens pledged to temperance, Steens Creek is the place to send your boys and girls to school.

"We are very much pleased with the good people of Steens Creek, and the Lord has greatly blessed our work.

"With much sympathy and love for the distressed people of Simpson."

I am your Bro.
J. R. Johnston²⁶

26 The Westville News Vol. 21-
No. 271 May 4, 1893

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BIG FIRE AT MAGEE

"Our sister town Magee, we are sorry to note, suffered from a very destructive fire Monday night when over half the entire business portion of the town was wiped off the face of the earth. The fire originated in the wareroom of the Donald Brothers' Co. store, the building formerly occupied by the T. I. Hubbard Co., which had recently been acquired by the Donald Bro's Company, who had just moved into the same last weeks. The fire rapidly spread to other buildings burning every business house on the west side of main street, between the depot and Smith's livery stable, which was saved by heroic work. It is estimated that the loss will foot up not less than \$100,000 covered by insurance to the amount of \$75,000. Following is a list of those whose property was destroyed: Donald Bro.'s Co., general merchants; W. C. Ellis and Co., general merchants; R. C. Austin, general merchant; T. J. Sowell, general merchant; Miss Nannaie Robinson, millinery; Dr. I. W. Bush, dental fixtures; Masonic Hall; Marshall's Hardware; Memphis Drug Co.

"It is not know how the fire originated but we learn that it is believed by the most conservative people of the town that it was the work of an incendiary. It is said that Donald Bro.'s will open up again in their old store building and that W. C. Ellis Co. will occupy the old Nelson store."²⁷

"Our sister town Braxton suffered considerable damage by a storm that struck that town last Friday. Several residences were blown down the Baptist church and school building were blown from their foundations and damaged to such an extent that

²⁷ Simpson County News- April 30, 1908-
No. 29

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both will have to be rebuilt. A number of barns and outbuildings were completely destroyed but fortunately no lives were lost and only one person was seriously hurt that of Mrs. E. M. Bridges, who suffered from a fracture of one leg, who we are glad to learn is fast improving."

"The hotel at Weathersby owned and occupied by T. J. Weathersby and family burned last Sunday night, together with nearly all its contents. The fire originated in the kitchen department and was so far advanced before being discovered that it was impossible to check and it was only by hard work that a small portion of furniture was saved. There was only a small amount of insurance on the building."²⁸

"Our neighboring town, D'Lo, suffered from a very destructive fire on Sunday night in which the greater portion of the business section was destroyed. The fire was discovered at about one o'clock on Monday morning and had gained such headway before assistance could arrive that six stores were burned before it could be checked, despite the splendid fight made by the citizenry of the town. The loss is reported as amounting to about \$25,000 with about \$9,000 insurance. Those suffering from the conflagration were A.G. Manning, D'Lo Mercantile Co., F. E. Shivers, J. A. Warren, general merchants; Dr. J. A. Kennedy, Druggist, N. K. Holifield, household effects.

"The fact that the fire²⁹ started from the outside, or more correctly speaking, in an alley between the Manning store and

²⁸ Simpson County News- July 9, 1908.
Vol. XXXVI No. 39

²⁹ Simpson County News-
Vol. XXXVI No. 46-

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the Mercantile Co.'s store is proof sufficient that the fire was of incendiary origin. Mendenhall people fully appreciate our neighbors' misfortune and sympathize with them, and we hope soon to see them restored in their different lines of business stronger and better than ever before."

"A disastrous cyclone perhaps most destructive of life and property that ever visited Mississippi totally destroyed the beautiful little town of Braxton, ten miles northwest of Mendenhall, Tuesday afternoon about 3 o'clock. The bank, depot all the stores, all except two dwellings and 8 people were killed and hundreds injured.

"The dead are: R. F. Everett, Dr. Chandler, Mrs. C. C. Price, Drew Barwick, Mrs. Geo. Logan, C. T. Tillman, Will Spell, Dorsey Spell, Dorsey Kelley, Pete Kimball.

"The people of Mendenhall, D'Lo and other nearby towns flocked to the assistance of the victims of this awful catastrophe. The injured are being treated at the D'Lo Hospital and in hospitable homes of the people surrounding the stricken section. The doctors and nurses, from the Tubercular Sanatorium went at once to the assistance of the unfortunate people of Braxton. The soldiers and Red Cross nurses from Jackson are on the scene rendering efficient service, the soldiers are acting as guards while the nurses are sisters of mercy."³⁰

R. L. Everett Department Store is Saved by the Vigilance of Fire Department and Modern Chemical Equipment.³¹

"On last Thursday morning at 2:15 the Magee Fire Squad answered a call to R. L. Everett's Department store. Before the

³⁰ Simpson County News- 1921

³¹ The Magee Courier June 7, 1929 Vol. III,
No. 31-

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noise of the siren had died away, the fire truck was on the scene, and in a miraculously short time the hose was connected and ready for action. Due to the smoldering nature of the fire, it was difficult to locate, but once found, it was a comparatively simple matter to extinguish, even though it had gained considerable headway throughout the grocery department. From all appearances, the fire had been in progress the greater part of the night, and was discovered through the bursting of bottles caused by the heat.

"The fire Department, captained by Herbert Patrick, worked with business-like precision and alacrity, to confine the fire to the one side, which event enabled them to use the fire chemicals. The chemical tank proved most effective, thereby preventing the stock of goods from being watersoaked. There was practically no damage by the water as is the case in most fires.

"The people of Magee feel proud of the possession of such a modern and well-equipped truck, which could easily be the envy of a city several times the size of Magee, though but a recent acquisition, it has been directly responsible for the saving of several thousand dollars worth of property and without this, no "hand Brigade" could have ever mastered the situation.

"The fire equipment consists of two chemical tanks with hose mounted on a Ford Model A Truck and was purchased from Boyer Fire Apparatus Co., through New Orleans Equipment Co., and the Magee Motor Co., who are local dealers in Ford Products.

"In appreciation of the services of the Fire Company, Mr. Everett has given a substantial bonus to the members composing it, and to each one who rendered any assistance whatsoever, he

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he is indeed grateful.³²

TERRIFIC WIND AND RAINSTORM VISITS THIS SECTION TODAY

PROPERTY LOSS UNDERMINED: LIVES LOST IN STATE STREAMS SWELLING RAPIDLY

"As we go to press a terrific storm is raging and early reports of much damage to both property and human life are coming in. Conflicting reports are heard and at this time it is impossible to give an accurate account of the probable severity of the blow. The death total in the State on early reports is placed at more than a score with more than that number injured.

Early reports indicate that considerable damage was inflicted by the storm in this county, however no lives have been reported as lost in the fury of storm. Due to cripple communication lines it will probably be tomorrow before complete reports will be available.

"Many streams in this section are overflowing and highway as well as railroad traffic is expected to be seriously crippled, if not temporarily stopped, until repairs have been made.

"A later report has it that the storm struck with intense force near Raleigh, the county seat of Smith county and that a number of people were killed outright and heavy property loss resulted. This report, however is unconfirmed, and details are not obtainable at this hour.³³

TORNADO OF TERRIFIC INTENSITY STRIKES THIS SECTION? LEAVING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN ITS WAKE.

"A hurricane of tremendous velocity struck the outlying farm sections and communities near Magee about eight o'clock Wednesday

³² The Magee Courier- March 31, 1933 Vol. VI. No. 29
³³ The Magee Courier- January 1, 1932 -Vol V. No. 15

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night, in which five persons are known to have lost their lives, more than a score to have been injured and property loss estimated between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The path of the storm's fury was very narrow in width, averaging not more than a few hundred yards, but extending in length more than twenty-five miles through the most thickly populated section of this county.

"The known dead as the storm toll, are: Mrs. Anse Everett, whose home is located four miles northeast of Magee; Paul Brown, 2-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Brown, of the Mt. Zion community, ten miles south of Magee; Hattie Lee, 22, colored, and her sister Annie Lou Lee, 16, who lived five miles southeast of Magee in the Skiffa section.

"A complete close-up has not been made at our time of going to press, on the injured, but the number will in all probability reach thirty or forty, some of whom are seriously, if not fatally injured. Among the more seriously injured are Mrs. Dolly McAlpin, who was at the home of her sister, Mrs. Anse Everett; William Lee, a son and daughter, colored, father and brother and sister of Hattie and Annie Lou, who were killed outright. Late reports are that Aaron Smith, colored, of Co-hay, was also killed this report, however, is unconfirmed.

"Property losses, including residences, barns, cabins, timber and livestock, will reach a staggering total, variously estimated at around \$150,000 which is thought to be a very conservative figure. This calamity by its visitation has made many homeless, wrought much damage, the cause of great suffering, wiped out stores of feed and food upon which families had to depend. Relief crews and measures are going forward to relieve the distressed, by making temporary provisions for food and clothing, and given medical treat-

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ment to the injured.³⁴

"Sheriff Hubbard of Simpson County had the honor of being elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Mississippi Sheriff Association which convened in Hattiesburg the early part of the week."³⁵

"The life of an editor was saved the other day by a silver dollar in his pocket. A crank shot at him and the ball struck the dollar. Now should we happen to get shot before you pay up your subscription and there is no dollar to stop the ball we shall always presume you might have saved our lives."³⁶

"When King Edward picked out the first woman to receive the order of merit he chose a nurse. This is a distinct slap at the profession of the Lady Novelist," Will Miss Corelli remain quiet?"³⁷

"Dr. T. M. Walker has resigned the position as one of the receivers of Mendenhall Bank and W. M. Durr, of Pinola has been appointed in his place."³⁸

"The Methodist of Mendenhall propose beginning the erection of a house of worship at an early date." (same as foot note no. 38.)

"Notice the great reduction in prices at Baum's Cheap Cash Store."

"Rumor has it that merry wedding bells will soon ring in Westville.

³⁴ The Magee Courier- Jan. 1, 1932- Vol.5-No. 15

³⁵ Simpson County News- August 23, 1909-

³⁶ Simpson County News-
September 23, 1909-

³⁷ Simpson County News-
Jan. 16, 1908- No. 14-

³⁸ Simpson County News-
Jan. 30, 1908- No. 16-

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"35,000 yards best calico at 5 cents, a yard at Baum's Cheap Cash Store.

"Hon. T. L. Mendenhall attended Chancery Court at Williamsburg since our last issue.

"You can buy all wool jeans at 25 cents a yard, Baum's Cheap Cash Store.

"All Baum wool flannel in red or white, at 10 cents a yard, at Baum's cheap Cash Store.

"John H. Williamson was down from Harrisville Friday and Saturday assisting Sup't Gowan in the examination.

"Don't let improvements stop, there are quite a number in town that could follow the example of Dr. Caraway--that of building new fences."³⁹

"What about enclosing those China trees on 'greasy row'."

"For good clothing and jeans cheap, go to E. Giles & son's.

"Dr. Caraway can now be seen driving a most beautiful span of black horses.

"Anything to be had in the crockery, Glass, Tin or Hardware line, can be found at Baum's.

"Hon. T. A. Dickson left Monday evening for Monticello where he is defending some white men in an arson case.

"Mr. C. H. Doss, one of the oldest land marks of the County died last Saturday, aged about 86 years.

"Hon. A. Q. May together with Hon. A. J. McLaurin, Hon. J. R. Enochs and M. Green have been appointed by the governor as delegates from this district, to the Deep Water Harbor Convention to be held at Mississippi City on May 31st.

³⁹ The Westville Weekly News- October 27, 1892- Vol. XX- No. 42

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"Dr. McCallum brought into our office last Tuesday the first new corn tassal we have heard of this season. If you do not believe what we say, call and see it for yourself, it is now on exhibition in the NEWS office."⁴⁰

Local items.

"Westville is soon to have another store. Who says that our town is not on the up-Grade?

"A parent who will not allow a teacher to control his boy in school may live to regret his folly.

"If some of our dear delinquents would bring us in a load of wood, we will gladly place same to their credit.

"We want to make the NEWS a county paper and to enable us to do so we must have the news from every postoffice in the county.

"Mrs. Farlow has gone to Steens Creek on a visit to see her daughter, Mrs. J. K. Parker.

"Mr. Burnham has moved his family into town with a view of sending his children to school. They are now occupying their nice new residence recently completed.

"Miss Mary McLaurin, one of the assistant teachers of the Westville High School, came to town last Sunday and will be with Dr. McCallum and family during her stay here."⁴¹

"Westville is soon to have another cash store."

NEW AND OLD CONUNDRUMS⁴²

"What did Caesar die of?

Too much Roman Punch.

"When is music like oysters?

When there is a quartette.

⁴⁰ The Westville Weekly News- May 5, 1892
Vol. XX, No. 24-

⁴¹ The Westville Weekly News- Nov. 5, 1891
Vol. XIX No. 50-

⁴² The Westville Weekly News- Mar. 31, 1892-
Vol. XX- No. 19-

"What asks no questions but requires many answers?

The door bell.

"How would you make trousers last?

By making the coat and vest first.

"Why is a bald head like the north pole?

Because it is a great white bare spot.

"How would you change English butter into Irish Butter?

Roll it into little pats.

"Why should a man with squeaking boots go to church?

Because his soul needs attention.

"What is the difference between the north and south pole?

All the difference in the world.

"Who was the shortest man named in the Bible?

Peter, because he said: "Silver and gold have I none."

"What class of people does the Bible allow to flirt?

The Bible says: "The widow's mite."

"Dogwood trees are blossoming, guess it is time to go fishing.

"A man may be a natural born fool and still not be an April fool. See?

Sheriff McInnis visited Jackson last Thursday and made his final settlement with the Auditor.

"Mr. A. Q. May, our popular Circuit and Chancery Clerk, was a business visitor to Jackson last week.

"Mr. J. I. Bishop has been somewhat indisposed for several days. We hope he can soon explain that "Richard is himself again."

"Fishing is reported to be very fine in some of the small streams near town, especially so in the Rials Creek."⁴³

⁴³ The Westville Weekly News -April 7th 1892-
Vol. XX- No. 20-

FROM HARRISVILLE.

Editor News:

"I have been thinking for some time of sending you a few lines from this corner of Old Simpson, but have just recovered from a seven week's tussle with La grippe.

"In the first place it is not necessary for me to say the people are experiencing hard times-- the tightest for many years, because it is at every man's door, with few exceptions.

"There is very little fertilizers being used in this part of the county this year.

The Trips to town are "few and far between" and small purchases seem to be the order of the day.

"The late cold spell has cut off the peach crop and a few garden vegetables, but has prepared the land for the farmers to make a good crop.

"I believe there is a better day in store for the farmer, provided we can get the cotton crop cut down and get in a condition to live more on home-made produce.

"It has been said that the Alliance is dead. I don't think so; if you will be a close observer, you will see that such expressions only come from dead members of the Alliance or its enemies who only wish it were dead. Now, Brother Farmers, I want to say that while the Alliance, that is its principles, is a good thing as far as it goes, but there is other things we should be allied to, more closely perhaps than some are, to wit; Our business is general. There is not better ally than a man's wife and children..Then form an alliance with old Charley that pulls your plow and then "Get up and get" from sun to sun, go on and sing "Happy is the man that was in the Spring."

"That smile of your wife
Will help in the strife
To smooth the rough places
In the poor man's life.

37 SIMPSON COUNTY

Your children, too,
Will encourage you on,
By hoeing your cotton,
And chopping your corn."⁴⁴

J. J. Harper-

SMITH COUNTIAN WRITES LETTER FROM HANCOCK⁴⁵

Hancock, Mississippi
August 20, 1934

editur the simpson county nues,
mendenhall, mississippi

Dear editor:

"I live and vote at ebenezer way up in smith county, bout 20 miles from one of theas rale rode, and all of us up hear votes for ross collins, fact we did not no no body else was er running till las week, then the kermitee sent me to find out who theas hear fellers was. so i cranked up the ole motel the truk and struk out. i did not have no success til one night i stopped in yore town of mindenhall. i stopped at one of them thare drug stors, the one with some binches for loofers, somebody sed thare was a awful lot of lieing done thare. there was a big crowd there all a argering at one time. i started to leve a thinking they was a goin to fite, but just then one of them sed to me, "stranger don't leave for they are not a goin to fite, for thare air moore good natured fools in this hear town than in any other plase its sise in the worl. there was a feller they calls fish er hife er something akin to that, he was cripple, looked like a jake leg patient and another they calls farmer may, a young feller, they's still one more they sed made handsome parasols, well thees thre was a argering fer a feller name stephens ole docter giles (i knowed him) an a feller they sed was frog eyed an a cannerdate for eldermen (the one who works in the drug store)

⁴⁴ The Westville News- April 7, 1892- vol XX- No. 20-

⁴⁵ The Simpson County News-
1934 issue-

38 SIMPSON COUNTY

was or bellering fer this hear feller who use to run pretty well, his name is bilbo. well then there was others one they call w. o. somebody, an one that was bigger roun than he was long (somebody sed he was a arful liar bout fishing) an another they calls docter er president, he is a lawyer name eddards, thees thre was fer my man collins. thare was another feller who must be the banker for they call him banks, well bles my sole he was fer ole frank harper. this feller fish er hide sed he was fer stephens caus he stood by somebody dr. giles sed he jest stood by an let ever thing pass cept his salary of coarse he got all of that.

"this big fat feller then got up an seys he was suporting ross collins cause collins had helped ever body, the farmer the school techer, the truk driver, the people who had children in schol and then he sed collins had voted fer the solders an organized labor unions one thousan times, i think he ment a thousan fer he sed that mr collins record was a thousan per cent in voting fer theas solder boys and labering men, old dr. giles, that cannerdat and that frog eyed feller was fer bill boo caus he was er goin to rase something up thare in washington, i thot from thear argoment he was a goin up thare to farm, but bles my goodness he was a goin to rase hell. well this feller banks was fer harper cause he had promised him a pek of el berther peches for chrismas. you know editur them fellers got me all mesed up so i turnt the ole truk aroun and drive strait to hancock to fine out who was who i got hear about diner time an i never seen the like of gofers in my life. there was thre old one in a row, the man sed they was cripple an he was a savin them fer that fish er hide (his name is evans) to ride on the 28th, some of them was jest initialed, some i knu and some idid not no. maybe you can help to find them, they was, h. o. m., i.

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h. m., j. r. m., d. f. an too or thre others, the man sed that was bout all of the, in another stall there was thre just rarin to go, all of theas were spotted, too of them had fox houns tide by them and the 3rd one had a bird dog an gun by him, the first too was fer ole dr. giles an that feller they calls frog eye (i heerd today he wus nobody cept ole estice slater) the one with a bird dog was fer that cannerdate feller mahaffey, they air goin to ride these on the 28. i ast bout ross collins an he sed that nobody that voted fer ross collins had ben thare in 14 years so he did not get any gofers redy fer then caus he knowed thet that feller collins was a goin strait back to washington to be the junior seneter from mississippi, then i put on my shoes an left fer home to spred the nues to among the boys that ross collins was alredy elected. tell all the boys in in yore town and kermunity bout this an try an kernvince dr. giles, frog eye, that air connerdate an that feller fish er hide that they voter fer ross collins. i larned yesterday that all them thre that was a goin to vote fer frank harper had changed there minds an would vote fer ross collins, thet will keep that feller banks, from havin to ride the gofer. OH, editor, i was bout to fergit to tell you the funiest thing i saw at Mithall, there was thre of the ugliest an most dekripid gofers i ever seen, they all in a pin to thare selves, i ast the man what thy was fer an he says too of them are fer jim lampen and his high hat som, simp, the third one is fer, let's sea, ah, i don't know his name, but ever body here calls him pistol peat."

Yours truly,
Abner clclowski

BULLOCK AND MURRAY

Tonsorial Artists

WESTVILLE, Mississippi

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shaving, shampooing, haircutting,
etc., done in latest style.⁴⁶

"FAHRNEY HAMMOCK CARTS
No Horse Motion
Or No Sale

Patented June 30th, 1891.

Eight styles Made with Tops

And without. All Guaranteed

To Ride As Easy As A Buggy,

Or No Sale. Over 1000 sold on

these terms.

Besides the riding quality they are very durable and the most convenient cart on the market. Show this advt. to your dealer and if they will not get the goods for you, write us for Catalogue and prices.

It will simply surprize you at the ease you can ride all day long in one of these carts. Customers say it beats a buggy."⁴⁷
Fahrney Hannock Cart Co., -----Polo, Ill.

We have made mention of the D'Lo Herald but no files of these papers were kept, but we were fortunate to secure one copy or issue from Mrs. Gussie Boggan of D'Lo, Miss. therefore we copying a poem from a special edition of the D'Lo Herald.

"SPECIAL EDITION

THE D'LO HERALD

VOLUME 7

Sept. 1, 1922

No. 20

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. William
Redding May, "The Father and Mother of D'Lo"

- 46 The Westville Weekly News. Vol. XX, April 21, 1892. No. 22
- 47 The Westville Weekly News. Vol. XX, April 21, 1892. No. 22.

OUR PARENTS

"Almost fifty years ago
Our parents landed here,
Amid the pines and oaks galore
To build our home so dear.

"With out the aid of modern mills,
They struggled day by day,
With muscles and determined wills,
'Till trees were cleared away.

"Logs were the building stones
In the dear old home now gone
But they were scattered by the cyclone
That sent our oldest sister Home.

"Dazed somewhat by these events,
And almost broken hearted
Because the old home had been spent
And sister had departed.

"He labored harder, longer, faster
Never complaining at his fate
And soon overcame the great disaster,
Being cheered on by his good mate.

"A better home had been erected
Near where the old home stood
Because his thoughts were ever directed
Towards doing the BEST he could.

"To this home came eleven children,
Three of whom have passed away,
With the other eight they've toiled and striven
And made us what we are today.

"Not with us alone they labored,
But with all who came their way;
Everyone they always favored
As they passed by from day to day.

"Where your town is now erected,
Was once his field of grain,
But to this he never objected,
Mend mean so much more than grain.

"With these men he always mingled,
And did his best for one and all
That his heart with joy might tingle
When he received "His Master's Call."

"Mother, dear, with nerve unfailing
gave you mail most forty years.
Even when her health was failing
She worked for you--even through our tears.

"That she might help our noble father
To send us all to school

"And make us better men and women"
Their one and only rule.

"During all their days of labor,
In the home, or church, or state,

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They showed none a special favor
Cherished love and never hate.

"Now that they have been transplanted
How our hearts are touched with pain;
Seems our lives are all stagnated
But our great loss is just their gain.

"For oh, the pain that each one suffered,
As they lingered on their way,
To give us a parting message
To join them on the judgment day.

"There no homes will need repairing
Every circle will be complete
If we His love always declaring
Thrust ourselves at the Master's feet."

Clifton Lomax May-

SIMPSON COUNTY NEWS - JOB SHOP-

The Job Shop of a newspaper Plant is a separate feature from the newspaper department, having nothing to do with compiling or printing material used for publication; however, in a majority of cases the Job Shop department produces a much greater revenue than the newspaper proper.

Job Shops are used for the purpose of printing jobs, such as letter heads, envelopes, placards, some form of pamphlets, cards, circulars, legal forms, blanks, etc.

Our local Job Shop is modernly equipped with two Platen Presses and one Cylinder Press, a Mat Casting Machine, Perfo-

48 Given by Mrs. E. B. Hales, wife of the editor of the Simpson County News, of Mendenhall, Miss.

44 SIMPSON COUNTY

rating Devices, etc. It will print jobs up to and including forms 15x18 inches.

In olden times Job Shops in Printing offices were unknown; hence the larger towns and cities were first to install the necessary machinery to turn out job work.

Mendenhall's Job Shop is operated electrically; a separate motor for each article of machinery. Power is furnished by the Mississippi Power & Light Company, with a commercial rate for power used.

Not every newspaper is equipped with a Job Shop, and then there are many job shops, especially in larger towns, that have no connection whatever, with the newspaper business.

The presses in a Job Shop are used for making impressions of printed matter, after said matter has been formed in the way of type. Ordinary presses require one person to "feed" the press, which means that the operator of the press supplies the machine with blank material to be printed. The more up-to-date presses are automatically "fed" and there is required only the time of one person for about ten minutes in each two hours to remove the printed material from the press, after the material has been run through the press.

Mrs. Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames
Supervisor
Historical Research Project
Simpson County
Area # 7

MARCH 15, 1937

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI

SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-DIRECTOR

CANVASSERS:
Dimple Slay & Wilma Gladney

SIMPSON COUNTY
DISTRICT# 5
AREA # 7

ASSIGNMENT NO. 21
"THE LOCAL PRESS"

REFERENCES:

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8. The Magee Courier- Jan. 13, 1933. Vol. VI. No. 18.
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19. Simpson County News. Vol. XXXIX, March 2, 1911
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2 SIMPSON COUNTY

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36. Simpson County News- September 23, Sept. 23, 1909.
37. Simpson County News- Jan. 16, 1908. No. 14.
38. Simpson County News. Jan. 30, 1908. No. 16
39. The Westville Weekly News. Oct. 27, 1892. Vol. XX. No. 42.
40. The Westville Weekly News. May 5, 1892. Vol XX. No. 24
41. The Westville Weekly News. Nov. 5, 1891. Vol. XIX. No. 50
42. The Westville Weekly News. Mar. 31, 1892. Vol. XX. No. 19
43. The Westville Weekly News. April 7, 1892. Vol XX. No. 20
44. The Westville News. April 7, 1892,
45. The Simpson County News. 1934 issue.
46. The Westville Weekly News. Vol. XX, April 21, 1892.
47. The Westville Weekly News. Vol. XX, 1892, No. 22.
48. Given by Mrs. E. B. Hales, wife of the editor of S. C. N.

SUPPLEMENT TO ASSIGNMENT # 21.

THE LOCAL PRESS

SIMPSON COUNTY.

THE MAGEE COURIER

The Magee Courier was established on March 19, 1899, by Will Jarvis. In 1900 it was purchased by one Mr. Childre and published by him for several months. In 1901 the plant was purchased by J. J. Childre and Eugene Terry, who issued the publication for a short time when Mr. Terry bought the interest of Mr. Childre and became sole owner and publisher. The paper was issued as "The Magee Herald".

In 1904 the business was sold to one Henry Brantley, of Arkansas, who was publisher for about three years. It was then sold to Virgil Watkins, one of the brothers of the Watkins family who were pioneer newspaper men in this and other counties.

In January, 1911, A. P. and D. M. Russell became the publishers and edited the paper for some time. But, somewhere in the history of the business during those years, a disastrous fire occurred in Magee and the entire newspaper plant, as well as other prominent businesses, was totally destroyed and for some years thereafter no paper was published there. As all office files were lost in the fire there is no available information except that based on the memory of citizens. But records show that Messrs. A. P. and A. S. Russell owned and published the Magee Courier again after a few years, setting up a new printing plant.

See page 6.

Information by E. Terry

Alice B. Terry
Alice B. Terry
Historian Historic Research
Simpson County.
Area 13

SIMPSON COUNTY, PRESS

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-CONSULTANT

CALLIE THAMES, HISTORIAN
WILMA GLADNEY, SENIOR TYPIST

SIMPSON COUNTY, AREA # 13
ASSIGNMENT # 37

THE BAR

I.

Simpson County has furnished her full quota of Lawyers to the State, and at present we have a bar equal to the best in the State, regardless of the fact that we have no large towns in our county.

The class of litigation has been such as to afford to our lawyers experience that would not likely be afforded in cities or even larger towns.

Numbered among the lawyers of the past from the early establishment of the county we find, Franklin E. Plummer, who Mendenhall tells us in his writing was the first Lawyer to locate at Westville, and that a portion of the town was laid off by him. He was elected the first Representative to State Legislature in 1872, serving in that capacity till 1880 when he was elected First Congressman from this District. He is described rather, fully by Claiborne, and is typical of a number of Easterners who migrated to the South about this time.

Franklin E. Plummer was a native of Massachusetts. Before he was twenty-one, he worked his way on a sailing vessel to New Orleans. His possessions consisted of a wallet of clothing, and five dollars in cash. While strolling around, nibbling some hard tack for his dinner, he fell in with Capt. Brown, who was running a small schooner on Lake Pontchartrain, who told him there were some Yankees in Pearlinton, Mississippi, and offered him a free

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passage. At Pearlinton he found Messrs. Pray and Learned, lawyers from Maine, Samuel White, L. Kimball and other New Englanders, all of them prosperous and influential. By their advice he set out, on foot, for the new county of Copiah, where he took up his residence with John Coor, the first sheriff of the county, and there opened a log-cabin school. The first functionaries of our new counties were plain people, often unlettered, who knew but little of their official duties. *(I served my first session in the legislature with a worthy, modest, sensible man, who had been sheriff of his county, but could neither read nor write. He served several times in both Houses, and was never defeated.)

Plummer had such education as the common schools of New England at that day afforded. He could read, write and cipher up to the rule of Three. He had push, shrewdness and the "gift of Gab," and was considered at that time, and in those new settlements, a walking encyclopedia.

"The country all declared how much he knew,
'Twas certain he could write and cipher too;
Lands he could measure; terms of tides presage,
And ev'n the story ran that he could guage!
In arguing too, the parson owned his skill,
For ev'n tho' vanquished he could argue still,
While words of learned length and thundering sound,
Amazed the gazing rustics rang'd around!"

It was not long before Plummer became virtually sheriff, clerk and county judge, though the commissions of course, were held by three respectable citizens.

What now constitutes Copiah and Simpson, was then embraced within the limits of Copiah. A year or two later, Pearl river was declared to be the dividing line, and a new county, called Simpson was organized, and the seat of justice located at Westville. Plummer saw his opportunity, squatted himself at Westville, and stuck out his shingle as attorney and counsellor-at-law. His library consisted of Poindexter's Revised Code, a pamphlet copy of the acts

SIMPSON COUNTY, BAR

of the last legislature, and one volume of Blackstone on crimes and misdemeanors. If he had ever read anything else he kept it a secret, and nobody ever saw him reading. He spent his time among the boys, in the crowd, and on the steps of the courthouse, but when the courts came on he was found employed on one side of every case, and to the astonishment of older lawyers, and of the Judge, he was generally on the winning side! He talked fluently; his manner was insinuating; his smile irresistible; his good humor contagious; he knew his jury; fathomed the depth of the judge, and had the most consummate audacity. His career at the bar was short, but no man was ever more successful. Of course, he extended his reading as his practice increased, and in several counties he was soon employed in nine-tenths of the cases. Two men quarreled about a will, in a neighboring county. One said, "I will sue". The other replied, "sue and be d-d!" They separated. Each started for Plummer by different roads, and faced each other at his office at the same moment. Each claimed him as counsel, but he made them decide it by pitching up a dollar-Heads or tails! And he who won, paid him the fee.

As a matter of course he was the first representative from his county. He was elected as often as he chose, and soon became the leader in the legislature of what was, in those times, almost a distinct political organization, known as East Mississippi. He made himself master of parliamentary law, and could embarrass the House or disentangle it, at his pleasure. This, with his free and easy way of speaking, and his imperturbable good humor, made him both a popular and influential member, wielding more power than men of higher grade and culture, or than all of them combined. In 1829, to the surprise, not to say disgust, of the old politicians, he announced himself for Congress. The candidates were Wm. Maile,

(late member) of Wilkinson, Wm. L. Sharkey, of Warren, and John H. Norton, of Hinds. They regarded it as a great piece of impertinence in Plummer. But he coolly took the stump, and routed them without difficulty. It was on this canvass he played off a good joke on Monsieur Parisott, who had opened a hotel at Benton, Yazoo county. Mr. Plummer put up there; made free use of the bar; invited many friends to drink and dine with him; made his speech and ordered his horse! Parisott had the bill in his pocket, attended him to the door, intending there to present it, when Plummer called out to the crowd, "Attention, Gentlemen!" Before leaving Benton I desire publicly to acknowledge the unbounded hospitality of my wealthy friend Parisott, who stands here modestly behind me. He is a true Samaritan. He found me weary, hungry and thirsty, and he comforted me. He had placed his table and bar at my disposal, as you gentlemen, can testify. He is the prince of tavern keepers, delights in feasting his guests, and never says a word about a bill. God bless you, my dear friend. Plummer will never forget you. Gentlemen, farewell!" And vaulting on his horse he rode off, amidst the hurrahs of the crowd. He was re-elected as often as he presented himself, beating, without difficulty, the most popular men in the State. In one of his contests, he and one of his competitors, Judge Harry Cage, agreed to canvass together. They met at Holmesville, and when they stopped at 12 Noon at a farm house for dinner, Cage pleased the mother very much by kissing her little girl and praising its beauty but she was completely carried away when she saw Plummer pick up her wee toddling boy, lay it gently across his lap, turn over its little petticoat, and go to hunting red bugs! "They are powerful bad," said Plummer, "and mighty hard on babies." She was enchanted, and never forgot that tender hearted Congressman.

SIMPSON COUNTY, BAR

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That night they stopped with an aged couple, whose children had all married, and settled around, and formed quite a colony. Coge recommended himself by cutting a turn of wood and bringing it in for the old lady to get supper. In the morning he missed Plummer, but soon found him at the cow pen, the old lady milking and he holding the calf back by its tail! Coge was furious; he found himself headed at every turn, by the cunning Yankee. So when they rode a mile or so and came to where the roads forked. Coge halted and said: "Plummer, here we part. You are too aggravating. Choose your road. If we travel together another day I shall shoot you. And so they parted. Mr. Plummer was good tempered, full of humor, a hearty laughter, lived at a period when street fights and duels were the order of the day, but was rarely involved in difficulties. His personal courage was doubted, but without any reason whatever, On very exciting occasions, in the presence of an angry crowd, and of some who would have been glad to shoot him, he exhibited singular coolness and self-command. He and Governor Runnels were bitter enemies, and in the canvass of 1835, Plummer followed him around, and goaded him with irritating speeches and newspaper squibs. They met at Callatin on the day of the election. Runnels was like a mad bull, tearing up the earth, and indulging in most profane language, and was so carried away by passion that he broke down in his speech and lost the vote of the large county on which his re-election depended. Mr. Plummer stood in the street perfectly calm, made a speech that pleased all parties, and though the county was largely Democratic, and gave a large majority to all the other Democratic candidates, he carried it for his friend, Judge Lynch, the opponent of Runnels.

Mr. Plummer, being from Massachusetts, was once, in some newspaper, taunted with being an abolitionist in disguise. He met it by

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having secretly printed and distributed, a hand-bill, in which he was charged, on the authority of Gen. Arthur Fox a well-known planter and politician of Lawrence county, with having confessed abolition opinions to him, and having instigated several of his slaves to abscond. This produced a great excitement. Mr. Plummer waited until his enemies began to use it on the platform, and then he came out with the printed declaration of Gen. Fox, that the hand-bill was as tissue of lies; that Mr. Plummer was as orthodox as any man in the South; was his frequent visitor and cherished friend, and he would personally chastise the author of the hand-bill if he dared reveal himself!

The reaction was tremendous. Plummer was never taunted on that subject again. The late Powhattan Ellis, who was, in turn Circuit Judge, United States District Judge, Senator in Congress and Minister to Mexico, though always a straight-out democrat, was aristocratic in his tastes, habits and appearances; very dignified, precise, and dressy. Somewhere in the east, in some canvass, when fording a creek which proved to be swimming, he lost his portmanteau. Plummer published an advertisement in the Monticello paper; "Lost by Hon. Powhattan Ellis, in crossing Tallahala, the following articles: 6 lawn handkerchiefs; 6 cambric shirts; 3 night shirts; 1 nightcap; 1 pr. stays; 4 pr. silk stockings; hair brush, flesh-brush, nail-brush, clothes brush, razors and dressing-glass, pomatum, perfume, etc., etc." That advertisement killed the Judge east of Pearl River; such a sample of "swelled head" effeminacy, and Natchez dandyism, was not wanted in the piney woods.

In 1830, when Mr. Plummer was on his first canvass for Congress, he was so little known and appreciated in Natchez, the commercial metropolis of the State, it was made a charge against the writer (who was before the people for re-election to the legislature)

SIMPSON COUNTY, BAR

that he was a friend of that gentleman, and had invited him to visit the county! The charge created quite an excitement, and on the 5th of July he had to issue a circular, in which he said: "I have not invited him to this county, nor have I, thus far, taken any part in the canvass. Mr. Plummer is my personal friend, and however unpopular it may be here, I am not ashamed or afraid to own it. In becoming a candidate to represent you in the legislature, I did not relinquish my rights as a citizen, and I shall exercise my privileges at the polls without consulting any man or set of men. I may make myself obnoxious to powerful men, and be harried by their bulldogs, but I shall steadily pursue the course that my own judgment approves." This, had it occurred to-day, would have been called "bulldozing."

In 1835, only five years afterwards, Mr. Plummer was invited to Natchez by leading citizens; was entertained and lionized by the very gentlemen who had attempted to "bulldoze" his friend; and then and there he made out his slate for Congress, for Governor, and for State officers, with his own name, at the head of the ticket, for U. S. Senator. The banks were thrown open for his accommodation. He purchased a stylish barouche; mounted his servant in livery, and set out on the canvass. He was then at the height of his power and popularity. But from the date of this visit, both began to decline. Previous to this he had had no connection with intrigues, cliques, banks, or combinations. He stood upon his own platform of "Plummer for the people, and the people for Plummer," and had been found irresistible. But now he had become one of a ring; in alliance with capitalists and men of aristocratic habits, and the illusion was over. He was no longer a lion whose roar had frightened the stock-jobbers in their dens, but a house-cat purring about

their slippered feet, to be petted and caressed. He could no longer use his favorite slang, so acceptable to the multitude, of "swelled heads" and "bloated bond-holders," but had to deal in the cream and sugar of flattery and falsehood. This was in the bond. He had got their money, and he had nominated two or three of them for high office, and his mission was to eulogize, and not to denounce. This was out of his line. His forte was ridicule and fault-finding; to set the poor against the rich; to consolidate the pine-woods counties against the river section. This policy he had to reverse, and consequently failed. It was no longer "Plummer for the people," but "Plummer for the banks, and the banks for Plummer" and he lost his popularity. The combination slaughtered him. He seems to have lost courage, and never afterwards occupied a public position; never indeed aspired to any; neglected, or rather abandoned his profession, and went down rapidly in the social scale.

He never seems to have had any thirst for money. He was lavish with it when flush, but generally had none or very little. At one time he established, and was President of the Bank of Grenada, which flourished for a time, and he owned many of the town lots. He died in Jackson, in 1847, in an obscure cabin, and in poverty. Those who only knew him, in his decade, as a defunct politician, and sot, lurking in mean places, with low associates, can have no conception of the power he once exerted. Those who knew him in his better days, what he had been, and what he might have been, sincerely lamented his indiscretions and unhappy fate.

MISSISSIPPI as a PROVINCE TERRITORY AND STATE with BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES of EMINENT CITIZENS*****CLAIBORNE.
pages 423-424-425-426-427.

SIMPSON COUNTY, BAR

Other Lawyers were : C. K. Brown, who was elected Representative in 1832.

Henry Hargus was elected county treasurer, 1835 to 1837.

Major Fairly, J. K. Stratton who was a native of Massachusetts, came to the county as a shoe maker. Obtaining a wide patronage, and using such time as he could spare to study law. He was admitted to the Bar. Enjoyed a splendid practice and later entered politics. Was elected Ranger in 1839, but was defeated for sheriff in 1843 by William McCaskill. He then enlisted in the Mexican War. Lowery and McCordle tell us, and afterwards went to California where he accumulated a comfortable fortune. (As Mentioned in Chapter on Wars he was the only person from the county we were able to find any report of having took a part in the Mexican War)

Henry Sturges, a Mr. Carlloss first name not given. John F. Sharp and H. F. Johnson who was elected representative in 1856 was later District Attorney and President of Whitworth College.

In later years they were followed by M. A. Banks he served the county as circuit clerk from 1843-1851.

J. B. Mendenhall representative 1837. Henry Banks, G. Fenn who was circuit clerk 1853-1855 and L. W. Holloway. The last five named were killed in Virginia during the Civil War.

Another Pioneer lawyer, was the Hon. T. A. Dickson who was not only a profound lawyer, but was recognized as a very brilliant orator. He was for a number of years the law partner of Ex-Governor Longino. Was a member of the state Senate in 1865. He died at the age of about 47 years.

Another Brilliant lawyer and as stated in previous chapters for whom the town of Mendenhall is named is T. L. Mendenhall, and for whom we give credit for some of the most interesting data taken from his writings for the History, that was written during the last years of his life. He served the county as Circuit Clerk 1855-1866.

was later elected Senator in 1872 and also a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1890.

Other Representatives were given : Alex McCaskill 1837, David Womack no date, John Berry 1845, James M. Dampeer 1847 to 1851. Joseph Meade founder of the Westville News and the Hon. Wm. Williams who was elected to the office of Attorney General of the State at the early age of thirty years. Mr. Williams died in his office before his term expired. He was a very brilliant lawyer and a natural born politician. It was freely predicted that he would have attained a very high degree of political success if he had lived to the age of fifty years.

We have numbered among Chancellor Judges of the past Judge R. E. Sheehy, T. R. Gowan who was county Superintendent of Education from 1887 to 1892, also served as Representative. Judge D. M. Russell and Hon. Bee King, Mr. King ably served one term as State Senator and today despite his years is a Brilliant Lawyer, and a member of the present Bar.

Other Present day members are: W. M. Lofton served as Representative one term and is now Attorney for the Board of Supervisors.

A. M. Edwards now serving as Attorney for the town board. J. P. Edwards,

who was Representative 1932-36. A. W. McRaney served one term as State Senator. R. C. Russell one term as District Attorney. Ovie L. Berry, J. B. Sykes, Frank T. Williams now serving as State Senator and J. W. Strong.

Among those of the recent past who were members of this bar was the Hon. G. M. Whitworth who died at the age of about seventy years, he was a native of Madison County.

George May, Arthur Ross, D. Mahaffey, Walter Weathersby and A. W. Dent who served one term as State Senator and later as District Attorney. R. L. Dent, E. L. Dent, C. N. Floyd and Judge Joe

SIMPSON COUNTY, BAR

May also R. D. Everett now of Ruleville, Mississippi. He is quite a successful young Lawyer. He's not only a good lawyer but a gifted Politician, and in conclusion The Hilton Brothers R. T. and W. D. who made a success in the profession of law. R. T. is now of the Jackson Bar where he enjoys a lucrative practice. W. D. Hilton died at the age of about fifty eight years, very often you hear these words spoken of him "He was a very honorable and successful practitioner and the most Brilliant Lawyer Simpson County ever produced," and truly said. He was a leader always working for the upbuilding of his county and community striving to help make it a better place in which to live.

2- This information was secured from Hon. John Edwards and Mendenhall's Writings.

Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames, Historian
Historical Research Project
Simpson County Area # 13

August 11, 1937

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT

CALLIE THAMES, HISTORIAN
WILMA GLADNEY, SENIOR TYPIST

SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 13

ASSIGNMENT # 37 THE BAR

REFERENCES:

1-MISS as a PROVINCE TERRITORY and STATE with BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES
OF EMINENT CITIZENS----CLAIBORNE Pages 423-427.

2-This information was secured from Hon. John Edwards, and Mendenhall's Writings.

Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames, Historian
Historical Research Project
Simpson County, Area # 13

SIMPSON COUNTY, BAR

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT
WILMA GLADNEY ENUMERATOR
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 7
ASSIGNMENT # 24

HEALTH

HEALTH IS WEALTH

There is wealth in health. Healthy towns are prosperous towns, and prosperous towns are healthy towns.

An army of trained men, working in every state in the Union, have quietly been gathering facts for years. They have conclusively proved that COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WEALTH GO HAND IN HAND.

Would you like to know some of the facts these men brought to light? They found that the conditions of the home and family living are the chief causes of health or sickness. Prosperous, sanitary, hygienic, happy homes are essential to healthfulness.

Sickness is the second main cause for charitable aid.

The average family spends about \$100 a year for health. This covers doctor bills, hospitals, medicines and dental services.

Nine out of every ten persons are sick every year. This covers a range from slight accidents and indispositions to serious and prolonged cases. One week is the average period of sickness.

On the average, there is one doctor and one nurse for about every 750 people. There should be one hospital bed for every 160 people. Only about 5,000 people are necessary to support a hospital.

One dollar a person in the average community will support a good health department. Such a department should be in charge of a competent health officer.

Pure water, sewage and garbage removal must be provided. San-

2 SIMPSON COUNTY

itary inspection service of food and milk should be maintained. Control of preventable and communicable diseases is necessary. Sanitary Schools with a health inspection service, health education, proper school heating, lighting and ventilation are essential.

Auxiliary health agencies such as the Red Cross, Anti-Tuberculosis Association, Visiting Nurse, Child and Infant Hygiene, Clinics (medical-dental), health publicity and educational work, general hospital facilities, and numerous other are all doing a necessary work and should be supported.

Periodical medical examinations disclose defects or conditions of importance. In one out of every four persons the length of life can be increased 25% and more by periodical examinations. Doctors have increased the average span of life about nine years. Your doctor and dentist would sooner help you keep well than try to cure you when you are sick.

Your druggist, your grocer, your butcher, your plumber, and, indeed, all your dealers are in their way educators in the art of healthful, sanitary and hygienic living.

By the use of these service and materials, you can be both healthier and more prosperous.

Proper living conditions are necessary to health. Health is necessary to prosperity. Health is wealth.

I Number one does not concern our county.

II From interviews with older citizens of the county we find that the epidemic of yellow fever in 1878, did not reach Simpson County.

¹ Simpson County News,
Jan. 30, 1930. Vol. 58 No. 32

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The Bureau of Vital Statistics was not organized until November 1912, therefore we have no record of the number of cases in the county however it is said that Simpson had very few cases of Small Pox during this epidemic of 1900 and 1901. Mr. C. W. Lewis tells us about a Welch family living near Pearl School at that time, fourteen in number, and all had small pox, death claimed seven of this family including the father and mother. They were treated by a Dr. Clark from Hopewell. The neighbors around were afraid of this dreadful disease, and only two white men and a negro nursed them and looked after burial of the dead. Dr. W. N. Neely states during this time he treated about six cases near Harrisville, but all finally recovered.

The most fatal and destructive epidemic-the influenza epidemic-in the history of Simpson County was the epidemic that swept the State of Mississippi September 28, 1918. This epidemic was not abated until the early part of 1919. The report for the county in 1918 which is shown by the official records of the state, shows that there were 1067 cases of influenza, and out of this number there were 45 deaths; white, 21 and colored 24. The report for 1919 shows 507 cases, there being 307 white and 200 colored and the total number of deaths were 24, out of this number there were 16 whites and 8 colored. It is needless to state that during the epidemic the official staff of the State Board of Health devoted much of its time to the control and suppression of this disease and as a consequence this interfered with many regular health activities of the Board.

"It will be seen therefore, that influenza has not been classed as a very disastrous disease until the year 1918, when all previous records were surpassed. The deaths from Influenza occurred largely during the latter four months of 1918.

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For the year 1917 the total death rate shown in the Registration Area 17.2 which indicates in a conspicuous way the increase in the total deaths due to this disease during the last biennial period, and particularly for the year 1919."

We are giving these numbers for comparison of the Influenza in 1918-1919 with that of 1936, of which the report for the first mentioned date is given above. For the last mentioned date referring to the number of cases is as follows: 420 whites and 124 colored which makes a total of 544 cases where in 1918 statistics record 1067 cases.

Below is a copy of a telegram, which was published in the Simpson County News in 1918, sent to Dr. Leathers, Secretary and executive officer of the State Board of Health of which he sent a copy to all county health officers in the commonwealth.

PRECAUTIONARY STEPS TAKEN BY DR. LEATHERS

Schools, Churches and Public Amusement in Towns where Influenza Prevails must close.

After communication with Washington D. C, relative to the Spanish influenza situation in Mississippi. Dr. Leather^s, secretary and executive officer of the State Board of Health, sent copies of the following telegram to every county health officer in the commonwealth:

Reports show that epidemic influenza continues in spread, United States Public Health Service advises discontinuing all public meetings, public schools and places of public amusement on appearance of local outbreaks of influenza, which is hereby ordered until conditions are relieved. Would not advise closing Agricultural Schools, colleges

2-Statistical Records.

5. SIMPSON COUNTY

or similar institutions where student body comes from a distance.

Please inform me any action taken. Request doctors to report cases in their practice to you. Make reports of all new cases to Board of Health on post card every night. Urgent.

Pursuant to the above order of Dr. W. S. Leathers, Secretary of the State Board of health, we hereby direct that the public schools of the county be closed until further notice. Attendance prohibited. Picture shows and theaters are directed not to open their doors for performance until further notice.

J. L. White,
COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
J. R. Williamson
County Supt., Ed.

Small Pox is one of the most easily caught diseases. Very often the victims do not remember even having seen a person who had the disease. Many cases of smallpox are caught on trains or in crowded street cars. Vaccination is the safe and simple protection. It prevents this terrible disease. Every child should be vaccinated before he is one year old and again in early school days. The protection given by a successful vaccination last about seven years. Even if you have been vaccinated once, if it is more than seven years ago, you should go to a doctor for revaccination to be sure that you are safe. Every epidemic of smallpox proves that a recent vaccination is a complete protection.

Simpson has regular vaccination intervals and therefore has very few cases of smallpox. In 1932 seventy five (75%) of the school children of the county were immunized against smallpox.

III

Simpson County cooperates one hundred per cent with the Mississippi State Board of Health in the control of all diseases. During the period of the emergency relief administration an extensive campaign was waged against malaria in many of the counties of the State. Simpson County News 1918 issue.

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but never materialized in Simpson County as Simpson is one of the counties that has never been infested so much with the malaria fever. The drainage is ideal and we have very few places where mosquitoes breed. Such places are carefully looked after by health authorities, and oils poured in them to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. In years past it was thought that malaria or "chills and Fever," as it was called-- was somewhat like fall house cleaning--one of those unpleasant things that is sure to come every year. That is now known to be false. No one need have malaria. The germ is carried from one person to another by a certain kind of mosquito. Protected from that mosquito's bite, a person cannot have this disease. Bad food, bad weather, damp air, night air--none of these things has anything to do with malaria. During 1936 quite a few were victims of malaria fever, but all because they were not properly protected from the anopheles mosquito. Simpson has a part time health department with Dr. R. E. Giles as county Health Doctor and Mrs. Anna Tate full time health nurse. They are discharging their duties in a most efficient way. Through their efforts and the cooperation of every citizen Simpsonites will continue to enjoy good health and happiness a rightful inheritance of all.

Simpson County has never had a full time health department. The following is a list of health officer who has served the county since 1882, this being the first year a health officer was ever appointed in the county:

Dr. William Giles,	Westville,	1882--1889
Dr. D. McCallum,	Westville,	1889--1901
Dr. J. R. Lockhart,	Magee,	1901--1903
Dr. L. E. Robertson,	Magee,	1903--1907
Dr. J. N. Chandler,	Braxton,	1907--1909
Dr. L. E. Robertson,	Magee,	1909--1911

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Dr. A. E. Kennedy, Pinola, 1911--1913

Dr. J. L. White, Pinola, 1913--1925

Dr. R. E. Giles, Mendenhall, 1925 to date.

Simpson County has never had a full time health department, only part time and up until 1935 we never had a county health nurse. Mrs. Corene B. Winton was the first county health nurse in 1935-36 Mrs. Ruth Halfacre served a short time in 1936, and Mrs. Anna Tate has been filling this place since Feb. 1, 1937. 4

IV.

We have no dairies, bakeries, candy factories, storage plants, or slaughter houses.

Since many serious diseases are transmitted through contaminated food and milk, there is a necessity for strict supervision of such matters to prevent the spread of infection through these sources.

The health of the family depends very largely upon proper foods, and the sanitary conditions prevailing where this food is prepared or kept for sale.

We have only a few individuals in the county who offer milk for sale and which they themselves properly supervise from the standpoint of sanitation and offer nothing but pure wholesome milk to the public.

Milk is the Most valuable food we have, and should be taken daily from infancy through old age. Impure or contaminated milk is dangerous because it may be the means of carrying diseases such as typhoid fever, dysentery, tuberculosis, diphtheria, undulant fever, and others. Since Simpson is ninety percent rural, very little milk and butter is sold, since the majority own their own cows and get scarcely enough for home consumption. The writer was reared on a farm and one of a family of eleven children, when milking time came

4. State Board of Health

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late in the evenings five cows came slowly home from the pasture to be milked, a fire was made in the great big range stove and several pone's of corn-bred cooked for supper, just at lamp lighting time the family gathered around the long table in the dining room after "dad" gave thanks all enjoyed that delicious hot bread and fresh milk "crumbed in", as we called it.

A fresh churn of butter milk was always ready for those who might want buttermilk "crumbed in" which was my favorite, and fresh butter with that hot bread and good homegrown syrup was delicious also.

These were grand old days, and from thence grew stalwart, healthy boys and girls. Wonder how many boys and girls today wouldn't turn up their "noses" if they were given only milk and bread for supper?

The cause of so many under nourished children is the lack of proper food, not because their parents cannot afford to buy it for them but because they haven't been forced to learn to like the foods they should eat, and usually parents say, "oh well you don't have to eat it if you don't want it".

The county health officer fulfills his duty in looking after the sanitary conditions of fruit stands, hotels, meat markets, soda fountains, and any public place where food is prepared for sale or sold.

In speaking of the health condition of our county, too much cannot be said of nature's force in this matter. We are located in the Pine Belt having free ozone and we are at a n elevation of 300 feet above sea level, which means we have pure air and plenty of rain fall. The water supply of the county is as pure as in any county. In a recent test of our water specimens were taken from

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every section and from bored wells, big dug wells and open springs and the test showed that there was no contamination or pollution whatsoever, in fact the water was reported 100% pure. Having a clay subsoil and underneath a strata of gravel and sand a condition most favorable to precalation of water. Simpson County may never expect that disease of any kind gill grow rife as a result of the natural waters of the homes and schools becoming unwholesome. 5

One of the most important phases of sanitary work is proper disposal of human waste materials.

Human excreta is responsible for the spread of hookworm disease, typhoid fever, dysentery, and other similar bowel troubles. The contamination of improperly protected water supplies and the contamination of food by flies constitute the greatest dangers from human excreta. Safe disposal of human waste material is accomplished in towns and cities by the use of properly constructed sewerage systems. Much has been done in the past few years along this line to prevent the spread of infection through the source.

Because of the birth of the CWA, ERA and WPA and other federal organizations designed to employ men and women, much labor has been made available to health departments major projects. During the period of the CWA, 201 sanitary toilets were built in Simpson County, 143 during the ERA and from Oct. 21, 1935 to March 13, 1937, 292 were built making a total of 636.

We have no swimming pools other than those in the river or creeks, these are ideal places for swimming but as far as sanitation is concerned they are purified by nature's way of purification of flowing water. We have no tourist camps in the county but scout and club camps are kept clean and sanitary by individuals who look after the up keep of them. Garbage disposal is taken care of by the town 54- Simpson County News, Aug. 4, 1932.

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officials of each town of any size in the county, by having a town owned truck make a regular trip each week to pick up the garbage and trash collected from one week to the other. Mendenhall for example has the truck make the round ever Tuesday morning to pick up the garbage.

It is a great pleasure and pride to note the gradual decline of cases of infections diseases in the county as a result of educational work. We see houses screened toilets built and flowers growing where weeds and grass once grew.

By carefully screening houses and building sanitary toilets we have not only lessened typhoid fever and malaria, but many of the intestinal troubles of children, such as colitis or entro colitis and common dysentery, have been controlled to a great extent. This has been brought about largely by the county health Dr. and Nurse visiting the schools and instructing the children along the lines of infections diseases and sanitation.

The drainage is ideal. There are but few places of mosquito breeding and stagnant water to be found in the entire county, and every precaution is taken against places where mosquitoes might breed.

The county health doctor efficiently fullfills his duty in looking after the sanitation of public service places, those in charge of such places realize their responsibility toward sanitation an cooperate one hundred per cent in keeping their places sanitary according to the instructions given out by health authorities.

There are two ways to combat the fly, first, and most important, all breeding places should be removed or destroyed. Second, all flies should be killed. A community working together along these two lines can rid itself of the fly nuisance.

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The easiest, most effective and least troublesome method of killing the fly, is by means of the fly trap. It will trap all the flies in your store, home, stable, or where ever flies are found. The State Board of Health is aware of the danger of flies and of the sickness and death they cause annually. Will you help remove this danger from you community by destroying fly breeding places around your premises and by building a fly trap. ⁶

The State Board of Health is doing a great work in educating the people on health and hygiene, and they are beginning in the right place--in the schools. It is hard to convince an old person that a house fly's feet are covered with filth and disease germs but it is easy to convince the child. The child sees the fly walk through the nastiest places he ever saw and then he sees him come to the table without washing his feet and walk all over the food, and when you tell the child that fly is spreading disease he believes it.

Tell a child that tuberculosis is caused by a tiny living microbe, and a consumptive spit out a thousand at a time, and that the fly that wades through and sucks this sputum, and then walks over baby's lips, will give the baby consumption and the child believes it because it is reasonable.

People should learn how to stay well. The State Board of Health is doing a great work, and every citizen should assist in the work.

Don't eat after flies; don't eat or drink from vessels used by the public; don't kiss; don't sleep with the sick; don't chew another child's gum it is full of microbes; and for the child's sake don't let anybody chew for baby.---Reporter Index. ⁷

v.

Maternal hygiene refers to all activities for safeguarding the

⁶ Extracts from pamphlet on "What You Should Know About Flies".
⁷ Simpson County News. December, 8, 1910. Vol. XXXIX No. 10

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welfare of the mother before and after the birth of her child. Since there are nearly 50,000 births in the State of Mississippi, every year, it can readily be seen how large is the task for bringing all these mothers safely through this trying ordeal. Unfortunately, only a small per centage of all these mothers avail themselves of the opportunities they might have for safe motherhood. A large proportion of them are not able financially to employ good doctors to look after them properly during a period of several months, others who might be financially able, are not convinced of the need of special care during this period.

The Board of Health, through this Division of its work endeavors to teach all expectant mothers important information in connection with this condition, the necessity for repeated examinations especially of heart, blood pressure, and kidneys, and the importance of securing whatever treatment may be necessary.

This education is carried out more or less along the following lines:-

1st. Printed literature for distribution to expectant mothers and to new mothers.

2nd. Visits by public health nurses.

3rd. Visits of expectant mothers to the health department or the prenatal conferences.

4th. Instruction of midwives by health officers and nurses.

5th. Appeals to physicians for their cooperation in all efforts for reduction of the maternal death rate.

During the last ten years, the efforts put forth by this department and the physicians have been rewarded by a 45 per cent reduction in deaths from the three principal cause of death during the maternal period. 351 deaths in 1925, and 191 deaths in 1934. That the decrease

SIMPSON COUNTY, HEALTH

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SIMPSON COUNTY

in deaths among negro mothers during this period has kept pace with the decrease among the white mothers speaks highly for the training that has been given midwives by this department through health officers and public health nurses. Midwives are especially trained in the art of cleanliness and taught to recognize difficult situations and to call in the physician when necessary.

Births for 1933, White 344 Colored 146 total 490.

Births for 1934, White 338 Colored 183 total 521.

Maternal death rates for the year 1933. Whites 11.4 Colored 0.0 total 8.0. Maternal death rates for the year 1934 Whites 5.8 Colored 15.8 total 9.3.

Maternal Mortality for Simpson County.

1921 White 5.9 Colored 12.2 Total 8.5

1935 White 6.1 Colored 7.1 Total 6.6

The county health nurse is trying to make a home visit to every expectant mother especially in the rural district and where possibly they might not be able to have an attending physician, in order to give prenatal instruction, and also to new mothers giving information on care of the child. It is imperative that an expectant mother have the right kind of care, and eat the right kind of food for her baby to be well born.

"Every child has the right to be well born; and in order to prevent development of physical or mental defects, provision should be made for medical supervision of the child beginning in infancy and extending through adolescence. Plans should include: periodic health examinations; hygienic surroundings; personal hygiene; training in physical, mental, and emotional habits; pure food, water, and milk supply; health education of parents and children protection against

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SIMPSON COUNTY

communicable diseases and other health hazards; vaccination against smallpox by one year; inoculation against diphtheria by six months, and typhoid fever by five years.

The public health nurse may visit in the homes. She is thus able to make a personal contact with the family. She may discover that home environment has aggravated the child's malady, such as, insanitary conditions, poverty, ignorance, ill health of the other members of the family. She may give counsel and advice which may help to remedy the malady-justment. She may aid in establishing health conditions in the homes, she may urge the parents to make it possible for the child to carry out at home, the lessons he has learned at school. She may invite the family to visit the office where they may become further interested in the health work of the community, and, by untiring efforts in home visiting, she may influence the parents of those children most in need.

A healthy, well-nourished child measures up to racial and family standards in physical growth and development as indicated by: good color, firm flesh, well-developed muscles, plumpness, bright eyes, smooth glossy hair, erect posture, good appetite and digestion, regular elimination, happy and good natured activity, mental alertness, undisturbed slumber, physical endurance, and upward trend of weight.

A poorly-nourished child lacks many of the characteristics of the well child which may be evidenced by: flabby flesh, undeveloped muscles, fatigue, poor posture, curved back, winged shoulder blades, lack of lustre in eyes, dark circles under eyes, paleness of mucous membrane of lips and eyes, capricious appetite, nervousness, restlessness, or irritability, unsound sleep, faulty elimination, lack of gain in trend of weight.

SIMPSON COUNTY, HEALTH

If physical defects exist there should be adequate facilities for correction. Health education should be an important phase of home life and the school curriculum.

Infant death rate for Simpson County 1933

White, 32 Colored 102.7 Total, 53.1

Infant death rate for 1934, Whites 50.3, Colored 49.2, Total 49.9.

Infant Mortality for Simpson County.

1921--- White, 53 Colored, 85 Total 68. ⁷⁸

1935--- White, 43 Colored, 59 Total 54.

A great deal of work has been done along this line in Simpson County, during 1934-35.

ERA funds were used to correct teeth of families on relief rolls at a time when so many neglected their teeth because of insufficient funds.

Simpson County was furnished a dental hygienist jointly by the ERA and the State Board of health. Besides inspections and instructions in essentials of mouth hygiene for all groups. The dental hygienist on this project cleaned hundreds of teeth. This proved a very successful project and many teeth corrections as a result, which probably would not have been corrected otherwise.

During 1936 the Resettlement Administration program helped many families that needed dental care, this being paid for by the Resettlement and then charged to the individual.

A clinic was held in 1936 sponsored by PT& and Dr. R. E. Giles county health officer, School children were examined. Dr. Vandike Hagaman gave eye, nose and throat examination, and Dr. R. V. Mahaffey teeth. Each child was given a slip of paper telling the corrections needed and urging parents to have these corrected at the earliest possible date. Miss Boswell, field worker from the State Health De-

partment is working every school in the county and so far Dr. R. V. Mahaffey states about 20% to 30% of the childrens teeth are found to be perfect.

VI.

On March 25, 1916, a law was approved providing for the erection of a sanatorium, near Magee, Mississippi, for the control of tuberculosis and treatment of curable cases of the disease. Dr. W. H. Rowan was selected as the first superintendent, but owing to ill health he was not able to serve many months in this capacity. Dr. Rowan was succeeded in 1917 by Dr. Henry Boswell, who has held this position ever since. Dr. Boswell has gained national reputation for his work in this institution. The Mississippi State Tuberculosis Sanatorium is rated as one of the best in the United States.

The Sanatorium was not established with a view to curing or caring for all cases of tuberculosis, but rather to treat as many curable cases as possible with the funds available and to send these back to their homes to be teachers to others in the prevention and care of this disease. One of the principal duties of the Sanatorium is to do educational work on tuberculosis, not only with the patients on hand but with the people generally throughout the State.

In February, 1918, the first group of patients was admitted for treatment, and since that date thousands have been returned to their homes, cured or with the disease arrested. Between 300 and 500 patients are regularly under treatment in the institution.

In 1928 an appropriation was made for a Preventorium for children. The first children were admitted in February, 1930. Young children are taken when there is reason to believe they would break down with active tuberculosis in the near future, and they are rebuilt at a reasonably small cost, thus preventing active tuberculosis and loss of lives within a few years. The capacity of the Preventorium is 50

children, and the quota is always filled. It is situated on the grounds of the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Simpson County, Miss. about seven miles south of Mendenhall.

This Institution was closed the 20th of January 1937 on account of insufficient funds. To be opened at a future date when an appropriation is made.

Not so many years ago tuberculosis caused more deaths than any other disease. In fact, it was called "The Great White Plague," and "The Captain of the Men of Death."

Nearly four times as many people now die with heart disease in the United States as die of tuberculosis. Instead of occupying first place as a cause of death, it now holds sixth place; and the number of deaths from this cause is gradually declining as the years go by. Seventy-five thousand people died in the United States last year from tuberculosis. Twelve hundred died in Mississippi.

The rapid decline in deaths is due to education of the public for many years on the method of transmission of the disease.

The immediate cause of tuberculosis is a tiny rod-shaped germ called the tubercle bacillus. It is present in enormous numbers in diseased tissue. These bacilli are so small that it is necessary to use the highest power of the microscope to see them. They are coughed up from diseased lungs and spread to other individuals by breathing them into healthy lungs or by placing in the mouth utensils used by tuberculosis patients. The disease may also be contracted by drinking milk from tuberculosis cattle.

Tuberculosis is usually a wasting and long drawn out disease. One of the regretful features of this malady is that its victims are usually the young manhood and young womanhood of the country just beginning to take their places in the affairs of life.

There is no quick cure for tuberculosis. In fact, no medicine has been found to be of any benefit, more than for treatment of certain symptoms.

Early diagnosis is necessary if a cure is to be expected. If the disease is allowed to run its course a stage will soon be reached where it will become incurable.

Rest, fresh air, sunshine, and proper diet, all under intelligent medical supervision, constitute the foundation in the treatment of tuberculosis. Likewise, fresh air, sunshine, and proper diet in addition to avoiding exposure to active cases, will go a long way toward prevention of the disease.

Tuberculosis usually can be arrested if it is discovered soon enough and if the patient works with the doctor. Treatment may be carried out at home, but a special hospital, called a sanatorium is the best place for the patient. There, everything is planned with the one object of helping him get well. It is not necessary to go to a sanatorium far away from home in order to get the benefit of a certain climate. We now know that tuberculosis can be successfully treated in any climate in the United States.

Rest is the first and most important remedy in the treatment of tuberculosis. This does not mean simply "taking it easy" but rest flat in bed under a doctor's care. Rest gives the lungs their best chance to heal.

If the mind is fretted with worry, the body cannot rest. At the beginning, it is necessary to face the fact that "the cure" will take a long time. The patient should be encouraged to meet real troubles squarely without worry, to forget the others, and REST.

Rest is so important that in late years, ways have been found to

rest the sick lung itself. Even when a person is asleep the lungs are in motion. To excuse the diseased lung from this work, it may be necessary to use surgery.

The most common method used is called artificial pneumothorax. Its object is to introduce air into the space between the sick lung and the chest wall. This causes the lung to collapse so the it cannot breathe. In this state the lung is at rest and the diseased part has a chance to heal. The work of breathing is carried on by the healthy lung. From time to time the air in the chest needs to be replaced, and this is called a "refill."

Another operation for resting the lung is performed on one of the nerves of the neck. This paralyzes the diaphragm, the big breathing muscle between the chest and the abdomen. Then the lung cannot move as before.

Still another method is to shorten the ribs so that the chest wall caves in and compresses the sick lung. This operation, which causes permanent lung collapse, has saved many lives.

The First requirement to keep from having tuberculosis is to live the sort of life that will keep the body at its best. You may have the germs of tuberculosis in your body and yet not develop the disease if you have good bodily resistance. Here are some of the rules for healthful living;

Try to get at least eight hours of sleep each night, with windows open.

Eat a variety of nourishing foods, including milk, eggs, fruit, and vegetables.

Avoid overwork, late hours, and all excesses which weaken the body.

Keep cheerful.

Go to the doctor or a clinic once a year for a thorough physical examination.

The second requirement is to take all reasonable precautions to prevent tuberculosis germs from entering the body. Important rules to follow are:

Always wash the hands with warm water and soap before eating and preparing food.

Use pasteurized milk from a reliable dairy.

Avoid, as much as possible, contact with those who cough and spit carelessly. Be especially careful to keep children away from such people. Old persons frequently have coughs which do not seem serious but which are actually a form to tuberculosis.

The number sent to the Sanatorium from Simpson County up to the present time is 86 white and 18 colored, making a total of 104.

Tuberculosis is on the decrease. We owe the success we have already won to our present-day knowledge of tuberculosis and its application. It is only by helping to spread this knowledge and by using it to protect our own lives and the lives of our children and our neighbors that we will ever get the best of this ancient enemy.¹⁰

VII.

We have no Industrial Hygiene and Factory Inspection in Simpson County.

VIII.

Typhoid Fever is a preventable disease that can and should be stamped out. To prevent Typhoid. First--Be sure that you use pure water, pasteurized milk or milk from hygienic dairies, and clean food that is protected from flies. Second--Be vaccinated against typhoid fever and have all members of your family vaccinated. Third--All

persons having it should be reported at once to the local Health Board. Fourth--Waste matter from persons having typhoid fever should be mixed immediately with chlorinated lime or carbolic acid to kill the typhoid germ.

In 1936 there was only one case of typhoid fever in Simpson County.

Measles is a dangerous and very contagious disease. The first signs of measles are sneezing, running at the nose and a slight cough. The eyes look red and watery and the light hurts them.

It is during this early period that others are most liable to catch the disease. The child may appear to have only a cold. But the mother who sends her child to school or allows him to play in the street at this time is helping to spread the disease to other children. In the beginning there is little fever. In a day or two the skin becomes hot, the tongue becomes covered by a furry coating, and the throat grows very red. About the fourth day, red spots begin to appear on the forehead and face and soon spread down over the entire body. The spots collect in large red blotches and usually itch.

As soon as your child shows the first signs of measles, if he sneezes and coughs and if his eyes are watery, keep the child out of school and call the doctor without delay. He will give your child the proper treatment. Protect the child's eyes from direct bright lights or glare.

Be sure to follow your doctor's directions for keeping your child's eyes, ears, mouth and nostrils perfectly clean. The discharge from your child's nose and throat and ears should be carefully gathered in clean rags and burned. Measles can easily be caught through the disease germs the sick person spreads by talking or coughing. For this reason only the doctor and the person who is nursing the patient should enter the sick room.

As soon as the rash fades, the skin will begin to peel. This peeling may last from several days to a few weeks.

Although children are more likely to catch the disease, adults, too, sometimes develop measles. In adult cases, the disease is even more serious.

Do not let the child get up until the doctor says it is safe, and take him to the doctor again in a few months, to make certain there are no bad after-effects.

It is not necessary for your children to have measles, if you will keep them away from children who have the disease. Children below school age should be most carefully protected from measles. This will save you much worry and trouble, and may even save your child's life.

Another way to prevent or lessen the severity of measles is to give those children who have been exposed to the disease, an injection of blood taken from the arm of an adult who has had measles, preferably one of the parents. Ask your doctor about it.

But if your child shows the signs of measles; You must at once keep him away from other children. You must immediately send for the doctor.

There were sixty seven cases of measles in Simpson County in 1936.

Smallpox is one of the most easily caught diseases. Very often the victims do not remember even having seen a person who had the disease. Many cases of smallpox are caught on trains or in crowded street cars. It usually develops about the twelfth day after the infection. Shills, fever, headache, and vomiting are the usual beginning symptoms. Firm red pimples appear on the face and hands and then show on other parts of the body. If any one in your home develops these symptoms, keep him away from other members of the family and the neighbors and call a doctor immediately.

Vaccination is your protection against smallpox. It prevents this terrible disease. Every child should be vaccinated before he is one year old and again in early school days. The protection given by a successful vaccination lasts about seven years.

Even if you have been vaccinated once, if it was more than seven years ago, you should go to a doctor or a clinic for revaccination to be sure that you are safe. Every epidemic of smallpox proves that a recent vaccination is a complete protection.

We did not have any smallpox in Simpson County in 1936.

Whooping cough is a dangerous and highly contagious disease. It is one of the worst misfortunes that can happen to a child under 5, and is serious at any age. It is catching from its earliest stages even before the "whoop" has begun.

Parents should do all that they can to protect their children from whooping cough. At all times, keep babies and young children away from those who cough or appear to have colds. Be especially watchful when there is whooping cough in the community. Parents should take equal pains to protect others from contact with their own children if, in spite of care, they catch this disease.

The Warning Signs. Whooping cough starts with a slight cold, running at the nose, fever, and a dry cough. The eyes are bloodshot. After a week the cough gets worse and the child coughs many times in succession. He becomes pale and draws in his breath with a sharp scraping sound. This is the "whoop," though it is not present in all cases.

In mild cases, the child will have four or five coughing spells a day; in severe cases, many more than that.

If your child shows the first signs of whooping cough, call the doctor, and follow his directions absolutely. He can do much to relieve the child's distress and to prevent bad after effects. The doc-

tor may wish to use a vaccine, which is harmless, and which in many cases seems to have been helpful, both for prevention and in treatment.

Good care and careful feeding are very important in keeping the child from becoming worn out from violent coughing and frequent vomiting. Give him foods that are easily digested. If he vomits after a meal, an egg, well beaten in milk, with sugar and vanilla, may be given.

See that he gets plenty of fresh air. Keep the room well aired night and day. While he is convalescing, unless it is raining, take him out Every Day, on the roof or porch, in the yard, or into the park; but do not allow him to mingle with others.

Many children lose weight and become very weak from whooping cough. In this condition, they easily get pneumonia, or even tuberculosis, and other serious diseases. Whooping cough may also cause heart strain. Do not let the child return to school or play until the doctor has pronounced him well.

All matter that comes from the mouth and nose while the child is sick should be received in a piece of clean old cloth or paper napkin and burned, for it is largely through carelessness in coughing and in the disposal of nose and throat discharges that the disease is spread. Keep separate cups, glasses, plates and spoons for the child while he is sick.

In 1936 there were three cases of whooping cough in Simpson County.

In years past it was thought that malaria--or "chills and fever," as it was called--was somewhat like fall house-cleaning--one of these unpleasant things that is sure to come every year. That is now known to be false. No one need have malaria. The germ is carried from one person to another by a certain kind of mosquito. Protected from that

mosquito's bite, a person cannot have this disease. Bad food, bad water, damp air, night air--none of these things have anything to do with malaria.

Only a mosquito, and only one kind of mosquito, can convey malaria. It is called Anopheles. Where no malaria-carrying mosquitoes exist no cases of malaria develop. They breed in stagnant or slow-moving water. Malaria is therefore a common disease where much rain and poor drainage prevail. The disease is most frequent in the Southern States, especially in the Mississippi River Valley. Cases also occur along the Atlantic Coast from Connecticut south, and in certain spots along the Pacific Coast.

This is how a case of malaria happens: The Anopheles mosquito sucks blood from a person who has malaria or a person who is a carrier of malaria germs. A carrier is a person who, while apparently well, has the germ in his blood and thus can give the disease to others with the help of the mosquito. The mosquito then bites a well person. The germs enter the blood, grow, and multiply there. Poisons are formed and carried in the blood stream to all parts of the body. The second person bitten begins to shiver with chills, then to burn with fever, then to have headache. The fever may last for weeks or it may go and come, the victim feeling ill every other day or every third day. Sometimes one may have a light attack of malaria without knowing it, only feeling dull and very tired.

Screens should be used in the house. If the house cannot be thoroughly screened, put a canopy of mosquito netting over the bed. The netting should be tucked in all around the bed and examined often to make sure there are no holes in it. The chance of being bitten is greater at night than in the daytime.

If anyone in the house has malaria, he should be kept carefully

screened. This will protect others from the disease and is as important as taking care of the patient.

Mosquitoes that get into the house should be killed.

Stagnant pools and marshes should be drained or filled in. The collection of water should be prevented. Overflowing irrigation ditches make many breeding places. So do blocked water pipes, hog wallows, troughs, and barrels.

Holes should be punched in discarded tin cans so that water will not collect in them.

Weeds and brush around mosquito-breeding places that cannot be drained should be cut down, and a light fuel oil should be sprayed on the water to kill the larvae or "wigglers" from which the mosquitoes come. This needs to be done every 14 days. (The health officer will tell how to do this, and designate the kind of oil to use.)

Neighbors should be persuaded to join in waging war on mosquitoes in communities where malaria is common. A few dollars spent on a mosquito war will save hundreds spent in doctors' bills and lost through sickness.

More than one way exists to outwit the malaria germs. If thorough protection from the mosquitoes is not certain, the doctor should be asked about taking small doses of quinine or other antimalaria drugs during the malaria season. Although infection cannot be prevented by means of quinine, the disease may, however, remain latent. That is, fever and other symptoms of malaria may be warded off.

In 1936 there were 471 cases of malaria in Simpson County.

Scarlet fever is a contagious and serious disease. Grown people may catch scarlet fever, but children under 15 years of age are most likely to have it, if exposed. It is especially dangerous for children under 5 years, and for babies. Do not let your children take any

chances with scarlet fever.

The germs of scarlet fever are spread through discharges from the nose and throat and sometimes from the ears of a person sick with this disease. The person just coming down with scarlet fever or in the first stages of the disease is most likely to give it to others.

If your child is going to have scarlet fever, the first signs you may notice are that he seems tired, restless, and out of sorts. Usually there is a sore throat, chill, vomiting, or convulsion. The child has fever. His skin is dry and hot. His tongue is furred, and under this white covering it is red and swollen.

In ordinary cases these early signs are followed in a day or two by a rash. Little flat red points, close together, appear first on the neck and chest. Soon the rash is over most of the body and is brilliant in color. No one should be needlessly exposed to scarlet fever. You can protect the others in the family if you are careful.

A loose gown or kimono should be put on when entering the sick room. This should be taken off when leaving. The hair should be covered by a cloth or cap. After caring for the patient and after handling anything that the patient has touched, hands and face should be washed with soap and warm running water and the hands rinsed in a solution of a disinfectant. Collect all the saliva and discharges from the patient's mouth, nose, throat, and ears in pieces of old linen, cotton, gauze, or paper. These must be burned, as they may spread the disease.

The patient must have his own dishes, spoons, knives, and forks. These dishes must be sterilized by boiling. The patient's sheets, pillow cases and clothing must be disinfected. Ask your doctor how to do this. They must not be washed with wearing apparel and bed linen used by other members of the family.

The doctor is required by law to report the case to the Health

Department. Do your part by following carefully the quarantine instructions which the Health Officer will give you.

Children who have had scarlet fever or who have been exposed must not return to school until permission is given by the Health Officer or physician.

The same precautions are necessary for a mild case as for a severe one. Remember that scarlatina is the same as scarlet fever.

A severe or fatal case of scarlet fever may develop from contact with someone who has only a light attack.

There were no cases of Scarlet Fever in Simpson in 1936.

There are certain diseases, like smallpox and typhoid fever, that strike men down so swiftly and with so heavy a hand that every one dreads them. Others, like hookworm disease, work slowly and produce such mild symptoms at the start that they are little dreaded and often neglected. Yet the harm they do may, in the long run, be greater and more widespread than that resulting from an epidemic of acute disease.

Hookworm disease undermines the strength and saps the vitality of its victim. It stunts growth—physical and mental. It kills energy and cripples one's capacity for work, yet in many cases the actual signs of disease may for a long time be so slight that the patient merely feels tired and ambitionless. The cause of this disease and the way it is spread are known.

Hookworm disease is caused by a small worm, whitish in color, which when full-grown is not quite half an inch long and as thick as a small hairpin.

The very young and very tiny worms get into the body, usually by boring their way through the skin; occasionally they are swallowed. They are carried to different parts of the body by the blood and finally

reach the bowels. Here they grow to their full size and proceed to suck the patient's blood and to give off a poisonous secretion which affects the blood.

With these blood-sucking worms at work, the patient's blood becomes thin and watery. He grows pale and listless and may have indigestion. He becomes weak and cannot do any work. Often a person who has a mild case is thought to be merely lazy, when he is really sick. In severe cases where there are a great many worms in the bowels, the skin is pasty yellow, the gums and lips very pale and the abdomen, face and legs are swollen. The patient may desire unusual things to eat, such as paper, chalk, dirt or clay, hence the name "dirt-eater's disease" which is sometimes used. Itching sores may form in the skin where the hookworm has bored its way through. These sores are called by various names, "ground itch," "dew Itch," "cow itch," "foot itch," or "toe itch."

Hookworm disease stunts the growth of children. A child of sixteen who has this disease may appear not over ten. It makes children dull and they do their school work poorly.

It is possible to make absolutely certain whether or not a person has hookworm disease by sending a specimen of the patient's bowel discharges to the State Board of Health or to the family physician for microscopic examination. Hookworms lay eggs, and if a person has the worms in the bowels, the eggs will be found in the bowel discharges by the microscope.

If you live in a section where hookworm is common and have any symptoms of this disease, have an examination by your doctor or at a clinic at once. If you feel tired and listless all the time, even though you have no other symptoms, an examination should be made.

All that is necessary to cure hookworm disease is to get the worms out of the patient's bowels. There are several simple effective

methods of treatment, but these should not be taken except under the supervision of a physician. If you have a family doctor, consult him about treatment. If not, visit a clinic or write to your State Board of Health for advice. If bowel discharges containing hookworm eggs are kept off the ground, the worms do not have a chance to infect other persons. Sanitary privies should be built and people should be taught never to pass bowel discharges on the ground. Hookworm disease can be largely prevented by wearing shoes, so that the worms in the ground cannot bore their way through the skin of the feet. But the most effective way is to keep bowel discharges off the ground.

In 1936 there were 116 cases of Hookworm in Simpson County.

Diphtheria is a dangerous, catching disease that causes the death of many children. It often comes on with only slight symptoms, such as sore throat, chilliness, a little fever or aching pains and may be mistaken for tonsillitis or laryngitis or some other less serious illness. Yet, even when the symptoms are slight, there is great danger. Children are most defenseless against this disease, especially those under five. The very young child is not only more likely to take diphtheria but also more apt to die of it than are older children. No child need have diphtheria. It can be prevented by a simple, harmless treatment. Take your children to your doctor or to a clinic and ask to have them protected against diphtheria with toxoid (toxin-antitoxin is still used in some communities). All children, when they are six to nine months of age, should have this treatment. The doctor or nurse will tell you how often to come and what to do. The treatments, usually one to three in number, are simple and harmless and quickly given. It takes a few months for the protection to develop.

Six months after the treatment, take the children back to the doctor to find out if they have had enough treatments to make them

safe. He can tell this by giving them the Schick Test. Be sure to do this. Then you can be certain that your children are safe and that you need never fear diphtheria.

Under the direction of Dr. R. E. Giles, County Health Officer, an extensive campaign for the prevention of diphtheria is now under way in the county. Realizing the danger of an outbreak of this dreaded epidemic Dr. Giles and his corps of helpers are making a house to house campaign for the purpose of vaccinating all children from the age of six months to eight years. They will visit every school in the county and take the rural district of the county visiting each home. They are very anxious to make this campaign a success, and urges the fathers and mothers of children of eligible age to see to it that their children are immunized from Diphtheria.

From the twenty-ninth Biennial report of the State Board of Health we find that in 1933 there were 1213 cases immunized against diphtheria and 1193 in the year 1934.

In 1936 there was one case of diphtheria in Simpson County.

Infantile paralysis (acute poliomyelitis) is a communicable disease. It occurs most often in the summer months and early fall, commonly among children. In the beginning it resembles many other contagious diseases. A child that has been well becomes restless or drowsy. He is feverish, irritable, and doesn't want to be moved. He is apt to vomit once or twice and may complain of headache or pain in the back or in the back of the neck. He is likely to be constipated by he may have diarrhea. More significant are a sore, stiff neck and spine and pains in the back, arms, and legs. Many of these symptoms are not unlike those in the common upsets to which children are subject, but the most serious sign is the stiffness which makes it impossible to bend spine and neck forward.

Sometimes these early symptoms may be very mild, and yet within from 24 to 72 hours the child may be unable to move an arm or a leg. Again he may be unmistakably sick with the first stages of this disease but develop little or no paralysis. Sometimes a child may have so mild a case that the attack is scarcely noticed, and yet he may spread the contagion to other children. Even a doctor who is a nerve or child specialist often has to perform a slight operation (lumbar puncture) to be sure of correct diagnosis.

If your child has fever, vomiting, and marked restlessness, put him to bed and promptly call your family doctor. The child may not have infantile paralysis, but if he has the doctor may be able to lessen the crippling after-effects, which are the worst feature of the disease, if he is called in before the arms or legs begin to be weak and paralyzed. The doctor will also give advice about the position of the patient and how to care for and move him, which may have much to do with the prevention of deformity or crippling.

It is very important to get a doctor at the earliest possible moment. Even though your doctor is one of the best, he may wish to have the advice of a specialist to supplement his own judgment.

There is much about infantile paralysis that is not yet understood, but it is believed to be spread directly and indirectly from one person to another, much as other contagious disease of childhood are spread. It is thought that one may even carry the infection without showing symptoms of the disease; in fact, "healthy" carriers may be more numerous and active in spreading it than active cases.

When a child has infantile paralysis, he should be put to bed, away from other members of the family, the doctor called, the case reported to the Department of Health, and measures taken to protect others, as directed by the doctor or the Health Officer.

If there is an epidemic of infantile paralysis or of other contagious disease in your community, it is a good rule to keep your child out of crowds. Avoid the movies, theaters, parties, dances, picnics, and crowded boats and trains until the epidemic is over. Health authorities usually agree that children are safer from the disease when kept in school than when taken from school and allowed to play in the streets or elsewhere, though even schools sometimes are closed for short periods to try to stop the disease from spreading. Keep your child away from homes where there is sickness. If you have a yard, let your child play in it. The roofs of apartment houses, when properly protected against accidents, often are fine playgrounds.

During the summer of 1936 an epidemic of infantile paralysis (acute poliomyelitis) visited the state. The Bureau of vital Statistics have only one case on record from Simpson County. As soon as this disease became known in Simpson County, Dr. R. E. Giles, the county Health officer issued strict warning against this dreadful malady, asking the citizens of the county to cooperate with him in preventing the spread of this disease. All public gatherings were canceled and adults as well as children sprayed their nose and throat for prevention. After the schools began in September the workers of the Housekeepers Aid Project went regularly to the schools of the county and gave this treatment to the school children until after the first frost came, or the fall rains settled so much dust.

HOME CARE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If one of your family develops symptoms of a communicable (catching) disease--fever, headache, sore throat, rash, vomiting--put him to bed at once away from all the others and call your physician without delay.

Your physician or your health officer will tell you the things to do to prevent others from catching the disease. The rules are

not always the same because the various diseases differ in the way they are spread.

You can protect yourself and your family from infection if you will provide the following:

Bright, easily ventilated room (screened) free from unnecessary furniture, draperies, etc., where patient can be isolated from everyone but you.

Table with pitcher, basin, hand brush, soap, towel (just inside sick room) for your use. Table for patient's articles, with basin and tray holding soft cloths, toothbrush, soap, mouth wash, thermometer.

Among health board regulations for isolation, there are three general safeguards, which will protect you, the attendant.

Scrub your hands thoroughly after caring for the patient.

Keep away from his face when he coughs, sneezes or talks. Droplets carry infection.

Never touch your mouth or face while giving nursing care. Infection is spread from hand to mouth.

To protect your family:

Burn dressings soiled by discharges, scraps of food, cloths, etc.

Boil for fifteen minutes dishes used by the patient, before washing with the family dishes.

Spread out in the sun for several hours mattresses and other articles that cannot be boiled.

Bed linen should be boiled or sunned, then may be added to the family wash.

As soon as you enter the room to care for the patient, put on the cover-all apron which is kept always inside the sick room.

Keep on hand a supply of newspapers to be folded into bags to hold soiled waste material.

While you are caring for the patient, watch for new symptoms and

report them to the physician if any occur.

When ready to leave, straighten the room by collecting any waste material and scraps of food in paper bags, gathering up soiled linen and collecting dishes.

Remove your apron and wash your hands the last thing before you leave the room.

Then empty waste water into toilet, burn paper bags, care for linen, boil dishes.

Finally, scrub your hands thoroughly.

ARTICLES FOR THE SICK ROOM

Jar or Bottle for Disinfectant

Wash Boiler for Soiled Linen

Two Hand Basins and Pitcher

Hand Brushes

Bedpan

Two Cover-All Aprons

Soft Cloths and Newspapers

Thermometer (kept in weak disinfecting solution recommended by your physician)

Glass (with cotton in bottom for thermometer)¹¹

This definition, "Extrinsic Incubation Period of Yellow Fever" is complex, somewhat involved, and rather confusing. The incubation period in man is from 3 to 5 days, (not from one to 7 days as mentioned by Reed in his report). In estimating the time of this "extrinsic incubation period", the time of incubation in the primary case is not considered, for the time begins with the coming down or sickening of the individual, extending to the time the secondary case or cases become sick, and this time, includes the incubation period, of the

¹¹ Information secured from Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Bulletins and Dr. R. E. Giles, County Health Officer.

secondary cases. The entire time being from twelve to twenty days, or practically, if not exactly the number of days. Dr. Carter, says in his notes, "The time from the infection to a secondary case obviously consists of three periods: (1) The time from the development of the infecting case to the time the environment is capable of developing infection in other men, plus (2) Time the individual in question is exposed to the environment before he contracts the disease, plus (3) Time from the date of contracting the disease to its development in him."

We understand then, if a man having contracted the fever, comes home where there has been no possible chance of the house being infected, some change in the atmosphere of that house, possibly fomites brought in with his clothing, or some materies morbi is developed by him in the house, which causes other members of the household, who are constantly there, to become sick, within two or three weeks. Now this is, "extrinsic incubation," incubation external, to the sick man, but a certain incubation takes place, internal, intrinsic, in the secondary cases within the ordinary incubation period in man, and this period must be considered, since the time is from the sickness of the primary to the sickness of the secondary case.

Now according to the mosquito that is if there happened to be a female *stegomyia fasciata* in that house, and she fed upon the sick man within the first three days of his illness, she became infected but not yet infective, for, although she might bite other members of the family, they would not have yellow fever until the expiration of the incubation period in her. Twelve to twenty days, intrinsic in the mosquito but extrinsic to the man. After that time elapsed, her bite would be infective, and productive of yellow fever, within from three to five days in other members of the family, secondary cases. Dr. Carter, had been working for more than ten years to establish definitely the fact that a house

would become infected and that other people staying in the house would have yellow fever at definite time after exposure to first case.

He was convinced of this truth just as fully as Finley was convinced that the mosquito conveyed yellow fever but had never been able to get satisfactory data, by which, to prove it. He realized the importance of establishing this period because he knew, that it would have great effect in regulating quarantine and the control of epidemics. Other investigators had observed, that it required from ten days to three weeks for other cases to be developed from the first case sick in a house. It was generally believed that there would be no more yellow fever, in a house unless it developed within ten days and quarantine regulations were generally based on the idea. Control: Is the eliminationⁱⁿ of all breeding places of mosquito and the screening of houses.¹²

IX.

Alcohol has caused untold controversy, misery, crime, and death through the ages. Alluring, bewitching, and deceptive, it has enticed millions into its web of fate since first it was discovered by man in some forgotten age.

Belonging to a family of poisons, alcohol has caused the death of tens of thousands, but no one has ever died for lack of it.

Alcohol is no food and not the stimulant it has been claimed to be; but it is a poison to the nervous system. Its viciousness is due to the fact that it paralyzes reason, numbs the conscience, and destroys the judgment; thereby leaving the animal part of man in the lead, to which circumstances can be credited all the crimes and miseries which have been charged against it.

There is no doubt but that nearly half the automobile accidents are the direct results of alcohol. Also alcohol is concerned in a heavy percentage of all the homicides (killings) that take place in the State.

¹²-Taken from GANTS report on Yellow fever.

Alcohol stands alone in three particulars which makes it the greatest enemy of the human race: It is easy to make; it is easy to take; and it deceives the drinker in its effects upon himself. Experience, and experiments which have been made with alcohol show that while some people seem to be able to drink it with no apparent harm, thousands and thousands of people have been ruined by it in mind, body, and soul, and no drinker is found more skillful, or does more or better work after taking it.

You may stop in any village or in any rural community in Mississippi or any other state and ask a well-informed citizen as to whether or not he knows of any ruined lives in his vicinity through the use of alcohol. He will be able to point out to you perhaps as many as a dozen individuals who in their younger days had great promise of success, physically, mentally, and spiritually, but whose lives have been ruined and blasted by alcoholic drinking.¹³

The following is a quotation from a Mississippi newspaper dated July 19, 1934:

WHAT IT WILL DO

"Alcohol," says an exchange, "will remove stains from summer clothes!"

This is true, but it also removes the summer clothes, the spring, autumn, and winter clothes--not only from the one who drinks it, but from the wife and family as well.

It also removes the household furniture, the estates from the pantry, the smiles from the face of the wife, the innocent laughter from the lips of his children, and the happiness out of the HOME.

As a remover of things, alcohol has no equal.

13-HEALTH SYLLABUS

SIMPSON COUNTY

Accident and accidental deaths, in Simpson County.

Homicides	1933		1 colored	
	1934	1 white	6 colored	
Automobile	1933		1 colored	
	1934	2 whites		
Accidental burns	1935	2 whites		
Drowned	1935	1 white		
Automobile Accidents	1935	1 white	2 colored	
Falls	1935	4 whites		
Other accidental deaths	1935		1 colored	
Total		11 whites	11 colored	22
				14

X.

LIST OF DOCTORS IN SIMPSON COUNTY

Beat # 1	Dr. R. E. Giles, Dr. S. Lewis Knight, Dr. W. W. Diamond.
Beat # 2	Dr. E. L. Walker, Dr. A. E. Kennedy, Dr. M. M. Magee.
Beat # 3	Dr. D. S. Johnson, Dr. E. A. Ross, Dr. T. D. Love.
Beat # 4	Has no Doctor.
Beat # 5	Dr. W. N. Neely.

LIST OF NURSES IN SIMPSON COUNTY

Beat # 1	Mrs. J. L. Ware, Mrs. Fannie Upton, Mrs. Corene B. Winton, Mrs. Loyd Stephens, Miss Bell Slay, Mrs. Essie Nunery.
Beat # 2	Mrs. Clifton Kennedy, Mrs. Geo. Warren, Mrs. C. C. Neely.
Beat # 3	Miss Maxie Roberts, Miss Mary Benson, Mrs. Bessie Sorsby.
Beat # 4	Mrs. Geo. Slay.
Beat # 5	Mrs. Theo Tillman Clark

15

14-Twenty-ninth Biennial Report of the State Board of Health
 15-Dr. R. E. Giles, County Health Officer, Simpson County.

SIMPSON COUNTY

Simpson has only one Hospital in the county except the Sanatorium.

The Magee General hospital begun operation July 1, 1932, in a two-story frame building. It was a ten bed capacity employing four nurses, and equipped with xRay machine, operating room and laboratory.

They continued to carry on in this building until March 17, 1937 when they moved to a new brick structure modern in design completed through the aid of WPA, and it sure is an asset to the county.

It is fully equipped with latest X-ray, laboratory and other facilities. Has fourteen private rooms and five wards, twenty five bed capacity.

All the rooms are equipped with silent call system.

Nine nurses are employed, and Dr. W. W. Diamond is in charge. Dr. Diamond was Superintendent of the State Charity Hospital for a number of years, and is numbered among the leading physicians of the county at present.

The new hospital is located on highway 49 just on the out skirts of town.

For a number of years, during the period of operation of the Finkbine Bumber Company, at D'LO, Mississippi the Pine View GENERAL HOSPITAL, served the people of the county and surrounding territory most efficiently. It was an accredited hospital including training school for nurses, but with the closing of the mill in 1930 the hospital closed its doors, and for two years the county was without the services of a Hospital.

The Tuberculosis Sanatorium, located two and one half miles north of Magee, Mississippi, on highway 49 is rated as one of the best in the United States.

The Sanatorium is equipped with the very best equipment, and a very efficient corps of workers.

Dr. Boswell has gained national reputation for his work in this institution.

The Institution is operated as a part of the State Health Department, and for further educational facilities and ultimate control of the disease there are still two arms of the work which it is hoped that the Legislature will see fit to take into consideration--one, a home for incurables, particularly the indigent type who wander around and spread the germs of tuberculosis in many communities; and, the other, a children's building.

Each year the success is a little better in reducing the number on the waiting list as the capacity of the Institution increases to meet the demands. However, they are yet forced to maintain a waiting list and cannot accept all patients as they apply.

The results of treatment in the Institution even under this handicap, still compare favorably with results in any part of the United States.

XI.

Dr. D. McCallum, physician, Westville, Miss., inherits sturdy Scotch blood from his ancestors, both his paternal and maternal grandparents having been natives of ~~Jra~~, that country. They came to the United States prior to the Revolutionary war, and located in the Old North state. Grandfather McCallum was on the whig side and participated in one battle of the war. Dr. McCallum's father, John McCallum, was a native of Robeson county, N. C., and was very successful farmer.

He married Miss Lovdy Brown, also of the Old North State, and reared twelve children, eight daughters and four sons, of whom the Doctor is the tenth in order of birth. The latter was born in the same county as his father, in 1835, and received a thorough academic education at Ashland high school, taking a classical course. After

leaving school he was engaged in teaching for two years in North Carolina, and in 1858 he removed to Jefferson county, Miss., where he remained two years, a part of which time he taught school. In 1859 he went to the Lone Star state, but the same year returned to North Carolina, where he began the study of medicine under his brother, Dr. W. D. McCallum, with whom he remained until the breaking out of the war. Immediately after the first battle of Manassas he enlisted in the fortieth North Carolina regiment, company D, heavy artillery, and was captured at the last fight of Fort Fisher. He was held a prisoner at Point Lookout for six months, and after cessation of hostilities he returned to North Carolina and resumed the study of medicine. He took a course of medical lectured at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1865 and 1866 and graduated from the medical department of the University of South Carolina, at Charleston, in the class of 1866 and 1867. After graduating he began practicing at Bladenboro, Bladen county, N. C., and there continued until in March 1870, when he removed directly to Westville, Mississippi, where he has been successfully engaged in his practice since. He has an extensive practice and stands high in his profession, keeping well posted in the advance of medical science. He is an honored member of the Mississippi state medical association, of which he has been vice president and to which he has contributed numerous articles of merit. In 1875 the Doctor celebrated his nuptials with Miss Kate McLaurin, daughter of D. A. and C. McLaurin, and to them have been born four interesting children, two sons and two daughters. He is a member of Westville lodge, A.F. & A. M., and he and family hold membership in the Presbyterian church.

Dr. E. Plummer Neely, was born in 1857, about 2 miles from the town of Harrisville, Miss. where he resided on a farm until he finished his high school at Braxton, Miss.

He then taught school for a few years and saved money enough to enter Tulane University, New Orleans, La., where he finished his medical course in two years.

He was one of the leading physicians of the county for a period of twenty years. During the Flu epidemic of 1918 He went from house to house doctoring the sick for three weeks with out rest or sleep. He was truly a hero of the hour.

The last years of his life was spent in an insane Hospital where¹⁷ he died in 1927.

Dr. William Giles, Father of the present County Health Officer, came to this county about the year 1859. He was an emigrant from England just traveling about on horse back looking for a place to locate. When he reached Mobile, Ala., he came in contact with a camp of people from Simpson County namely the Hudsons, Reeds and Walkers, who had gone to Mobile to do their trading.

He became an intimate friend of each member of the troupe, and when they ask him to accompany them home after finding out that he was a young Doctor seeking a location in a new land, he gladly consented to do so as he was on his way to West Texas.

The last night of their camp before reaching Westville, was in Simpson County, where the Sanatorium is now located. Dr. Giles had been suffering with Bronchitis for some time, and the next morning he said the air was so cool and refreshing that for the first time in several days he could breathe clearly and his Bronchitis seemed to disappear. He resolved to make Simpson county his home.

17-Ref. Dr. W. N. Neely, Harrisville, Mississippi.

Not long after wards the Civil War began and he answered the call for volunteers, enlisting with the Westville Guards. He served as a faithful Doctor until its close. He was captured during the Battle at Gettysburg and held a prisoner for a long time. On his return from the war the need of a good doctor was more prevalent than ever before so he began at once his duties as family physician for Westville, and surrounding territories and was numbered among the best Doctors at that time. He died at Westville in 1899.¹⁸

The following is a list of old family physicians who served the county in its early medical history. Most of them licensed during and after 1882.

We were unable to secure but very little data concerning them.

Dr. Clifton A. Norman, was born at Fannin Mississippi, in 1877 received his medical education at medical College, Memphis Hospital. He received his licenses in 1901, and was one of the leading physicians of the county for more than twenty years. Died at Braxton in 1931.

Dr. Noah Gibson was at one time a physician in the county. Older citizens tell us. He resided at Caraway, Mississippi, now known as Weathersby, Mississippi. We have not been able to secure any data on him other than his name and place of residence.

Dr. G. I. D. Hunchess, graduated from Memphis Medical College, in 1882. He was a valued Doctor during his medical career serving the county as health officer at one time. He died in 1895 in Capihan county.

Dr. G. I. Caraway received his Medical degree at Vanderbilt and Nashville University, receiving his licenses in 1893. He served the citizens of Westville and surrounding territory for a number of years, later moving to Mendenhall when the county site
18-Dr. R. E. Giles, County Health Officer, Simpson County.

was moved. He resided here for a number of years until about 1915. Died in Brookhaven, Miss. 1928.

Dr. John D. Wilkinson, received his education A & M College and University of Tenn. He received his license in 1894. Was a practicing physician of the county in 1906. He died in Smith County in 1932.

Dr. Charles H. Ramsey, Received his education at University of Miss. and medical degree at Tulane University, Licensed in 1886. He died at Collins in 1928.

Dr. John Sims Gibson, received his medical education at Tulane University finished his course and received his license's in 1909. He also completed postgraduate course in 1914. Died in 1928.

Dr. D. T. Little, Old Hickory, Licensed June 29, 1882. Died Feb. 13, 1914 at Mt. Olive, Mississippi.

Dr. Touchstone, Harrisville, received his license's June 28, 1882. Dr. Touchstone was of direct English decent.

His Great Grandparents were pioneer citizens of North Carolina. He was the son of Green Powell Touchstone who served as Probate Judge during the Civil War. Dr. Touchstone was one of the leading physicians of the county for a number of years.

Dr. S. T. Moseley, licensed in 1882.

Dr. H. L. Standefer, Braxton, licensed in 1882.

Dr. H. B. French, Harrisville, licensed in 1882.

Dr. J. W. Ponder, licensed in 1882. Died about 1900.

Dr. J. N. Chandler was born near Braxton in 1853. His early education consisted of such training as could be had in the local and private schools of the county at the time. After a short apprenticeship as clerk in the drug store of Dr. C. R. Norman at Gato in Rankin county, he entered the medical department of the University of Alabama at Mobile. After the completion of his course there he located in
19-State Board of Health.

rural section of east Rankin county where he practiced his profession until he moved to Braxton in about 1898. He continued in active practice in this community until his death in the Braxton cyclone in 1921.

The only public professional position which he held was that of county health officer of Simpson county from 1907 to 1909. As a citizen he served several years as mayor of the town of Braxton, which position he held at the time of his death.

He was married early in his career as a professional man to Miss Laura Sowell of Gato. Six children were born to them, all of whom are living at the time of this sketch.

We have been unable to secure any information old family nurses.

Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames, Historian
Historical Research Project
Area # 13, Simpson County.

May 27, 1937

20-J. G. Chandler, Braxton, Mississippi.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-CONSULTANT
WILMA GLADNEY ENUMERATOR
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 7

ASSIGNMENT # 24
"HEALTH"

REFERENCES:

- 1-Simpson County News, Jan. 30, 1930. Vol. 59
- 2-Statistical Records
- 3-Simpson county news, 1918 issue.
- 4-State Board Of Health
- 5-Simpson County News, Aug. 4, 1932.
- 6-Extracts from pamphlet on "What You Should Know About Flies,"
- 7-Simpson County News, Dec. 8, 1910
- 8-9-13- Health Syllabus
- 10-11-Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Bulletin and Dr. R. E. Giles
- 12-Taken from GRANTS report on Yellow Fever
- 14-Twenty-ninth Biennial Report of the State Board of Health.
- 15-18-Dr. R. E. Giles, County Health Officer, Simpson County.
- 16-Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I. Pages 1173-1174
- 17-Dr. W. N. Neely, Harrisville, Mississippi
- 19-State Board of Health
- 20-J. G. Chandler, Braxton, Miss.

Callie Thames
Mrs. Callie Thames, Historian
Historical Research Project
Area # 7 Simpson County

May 27, 1937

SUPPLEMENT TO ASSIGNMENT # 24

HEALTH

DR. G. J. CARRAWAY

SIMPSON COUNTY.

Dr. G. J. Carraway received his medical degree from Vanderbilt and Nashville Universities and was licensed to practice his profession in 1893. He began his practice at Westville but moved nearer Mendenhall about 1902, living in what is now Weathersby. The little town was originally called Carraway, in honor of the physician.

After a few years he removed to Mt Olive, Covington County, where he not only further practiced his profession, but was prominent in business circles, being owner and publisher of the Mt Olive Tribune, as well as being an extensive property and real estate owner.

Dr. Carraway had an acute sense of humor and often published in his paper an exaggerated account of some incident, showing his keen appreciation of the humorous side of his story. One such article was descriptive of a trip he had made. Dr. J. B. Culpepper, a well known evangelist of that day, was conducting a revival meeting in New Orleans, La.. Dr. Carraway went down to the city and thought to attend one of the services. When he alighted from the train, not knowing where the place of meeting was, he followed the huge crowd, thinking it was bound for the same place that he was. The crowd grew as they hastened up Canal Street. He was amazed at the throng and began to fear that, with such a crowd, he would not be able to secure a seat. After walking several blocks he asked a man who was walking by him; "Friend, how much further is it?" "How much further to where?" asked the man. "To the Culpepper tabernacle", replied the Doctor. "I don't know anything about it" replied his fellow traveler. He walked some distance further. By this time the crowd was somewhat diminishing, so the doctor showed evidence of uncertainty. Presently

SIMPSON COUNTY, HEALTH

SIMPSON COUNTY #2

he accosted another traveller, asking if he could direct him (Dr. Carraway) to the Culpepper meeting. "Never heard of it", curtly replied the man. Whereupon the doctor approached a traffic officer and put the same query to him. The officer scratched his head, directed a mouth full of "sambeers" at some harmless object about fifteen feet ahead, and replied "Bud I cant tell you; maybe the man on the next block knows".

Again the Doctor plodded on but by now he was almost alone in the street. After going about three blocks further he accosted another traffic officer, asking for directions to the tabernacle meeting. The officer thought for a moment and replied "It seems to me that I did hear something about such a meeting but it is in the other side of town".

After retracing several miles and making numerous other inquiries, Dr. Carraway did find the place of meeting in time to attend the evening service. (1)

Dr. Carraway came to Mendenhall about the year 1910 where he followed the practice of his profession exclusively until in the early twenties when he moved, with his family, to Copiah County. He died in Brookhaven in 1928.

(1) This story given by Mr. Eugene Terry, a friend of Dr. Carraway.

DR. NOAH GIBSON.

Dr. Noah Gibson was at one time one of the leading physicians in this county. He removed to Rankin County in 1881, where he practiced his profession until his death in 1900. He was the father of nine children, five of whom are yet living. Three of his sons followed their father in his profession, two of them practicing in Simpson County; Dr. W.M. Gibson at Braxton, and Dr. J.H. Gibson at Harrisville. The third son,

Simpson County #3

J. F., died before completing his medical course. One daughter, Mrs. Mary Gibson Howell, is a graduate nurse, having practiced that profession in Jackson, Mississippi and, later, going to Louisiana where she worked as health nurse for eight years.

Information from
Mrs. S. L. Calhoun, a daughter.

Alice B. Terry
Alice B. Terry
Historian Historic Research
Simpson County
Area 13

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT

ALICE B. TERRY, HISTORIAN
IDA T. FITZHUGH, SENIOR TYPIST
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA 13
ASSIGNMENT 29

ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES

FRATERNAL

Simpson County, as all others, has her goodly share of fraternal organizations, the most prominent of which are, possibly, the Masonic organizations and Order of the Eastern Star.

1. MASONIC LODGES.

Westville Lodge No. 78, is the oldest in the county. It is domiciled at Pinola but its organization was at old Westville, in 1847. Already extensive plans are being laid for its Centennial celebration in 1947. Charter officers and members are not available. The same Lodge Hall which was used at Westville is used at Pinola, for when the county site was moved from Westville to Mendenhall, this Lodge and church building was moved from Westville to Pinola. (See assignment 26, Church History).

Present officers of the Lodge are; E. L. Reed, Worshipful Master; Herbert Brown, Senior Warden; Tally Bishop, Junior Warden; Emery Fortenberry, Senior Deacon; E. G. Coleman, Junior Deacon; J. E. Boggan, Secretary; B. L. Brown, Treasurer; Jim Abernathy, Tyler. Stated meetings of the Lodge are held each second Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.¹

HARRISVILLE MASONIC LODGE.

Date of the organization of the Harrisville Masonic Lodge No. 336, cannot, at present, be obtained. However, it is one of the
1. Information from T. E. Boggan, Mendenhall, Mississippi

Simpson County Page 2

oldest in the county, and has always been unusually active. Officers are; O. E. Sebron, Master; J. B. Chappell, Senior Warden; A. W. Shorter, Junior Warden; E. O. Barlow, Senior Deacon; B. F. Rodgers, Junior Deacon.¹

D'LO MASONIC LODGE.

D'Lo Masonic Lodge No. 230, was organized some fifty years ago at Cato, Mississippi and was domiciled in that community as Cato Lodge for more than thirty years. Upon the building of the railroad through Simpson County this organization, through dispensation of the Grand Lodge, was moved to the town of D'Lo and the name changed accordingly.

Inasmuch as a new Masonic Hall is under construction at D'Lo at this writing and all old records filed away in such manner that it is impossible to secure them at present, the date of the organization is not obtainable. Present officers are; M. E. Daniel, Master; B. M. Hill, Senior Warden; J. E. Phillips, Junior Warden; F. M. Williams, Treasurer; G. Evanson, Secretary; A. T. Ross, Senior Deacon; J. H. Myrick, Junior Deacon.²

COOPER'S LODGE.

Cooper's Lodge No. 225, was organized at Magee some forty two years before there was a town, the organization being perfected in 1858. This Lodge was active until a few years ago when an attitude of indifference toward the work developed and after a year of inactivity the charter was surrendered. But in 1936, through dispensation of the Grand Lodge, it was combined with Oak Hill Lodge No. 553, which organization had its domicile in the Boulah community some three miles from Magee. Present officers are; J. F. Wells, Master;

1. Minutes of Grand Lodge, 1937.
 2. Minutes of Grand Lodge, 1937.
- M. E. Daniel, D'Lo, Miss.

SIMPSON COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

J. C. Rummels, Senior Warden; E. M. Byrd, Junior Warden; H. P. Rankin, Treasurer; M. F. Little, Secretary; D. J. Cook, Senior Deacon; W. Wells, Junior Deacon; T. M. Amason, Tyler. Regular meetings are held on first Saturday nights.¹

BRAXTON LODGE.

Braxton Lodge No. 465, located at Braxton, Mississippi, had in its charter membership many of the pioneer citizens of that community. Present officers are; T. W. Walker, Master; P. H. Keen, Senior Warden; E. Different, Junior Warden; D. B. Mahaffey, Treasurer; T. McCullough, Secretary; P. H. Smith, Senior Deacon; E. Bridges, Junior Deacon; and C. Schneider, Tyler.²

MENDENHALL LODGE.

Mendenhall Masonic Lodge No. 497, was organized early in 1908, its Charter being granted on February 12, 1908, with the following officers; J. F. Baugh, Master; J. F. Thames, Senior Warden; and C. W. McLeod, Junior Warden. The organization was perfected by Edward J. Smith, Grand Master of the Lodge of Mississippi. Present officers are; John D. Smith, Master; Owen W. Garrett, Senior Warden; F. M. Harvey, Junior Warden; H. W. Mangum, Secretary; L. T. Womack, Treasurer; G. C. Coleman, Senior Deacon; and Robert M. Grubbs, Junior Deacon.³ Meetings are held on each first Saturday night.

EASTERN STAR CHAPTERS

BRAXTON.

"An Eastern Star Chapter was instituted here (Braxton) on Friday evening, June 11, 1915, under a special dispensation from the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Mississippi, with Jackson

1. Magee Courier. Vol. 11 No. 4. Nov. 25, 1927 Historian.
2. Minutes Grand Lodge, 1937.
3. Simpson County News, Vol. 66 No. 24. Dec. 9, 1937.

Chapter No. 47 exemplifying the work. Seventeen members came down on the afternoon train and were met by a large delegation of ladies who were waiting to receive an exemplification of the work and the institution of the Chapter. The party, after arriving from Jackson, repaired to the Masonic Lodge Room where a delightful repast of chicken salad, fruit and egg sandwiches was served with punch for refreshment.

The Jackson Chapter took up the regular work of institution and initiation which lasted about three hours. The principal officers representing the Chapter were; Mrs. Viola E. Lake, Deputy Grand Matron; Mrs. Maude Bagwell, Worthy Matron; Mrs. Draughn, Associate Matron; Mrs. Redding, Conductress; Mrs. Smith, Secretary; Mrs. Fred Long, Organist, and Robert E. Lake, Past Worthy Patron. Miss Stacie Touchstone was elected Worthy Matron; Mr. E. Barwick, Worthy Patron; and Miss Ada Gray, Associate Matron of the new Chapter. The representatives of the visiting Chapter returned home on the late train with every one expressing themselves as highly pleased with events of the evening.¹

PINOLA CHAPTER.

Pinola Chapter, No. 137, Order of the Eastern Star was organized in 1917, with Miss Epsie Patterson, the charter presiding officer, Worthy Matron. Worthy Patron was Dr. A. P. Kyger. Miss Patterson died within a few weeks after her election and was succeeded by her sister, Miss Mary A. Patterson, who was teaching school at Braxton and moved her membership in the chapter from Braxton to Pinola, her home town, on order to finish the tenure of office begun by her sister.

This Chapter has been quite active in charitable work, helping

1. Simpson County News. June 24, 1915. Vol. 43. No. 27

SIMPSON COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

the inmates of the County Home, which is located at Pinola, many times. It has also given much aid to various persons in cases of illness or misfortune. Present officers are; Mrs. I. N. Palmer, Worthy Matron; I. N. Palmer, Worthy Patron; Mrs. John C. Fortenberry, Secretary.

MAGEE CHAPTER.

Magee Chapter, No. 197, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized at Magee, March 21, 1922, with the following elective officers; Mrs. Emma E. Carr, Worthy Matron; Mrs. Rose Burnham, Associate Matron; Miss Cora Burnham, Secretary; Miss Alice Franklin, Treasurer; Dr. A. E. Kennedy, Worthy Patron.

During that year fourteen members were received into the order; during the next two years, sixteen members were initiated, and eight joined during 1925-26. In June 1927 the membership stood at seventy. The Chapter was quite active until a short time ago but there were so many members who lived some distance away and found it inconvenient to attend meetings, the interest waned and in March 1936 the organization ceased to function. In March 1937 the charter was surrendered.

MENDENHALL CHAPTER.

Mendenhall Chapter No. 215, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized December 7, 1922, under supervision of Mrs. Myra C. Eaton, Grand Secretary, who with other state officers, exemplified the work. A Charter was granted the organization dated May 19, 1923. First officers were; Mrs. Roxie King, Worthy Matron; W. S. Huddleston, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Bertha Buckley, Associate Matron; Mrs. Ella Sheppard, Treasurer; F. M. Bell, Secretary; Lucile Williams, Conductress; Mrs. Vida Downing, Associate Conductress. There were nineteen

1. Information from Miss Mary A. Patterson, Pinola, Miss.
2. Magee Courier, Vol. 11, No. 4, Nov. 25, 1927

charter members of the organization. Present officers are; Mrs. Allie B. Terry, Worthy Matron; F. M. Bell, Worthy Patron; Miss Orene Currie, Associate Matron; Mrs. Vada Grubbs, Secretary. (These officers listed as of past records of minutes of Grand Chapter). Chapter meetings are held each second and fourth Tuesday nights.

D'LO CHAPTER.

D'Lo Chapter No. 224, Order of the Eastern Star, was constituted in May 1923, with Mrs. Cannada, Worthy Matron and Rev. W. M. Landrum, Worthy Patron. The organization took place during the regime of the Finkbine Lumber Company and many of the charter members were among the officers and employees of the mill, together with their wives and daughters. Upon cessation of Mill operations, those connected with the work, with their families, went to new fields of labor. Many who were members of this Chapter have retained their membership with the organization, so it has the distinction of having members in all parts of the United States. Some of them are; Mr. and Mrs. John Hill, Oregon; another Mrs. Hill now in Washington State; Mrs. A. Calhoun, California, and Mrs. Nora Slocum, Florida. Not one of these members has ever let the dues in the Order lapse.

In the Spring of 1936 a severe wind storm so damaged the Chapter Room that meetings were suspended for several months, but the members arranged for a Chapter Room on the third floor of the public School building and are again performing the active duties of the Chapter. Meetings are held on each first and third Tuesday nights. Present officers are; Mrs. Maude Kelso, Worthy Matron; Mrs. Katie Lou Croux, Associate Matron; J. E. Phillips, Worthy Patron; Hugh Warren, Associate

1. Old Minutes.
Historian.
2. Mrs. Emma G. Moore, D'Lo, Miss.

Patron; Mrs. Mildred Gates, Conductress; Miss Naomi Crout, Associate Conductress; Mrs. Emma Moore, Secretary and Treasurer.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.

The county has one Woodmen of the World organization, the institution being at Magee. A large part of Life Insurance carried by the citizens of the town and surrounding communities, is through this organization. Officers as of 1937 are; V. J. Runnels, Council Commander; E. J. Lockhart, Banker; W. B. Kennedy, Advisor Lieutenant; R. M. Maddox, Financial Secretary. The organization has existed since, approximately, 1905.

2. SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ETC.:

WOMEN'S CLUBS.

With suffrage for women has come, in a marked degree, the tendency of this sex toward a more active interest in social, religious, political and civic affairs. Hence the rapid increase in women's organizations. Among the foremost of these are the various clubs which tend to stimulate and broaden the intellectuality.

The women's clubs have both a cultural and practical value to the community. Women individually have always stood for the betterment of living conditions and all things that tend to make life happier and more useful, and through their clubs, they have begun to realize that in union there is strength, and by federating with other clubs, they get the benefit and experience of other women interested in kindred projects in their own communities.

The varied activities of the club can be seen from the names of various departments; art, music, literature, better homes, conservation, international relations, good citizenship and legislation.

1. Information from R. M. Maddox, Magee, Miss.

All clubs have co-operated in building up the libraries by gifts of books and magazines. They have worked for better civic conditions and have sponsored many clean-up campaigns and asked road commissioners for highway beautification in the community. They have planted shrubs and flowers around public buildings, and asked the Board of Supervisors for markers to be placed at historic spots in the county. Musical programs and plays by both local and visiting talent have been given under the auspices of these clubs. Celebrations have been given in honor of the President's birthday for the benefit of the crippled people of the county. Christmas boxes have been prepared and given to the poor by the clubs. These clubs have helped in Child Welfare and Maternity Center. Members have visited the Courts, and tried in every way to uphold those who are charged with the enforcement of the laws. They have studied measures before the Legislature, and applaud before the members to express their sentiments for or against legislation. Other organizations have found the Woman's Clubs ready to co-operate with them, have called upon them from time to time, and have received their aid. Programs of study are given to arouse the members to their duty as citizens and to educate them to a higher degree of culture, and a greater desire and ability to serve humanity.

In Simpson County we have the following organizations for women;

TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB.

One of Mendenhall's earliest social clubs among the women was the Twentieth Century Club which was organized early in 1910. The club was strictly for further culture of its members and extensive study was made of leaders in all phases of cultural work. This club was active for many years but gradually was absorbed by the "Garden

1. Miss Alice Davis, Mendenhall, Miss.

Lovers Club" and "Study Club", both of which are active at the present¹ time.

D'LO WOMAN'S CLUB.

The Woman's Club, D'Lo, was organized in 1922 under the name of The Music Club. First programs were devoted exclusively to music but as months passed the organization realized that it must widen its scope in order to interest women who had other public interests than music. So the organization was revised and the name changed to The Woman's Club.

During the fifteen years of operation the club has made itself distinctly felt as a factor for higher culture in that town. Meetings are held once each month and programs embrace all subjects pertaining to modern conditions of living; art, literature, national and foreign affairs, Music, American citizenship, etc.. While the club has lost several members by removal from the town, few have been claimed by death. One of the best loved members, and former presidents, Mrs. J. H. Baker, died July 13, 1936. The 1937 Year Book was dedicated to her memory and the following poem is printed as a memorial.

"She has reached the bourne
Of that unknown land
And we've said our last farewell,
We miss the touch of her tender hand
But we know that all is well.

We miss her in our club
Since she has gone to rest
But we must say
With sorrowing hearts²
God knoweth best".

1. Historian.

D'LO GARDEN LOVERS CLUB.

Possibly the county's newest club is the D'LO Garden Lover's Club, which perfected its organization in the Spring of 1936. with Mrs. C. E. Blackwell as its presiding officer. Though the organization is young, it is wielding a marked influence in the stimulation of interest in homes and flower gardens, and nowhere in the county will one find more attractive or better kept lawns and flower gardens¹ than in the town of D'Lo.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB, MAGEE, MISSISSIPPI.

This club was organized on October 30, 1929, uniting with the State Federation of Clubs at the time of the organization. Since the organization of the club the following women have served as presiding officers; Mrs. E. C. Butler, Mrs. E. L. Walker, Mrs. T. J. Burnham, Mrs. M. E. Cockran and Mrs. A. B. Smith.

Observances are made of Book Week, Fire Prevention Week, Conservation Week, Law Observance Week, American Home Week, Child Welfare Week and others. It has also put on Red Cross Roll Calls and other work for the Red Cross.

This Club furnishes the Sixth District of Mississippi Federation of Clubs one District officer, Mrs. E. C. Butler, District President, and three Departmental Chairmen, Mrs. E. J. Lockhart, American Home; Mrs. W. W. Diamond, Child Welfare, and Mrs. E. L. Walker, Press and² Publicity.

THE JUNIOR CULTURE CLUB.

The Junior Culture Club of Magee, Mississippi, was organized in May 1933, for the younger women, between the ages of eighteen and twenty eight. The activities of this club embrace a study of the history of Mississippi, American poets, Art, Education etc..

1. Mrs. Mary Belle Marks, D'Lo, Miss.

2. Excerpts from Jackson Daily News. 1937. No date.

SIMPSON COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

The organization has had a part each year in the Mississippi Junior Club Project--the making of Braille books. It was among the first clubs in the state to make a donation to the building of State Headquarters in Jackson. Another activity of this club was a donation to the Magee Band for uniforms.

MENDENHALL STUDY CLUB.

Mendenhall Study Club has been active since 1923. It had as the first president Mrs. H. P. Gates. Since then the following presidents have served; Miss Lucile Williams, (Now Mrs. H. H. Haddleston, Birmingham, Alabama) Mrs. F. E. Walker, Miss Lorena Mayfield, Mrs. R. E. Davis, Mrs. H. O. Middleton, Miss Alice Davis, Miss Ada Duckworth, (now Mrs. Charles Griffith) Mrs. J. C. French and Mrs. C. Fred Morgan. Mrs. Eugene Terry is serving in that capacity at this writing. (1937).

This club has had some interesting and inspirational programs pertaining to Art, Education, Music, Public Welfare, Literature, Conservation, American Citizenship, American Home, and International Relations.

Shortly after its organization this club united with the Mississippi Federated Clubs. Some years ago the name was changed to "Fortnightly" club and had its meetings on the first and third Thursday nights of each month. Last year, with increasing activity in the women's social realm in the town it was voted to have the club meeting only once each month and the name was again changed to "Study Club".

This organization has two District Departmental chairmen; Mrs. J. C. French, District Chairman of American Citizenship, and Mrs. R. E. Davis, district Chairman of Conservation.

To the Study club belongs the honor of procuring the Mendenhall

4. Clippings from Jackson Daily News. 1937. No date.

Community House, a splendid frame structure which houses the W. P. A. Library, a Community Canning Kitchen, a Cafeteria Dining Hall, the club room, and a spacious auditorium for miscellaneous gatherings such as the County Fair, Style Shows etc. The building was secured through a C. W. A. project some three years ago.

MENDENHALL GARDEN LOVERS' CLUB.

Organized in 1930, this organization has had the following women at its helm; Mrs. F. E. Walker, Mrs. H. P. Gates, Mrs. H. O. Middleton, and Mrs. J. P. Edwards. This club devotes its interest solely to beautification of the home and surroundings. And this term includes the entire community, for it has been quite active in clean-up campaigns for the entire town. The beautiful court house lawn is due wholly to the Garden Lovers' club, as are practically all other public spots of beautification. It was through the activities of the club that for the past few years the streets of Mendenhall have been so beautifully lighted with colored electric lights during the Christmas season, and the magnificent Christmas tree on the second story gallery of the court house during December, 1936, shedding its gay and radiant beams down the entire length of the main street of the little city, bringing to the heart of all who viewed it a warm, glowing spirit of the Christmas season, was the outgrowth of the activities of this club and due, solely, to its petition to the "City Fathers."

To those who know of the noble work of beautification by this organization, when one sees a newly beautified spot one instantly thinks of the "Garden Lovers."

Some time ago a beautiful "loving cup" was purchased by the club

1. Historian

SIMPSON COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

and, since that time, a contest is held each Christmas season in outdoor electric lighting, the most beautiful trimmings being decided by a committee appointed by the president of the club, and the one who is declared the winner, is presented the loving cup, to be retained by her until the next Christmas season. Much friendly rivalry has been instilled among the members and the town, in consequence, presents a more attractive appearance throughout the season.

Much praise is deserved by the Garden Lovers' Club.

BOOK CLUBS

LIBRARIES.

There is no organized Book Club in the county but the libraries serve the same purpose and have wider scope than any such organization could have. Largest and of first importance of these is, perhaps, the W. P. A. LIBRARY, which was started in 1934 and had its beginning with absolutely NOTHING to work upon. It was housed in a room in the Community House and its first One Hundred books were borrowed from the Library Commission at Jackson. The first active steps taken toward providing its own equipment was when a "Rummage" sale was held, under direction of Mrs. C. C. Lumsden, Librarian. Proceeds from this sale were used for purchasing window shades, a gas heater, and a few meager incidental furnishings. The first cash donation was made by the Board of Supervisors and the Parent-Teachers' Association; the former donation being twenty five dollars, while the latter contributed twenty dollars. These amounts, together with a "Book Shower", provided the library with about Two Hundred books.

At that time there were six workers connected with the project

1. Historian.

whose duty it was to distribute books to other points in the county. This early work was under the direction of the E. R. A. When it was superseded by the W. P. A. all material in the library was turned over to the latter administration and it became known as the W. P. A. Circulating Library.

There are six branch libraries, known as "Centers", in the county with librarians as follows; Magee, with Miss Maude Turner; D'Lo and Braxton, Mrs. Bob Cook; Pinola, Mrs. Mildred Dickerson; Shivers, Miss Ola DePriest; and Harrisville, with Mrs. Nettie Williams. Books are distributed to the centers from the central library at Mendenhall. All center workers come to the central unit at Mendenhall once a month for a round table conference. Miss Pearl Elliott is the very efficient librarian at that place with Mrs. Nettie F. Willis the junior librarian and book mender for the county. Mrs. Alma Berry, of Braxton, is the county librarian, having supervision over all the centers.

In 1935 the Fortnightly Club sponsored the building of an additional room to the Community House at Mendenhall and this room was designated a special room for housing the library. This club also made a gift to the Library of a set of twenty six volumes of the Encyclopedia and a twenty dollar edition of Webster's unabridged Dictionary. The library subscribed for Red Book and Holland's Magazine, and the aforesaid club gave subscriptions for the Readers Digest and the Literary Digest.

During the year 1937 the Board of Supervisors has made a monthly donation of not less than five dollars for the purchase of books. By various programs and different forms of entertainment, reading matter has been extended until the library now owns One thousand, One

Hundred Fifty books, and a reading public aggregating more than Sixteen Hundred persons.

The library has practically all classes of literature but books of fiction predominate. It has some Two Hundred books for children, and a rather small percentage of Historical volumes. Also, the lover of classics may satisfy his desires in the W.P.A. library of the county. The librarian in the central office renders service to the reading public from Monday morning until Saturday, Noon, each week, and the constant flow of people coming or going from the library at nearly all times of the day attest its popularity and appreciation.

THE SANITORIUM LIBRARY.

The Sanitorium library belongs to that institution. Miss Gertrude Butler is Librarian but, inasmuch as she is private secretary to Dr. Henry Boswell, superintendent of the hospital, and has little time to devote to other duties, Miss Maude Turner, librarian of the branch W. P. A. library, Magee, renders service in the Sanitorium library one day in each week. By mutual agreement the two libraries make ready exchange of reading matter and, in this manner, the Sanitorium library has a circulation of Three Hundred Fifteen books with a reading public of all the persons living in the vicinity of the Sanitorium.

MUSIC CLUBS.

Nearly every public school in the county has, under the supervision of the Music supervisor, a Glee Club, composed of both boys and girls. These Glee clubs are not, as a general thing, strictly organized, but are among the most popular of all the clubs of the county. Under the guidance of the music departments of the various

1. Miss Pearl Elliott, Mendenhall, Miss.
2. Miss Maude Turner, Magee, Miss.

schools they probably do more toward fostering a spirit of real comradeship in the schools than any other activities. Some one has said that "No evil is ever indulged while one is singing." This statement is substantiated in and by the Glee Clubs of the county.

Being directly under the supervision of the music departments they seem to need no definite organization or officers. Members enter whole heartedly into all music programs and get the best there is from them. When voices are lifted in song school management becomes a minor obligation. Not only are they taught good singing but they learn to use all kinds of musical instruments. The bands connected with the Mendenhall and Magee schools lend much inspiration to the work of both institutions. Some really worth while programs have been presented by both of these music loving bodies. Musical plays, operettas, cantatas, pageants, etc., are given, greatly to the delight of the public, or that number who are fortunate in hearing the programs. They are asked to perform at many social functions and always respond in a most gracious manner.

HI-Y CLUBS

The only Hi-Y club in the county is connected with the High school of Magee. This club has for its inspiration the promotion of fraternal and patriotic loyalty among the pupils of the school. At present it is sponsoring a movement to instill into the school a spirit of achievement as pertains to better grades, better kept grounds and class rooms, more refined deportment, etc. The organization strives toward higher ideals in all phases of the school work.

Officers are; Paul Jones, President; Edward Lowry, Vice-president; Barron McCrea, Secretary and Treasurer; Group Captains, Edward Lowry, 1. Historian

Herschel McRaney; Social Committee, Ray McNair, Edward Lowry, Bennett Stubb, Curtis Meadows. Membership numbers thirty three. The club is active in all school activities and is preparing to send a representative to the state general conference this session.¹

COURTESY CLUB.

One of the outstanding clubs connected with the Magee High school, and the only one in the county, is the Courtesy Club, composed of more than forty of the girls in the High school grades. The purpose of the club is just what the name suggests and each member is earnest in her endeavor to instill the utmost courtesy and fraternal spirit throughout the school body. The result of these endeavors is attested by the gentle, gracious manner with which one is greeted upon going to the school. The club is a self appointed host to all visiting athletic teams with whom the school enters into contests. The popularity and success of the organization is undisputed. Officers are; Mattie Belle Stubbs, president; Myrtis Womack, Vice-president; Vernelle Purvis, secretary and treasurer.

The organization performs under the sponsorship of Misses Bess Kimbrough and Louise White, members of the faculty.²

RED CROSS

The Red Cross organization in Simpson County had its birth in 1917. In the issue of the Simpson County News, 1917, we list the first call;

"PROCLAMATION OF RED CROSS WEEK".

Inasmuch as our thoughts as a nation are now turned in united purpose towards the performance to the utmost of the services and duties which we have assumed in the cause of justice and liberty. Inasmuch as but a small proportion of our people can have the opportunity to serve upon the actual field of battle, but all men,

1. Information from Paul Jones, Magee, Miss.

2. Information from Miss Bess Kimbrough, Magee, Miss.

women and children alike may serve and serve effectively by making it possible to care properly for those who do serve under arms at home and abroad.

And inasmuch as the American Red Cross is the official recognized agency for voluntary effort in behalf of the armed forces of the nation and for the administration of relief.

Now, therefore, by virtue of my authority as President of the American Red Cross, I, Woodrow Wilson, do hereby proclaim the week ending June 25, 1917, as Red Cross week during which the people of the United States will be called upon to give generously and in a spirit of patriotic sacrifice for the support and maintenance of this work of national need.

Washington, D. C. May 25, 1917.¹

Woodrow Wilson.

In issues of various county publications of like date appeared appeals from Sunday school superintendents urging all citizens to give their utmost endorsement and support to this appeal. That the citizenship answered this appeal 100% is a well known fact.

Every year since that time Simpson county has carried on her share of the Red Cross work. Numerous times has the organization come to the relief of individuals, families, or towns, in a time of need. Possibly the most outstanding work in Simpson county by this "Greatest Mother in the World" since the world war, was in 1921, when the devastating tornado laid low our neighboring town, Braxton. Had this splendid organization not come to the rescue of the community it would have been in even direr distress than it was. Only one home--indeed, only one building--was left standing in the town. This house served as hospital, morgue and dwelling. Agencies of the Red Cross were on the scene within a few minutes. It housed the homeless.

1. Simpson County News, Vol. 46, No. 2, June 18, 1917

clothed the naked, fed the hungry, nursed the injured, and prepared for burial the dead. For several days the inhabitants, dazed, stunned, and suffering, depended solely upon the Red Cross for sustenance and comfort.

For no other organization, save the church, have the people of Simpson county the gratitude, yes, the reverence, that they have for the Red Cross.

Present officers are: Dr. A. E. Kennedy, Magee, County Chairman, and Mrs. H. A. Polk, Magee, Secretary.¹

GIRL RESERVES.

Magee has the only Girl Reserves organization in the county at present. It is under the sponsorship of Mrs. W. C. Mangum, of Magee, and under the guidance of its efficient president, Louise Bell. The organization came into existence prior to the earliest recollections of Miss Bell and has been quite active through all the years. The club has performed some outstanding acts for the Magee school. It has given numerous programs, one of the most outstanding of which was the amuseur program recently given for the benefit of the Magee school cafeteria. Club officers for the 1937-38 school session are: Louise Bell, President; Carolyn Mangum, Vice president; Cordell Ainsworth, Secretary; Lorea Stubbs, Treasurer; Elda Stubbs, Reporter. The organization has thirty-two members.²

(Note:) Mendenhall has an active Girl Reserves but, due to the razing of the High school building more than a year ago preparatory to building the new one, it has had no regular meeting place, so has abandoned activity since the school closing in 1936. As soon as a meeting hall is available in the new school building, it will renew activities. (Historian)

1. Historian
2. Information from Louise Bell, Magee, Miss.

P. T. A.

The Parent-Teachers' Association functions in practically all schools in the county. This is one of the oldest clubs in the county school work and present officers in the organization are, in many instances, daughters of the former officers. Always giving 100% co-operation to the school in all its endeavors to better school and community conditions, it has performed many outstanding activities, among which has been the instrumentality in securing the school cafeterias, furnishing First Aid equipment to the schools, etc. In the Magee school each room has a "Home Room Mother," who sees that each child in the room under her supervision is amply provided for in times of need of any kind. These Home Mothers have provided books for children who, otherwise, would not have been able to enter the class room, they see that on occasions as Christmas, or other special days, each child has some suitable gift or remembrance to cheer the heart. The organization throughout the county contributes reading matter to the libraries at frequent intervals. Public programs are given for the benefit of the schools and, in fact, this organization renders co-operative services in ways too numerous to mention.¹

3.

CIVIC CLUBS.

We find by perusal of old county records that the county had some civic and business organizations in former years which, after serving their purpose, were disbanded. That the county had some determined minds pertaining to the betterment of general and business conditions, is illustrated by the following editorial taken from a former issue of the Simpson County News:

I. Minor L. Bott, Supt. School, Magee, Miss.

"Merchants Organize":

The merchants of Mendenhall met Monday January 8, in the Union Mercantile Company's office and formed a Merchants Protective Association. The names of the officers are not to be reported at this time; however the permanence of the Union is assured by the grim determination of these men who have suffered such losses at the hands of perennial dead beats. The purpose of the Association is for the fostering of amicable relations amongst home merchants and the maintenance of sound business relations both at home and abroad. At each meeting each merchant is to report his delinquent customers who are sixty days in arrears. All the merchants who have not joined are invited to do so at the next meeting.¹

"CIVIC LEAGUE.

At a citizens meeting Monday night in response to a call by the Civic League, the question of a deep well for Mendenhall and Simpson was discussed and a great deal of interest was manifested. It was suggested that the county and town go into co-partnership and put down an artesian well on the Court House square and the town issue bonds for its share of the cost. We endorse the move. There is nothing so conducive to good health as pure water, pure air, and wholesome food.²

LYONS CLUB.

Magee has the only one of that name in Simpson County. The organization has been quite active in making much civic improvement in the town since its organization something more than a year ago. It was largely due to the promotion by the Lyons Club that the new Magee hospital was erected last year. (1937). The town issued two

1. Simpson County News. Vol. 46. No. 31. Jan. 11, 1917
2. Simpson County News. Vol. 46. No. 34. Feb. 1, 1917

mortgage bonds, one in the sum of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars and the second for Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars. The first mortgage sold without difficulty but the sale of the second presented more complications, so the Lyons' Club sponsored the selling of these bonds, succeeded in the undertaking and the hospital was finished on schedule time. The club has also been instrumental in promoting lateral roads throughout the county. Officers of the organization are; President, Dr. T. J. Burnham; First Vice President, R. L. Everett; Second Vice President, Jas. W. Polk; Secretary, E. A. Loftin; Treasurer, P. R. Arrington; Lion Tamer, O. J. Biglane; Tail Twister, Dr. E. L. Walker. The club has thirty-two members.¹

PROGRESSIVE CLUB.

At a mass meeting of Mendenhall's business men on March 4, 1937, with Hon. G. C. Coleman presiding, a Men's Progressive Club was organized with the following membership; F. M. Ball, J. W. Keen, F. B. Winton, G. C. Coleman, Rev. C. C. Jones, H. W. Mangum, O. L. Garrett, B. E. Berry, B. F. Slay, R. M. Grubbs, S. D. Davis, E. B. Hales, J. M. Hennington, Dr. S. Lewis Knight, N. R. Shoemaker, W. S. Evans, J. R. Williamson, O. H. Palmer, G. P. Carraway, J. C. French, H. L. Thompson, George Alexander, Walter Dent May, Rev. H. E. Raley, W. W. Bryant, E. F. French, L. H. Burnham, and B. S. McLeMore.

A Charter was adopted providing the purpose of the organization to be "the improvement of all civic and business enterprises wherever and whenever possible and, in fact, to have a part in every laudable undertaking."

The organization now has twenty five active members and all are enthusiastic over the work which has already been accomplished, and plans for the future are bright. Meetings are scheduled for each first and third Tuesdays. The first meeting of the month to be held Dr. T. J. Burnham, Magee.

at twelve o'clock, noon, when a banquet is served by some organization of the local women, and the second meeting to be at seven thirty¹ P. M.

3.

PATRIOTIC.

AMERICAN LEGION.

Simpson County has two American Legion Posts, Charlie Cockrell Post and Pinola Post. The Charlie Cockrell Post was first organized and the membership became great enough that the Pinola Post was an outgrowth of it. First organization was in 1932 and the combined membership is approximately seventy-five. John D. Smith, Mendenhall, is Commander of the first organization, with H. L. Everett, Adjutant; while Miss Archie Patterson and Frank D. Grantham, both of Pinola, fill these offices, respectively, in the Pinola Post. The goal of the two organizations for the immediate future is to contact every member in the state, urging their support in obtaining legislation to provide room and maintenance at the Tubercular Sanatorium for all inmates who are veterans.²

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARIES.

This organization of the wives, sisters and daughters of Veterans, was, as the American Legion Posts, one organization in its beginning in 1934, but, due to the extreme distance to be traveled by some of the members in order to attend meetings, when the Post was divided into separate units the Auxiliaries also divided, one being located at Pinola. Officers are; Auxiliary of the Charlie Cockrell Post, Mrs. J. R. Roberts, Sanitorium, President; Auxiliary of the Pinola Post, Mrs. Mattie Williams, Pinola, President.

Activities of these organizations have centered around Child

1. Minutes of Progressive Club meetings.
2. John D. Smith, Mendenhall, Miss.

Welfare improvement. School books have been furnished to many unfortunate children who might otherwise have been deprived of the privilege of attending the public schools; another outstanding accomplishment has been the undivided support of the school cafeterias, they having contributed to them in a substantial way. Also they have been active in the promotion of Rehabilitation of World War veterans. Total Membership of these organizations stands at, approximately, forty-five.¹

BOY SCOUTS.

The Boy Scouts, Mendenhall, became an organization in 1935, under the direction of W. L. Rigby, who was the first Scout Master. It has a membership of eighteen and the boys are quite enthusiastic over the work. While the organization is young, it has accomplished some worth while things, the most outstanding of which was the building of an attractive Scout house which stands in the corner of the school yard. The motto of the Scouts is, "Do a Good Deed Daily" and the boys are zealous in the effort to live up to the motto. Each summer they go on a camping trip and usually choose the beautiful country on Pearl River near Bridgeport for the outing. They enjoy all the outdoor summer activities and thoroughly enjoy the trip, but never do they forget or overlook the motto of doing a good deed daily.

There are three degrees in the Scout work; the beginner being known as a "Tenderfoot", others being second class and first class Scouts, owing to their proficiency in the work. Even a "Tenderfoot" is required to know the scout laws, scout oath, motto, and the regulations pertaining to the American flag.

Principal activities during the past year were the building of the Scout house, a crusade to exterminate the mosquito in the town,

1. Mrs. J. R. Roberts, Sanitorium, Miss.
Miss Archie Patterson, Pinola, Miss.

SIMPSON COUNTY, ORGANIZATIONS

and twice the Scout troupe has cleaned up the town streets, all of which are indeed commendable pieces of work.

Officers of the troupe are: O. L. Garrett, Principal of the Grade school, Scout Master; Dick Thames, Senior Patrol Leader; Jim Neill May and Junior Millis, regular Patrol Leaders; with Rev. C. C. Jones, H. W. Mangum, and P. M. Ball, committeemen.

1. Information by Dick Thames.

Alice B. Terry
HISTORIAN, HISTORIC RESEARCH
SIMPSON COUNTY.

December , 1937.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT

ALICE B. TERRY, HISTORIAN
IDA T. FITZHUGH, SENIOR TYPIST

ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES.

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- 27. Smith; John D., Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 28. Thames; Dick, Mendenhall, Mississippi
- 29. Year Book; women's Club, D'Lo, Mississippi

Alice B. Terry
Alice B. Terry, Historian
Historic Research Project
Simpson County.

Dec. 23, 1937

Simpson County

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- 23. J. M. Hemmington, County Agent
- 24. Information from Mrs. Cora E. Graves and Mrs. Della B. Luter
- 25. Mrs. Cora E. Graves, County Home Demonstration Agent.

Alice B. Terry
Alice B. Terry, Historian
Historic Research
Simpson County.

December 10, 1937.

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accepted - X

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
SIMPSON COUNTY

Lelah B. Ross Canvasser

Interviews Assignment # 13

One of the most outstanding families of the county is the Touchstone Family. The Touchstone's are known throughout the state, and are residents that Simpson County is proud of.

Stephen Touchstone and his wife, Anne; Caleb and Delilah Touchstone, direct English descent were among the pioneer settlers in what is now Montgomery and Richmond counties in North Carolina. They were extensive land owners there in the years 1780-1786-and 1787.

Three sons of Stephen and Anne Touchstone; their names, Anslem, Dempsey and Green, were seeking new locations and came to Mississippi.

The three brothers came to Simpson County, Mississippi, together and later separated. Anslem went to Natchez, Mississippi to make his home and reared a large family. Green Touchstone located in Jones County, Mississippi. The Touchstones in and around that section moved to Texas, and his family was educated there. Many members of these families moved to the north before the Civil War.

Dempsey Touchstone settled in Simpson County, on what was then known as Lime Stone Creek, near what is now known as Harrisville. He married Sallie Millsaps, the founder of

2

SIMPSON COUNTY

Millsaps College, located in Jackson, Mississippi. They were the parents of thirteen children, namely; William, Gracey, Rebecca, Patsy, Green, John, Sallie, Polly, Lavina, Jackson, Webster, James and Charity.

William, the oldest, married Ellen Weeks, moved to Dallas Texas. Grace died when a young lady. Rebecca married Smith Butler, and moved to the west. Patsy married William Mahaffey and were the parents of three children, Dempsey, Elbert, and Albert (Coat).

John Touchstone married Sallie Tucker and were the parents of two children; John and Jack.

Sallie Touchstone married Pierce Shows and moved to Texas.

Polly Touchstone married Richard Buckley. They were parents of a number of children who resided in Simpson County and other parts of the state.

Lavinia Touchstone lived to be quite old, but never married.

Jackson Touchstone married twice; Sarah Brock, first, and later married Mary Poe.

Webster Touchstone died while a young man.

James Touchstone died in service during the Civil War.

Charity Touchstone married John Byrd. They had three children, Dr. Byrd, Jennie Alice, Sarah, Mother of Dr. Byrd Ainsworth.

Green Powell Touchstone married Serena Hall, daughter of Louis Hall, and made their home four miles east of Harrisville, where his father, Dempsey Touchstone settled early in life. At that time land in that section of the county had a heavy yield of longleaf pine timber but not considered of much value in those days.

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The children of Green Powell Touchstone, and his wife Serena Hall Touchstone were: Nathaniel, Lydia Labry, Freeman Webster, Lavinia Caniah, and D. All these children were married and located in and near Simpson County.

Green P. Touchstone's home is still owned by members of his descendants.

Thompson N. Touchstone, his eldest son received his early education in what was then known as the common school. When eighteen years of age he enlisted in the Civil War as a Private in Co. A, Fourth Mississippi Calvary in 1863. He served until the end of the war under the command of General Stephen D. Lee. He took part in engagements at Harrisburg and Tupelo and actions incidental to the Sherman raid at Vicksburg. He was in Gainsville Georgia, when the war closed, receiving his parole in Maine, 1865. He returned to his father's, who had been appointed to the office of Probate Judge during the Civil War, and was afterwards known as Judge G. P. Touchstone.

Judge G. P. Touchstone's wife, Serena, died and he married Cynthia Guynes Walker, who was the widow of Jesse Walker. She had three children; Dorothis, Sophronia, and David. Judge Touchstone gave his youngest son, D., and his step-son their education, and both followed the medical profession.

Lydia, the oldest daughter of Judge Touchstone and Serena Hall Touchstone married Carson Hilton, reared a large family, all well-known throughout the county and State. Among them were: T. T. and the late W. D. Hilton, Attorneys, located at Mendenhall and Jackson, Mississippi. Freeman Webster Touchstone married Emma Mahaffey and reared a large family. Laviniah Caniah married Albert

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Mahaffey. D. Touchstone Touchstone, later Dr. D. Touchstone married Loula Rogers, and had a large family. Lanah, the half sister, married Ellis Ross and moved to Louisiana. Missie, died while a young lady.

On his return home from the Civil War, Thompson N Touchstone, oldest son of Judge Green Touchstone, married Sudie Alexander, October 6, 1876. She was the daughter of Glover and Salena Brent Alexander, pioneer settlers of Simpson County. They settled near what is known as Gum Springs Church.

Thompson and Sudie made their home on the Old Touchstone Estate, which is still retained by their descendants and is known as the Touchstone Estate. Thompson, aside from his farming took up the study of law. After working all day on his farm, he studied law at night by a pine fire light. He received his license to practice law in 1876.

There were eleven children born to Thompson and Sudie Touchstone, namely: Ida, married J. M. Ross. She died in 1896.

Issac Powell, like his father, studied law and married Katie Carlisle, who died in 1908.

Robert Bayard, studied medicine, and married Evie Gynes, and later resided in Texas.

Una Mae, taught school, married Will M. Owen later moving to Jackson.

Alexander Green, studied medicine, married Mary Kennedy and moved to Meridian.

Serena Bell, Dona Inez, Garland Powell died while they were still babies.

Stacie Lanah, taught school. She married Silas Turner and

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moved to Texas. She died in 1925.

Thompson Nolan, taught school. He married Hattie Burl Cox. They resided in the ^{Delta} District.

Sudie D., taught school and moved to Jackson, Mississippi.

All the children of Thompson and Sudie Touchstone received their education in the public schools in Simpson County. The boys went to Mississippi and Millsaps Colleges. The two younger girls: Stacie, attended M. S. C. W. and Sudie, Teachers Collge, at Hattiesburg.

Bayard and Green Touchstone received their medical training at Memphis medical school and Tulane University, T. N. Jr., attended Peabody University.

The five surviving children of Thompson and Sudie Touchstone: Bayard, Una, Green, Nolan, and Sudie are the owners of the original Touchstone Estate in Simpson County. In 1933, Una, who had long cherished a desire to commemorate the important events in the lives of the noble characters of the father and grandfather; Bayard furnishing the funds went back to the old Homestead, where the old house stood. The house where all the children were born, and started independently to seek their life's fortune. She secured the services of some of the people who lived in that neighborhood, and supervised the construction of a log wabin on the exact location of the home that sheltered them all in childhood. The material she had cut just around the cabin, built of pine poles, with mud chimneys, rough floors, board roof, as near like the pionner builders as could be. Nothing was used with the exception of the nails that was not grown on the old place. The five left, "came back home", the home they had loved and never

would forget in Simpson County, all had gone away, had established homes of their own, but the home of their father and grandfather held the sweetest memories, where hardships and misfortunes were met and overcome, where sometimes a vision of prosperity came to view, where adversities crept in, and all had been endured, thus, this spot seemed almost like Holy Ground to them.

Friends, and all relatives, throughout the country were invited to come and share with them in these cherished memories. These reminiscenses served to renew the old ties of love and friendship at that time and separation had made a dead past, gone and forgotten.

Since that time, a definite day each year, and sometimes twice a year is selected, and all the children as well as other relatives of Thompson N. and Sudie Touchstone come back home to spend several days together. On the last day, they have all friends and relatives, distant or close, to visit them while a barbecue dinner is served with many other good eats.

They gave the Cabin and Camp the name of "Hilotes," Spanish, meaning Roasting Ear. This "Hilotes" is located in Simpson County, four miles west of Braxton, Mississippi.

Thompson N. Touchstone was a vigorous worker in the cause of the Democratic Party, and had many official honors bestowed upon him. In 1882, he was elected member of the board of Supervisors. In 1891 he was elected to represent his county in the State Legislature. In 1895 he was reelected to succeed himself. Mr. Touchstone was always zealous in furthering wise legislation and was a member of outstanding committees. He was a consistent member of the Masonic Lodge, in which he served for sixteen years as Master of the Lodge.

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The following poem was written by Una Touchstone Owen,
(Mrs. Will M. Owen) who is now a resident of Jackson, Mississippi,
daughter of T. N. and Sudie Touchstone. The poem is dedicated to

"THE LITTLE LOG CABIN"

Of a house by the road the Poet has sung;
He can help and comfort those passing by,
He comforts the old, encourages the young;
As they wearily drop in with a sigh,
Another wants to serve in the road;
As did the Master who had no place,
To meet and greet kindly those who have no abode,
And live in the happiness expressed in their face.

But a little log cabin among the trees;
Where many happy memories rush in,
The little log Cabin where I can rest at ease;
Its still and quiet, only the rustle of the wind,
After a life of service in a house by the road;
Or on the highway of life giving your best,
You yourself grow tired of the heavy load;
You long and look for a place to rest.

So a little log Cabin on a little country road;
Stands alone and aloof from folk,
I love to slip away, throw off the load;
Quietly live by myself, take off the yoke,
Such a place, its the envy of a king;
Live with nature under the trees,
Where the leaves playfully wave and sing,
At the little log Cabin, such comfort and ease.

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We know the Master had to steal away;
From the multitude hard by,
He was often worn and tired at the end of the day;
The throng would continually and piteously cry,
And soon refreshed, he'd hastily return,
To heal the sick, help the weary lift the load;
We can best, work, if the lesson we learn,
From the Master who served in the house and the road.

By Una Touchstone Owen
(Mrs. Will M. Owen)

(This interview was given by Una Touchstone Owen, who now resides
in Jackson, Mississippi). (Bailey Avenue), Dates secured from old
Diaries and Family Bibles.

On the first Sunday in March, 1911, in Company with a friend
I went down to Visit "Uncle Jimmie" Lee and to hear him relate his
experience in the Indian war of 1835. We found him cheerful and
in good spirits, and although he will be ninety eight years old
in September, he is still active and gets about without any assis-
tance except that of his walking stick.

Sometime ago the good people of Strong River Church prayed that
he might live to reach a hundred years, and I hope and believe he
will. The following account of the war with the Indians, is given
in his own words.

"It was not much of a war and there is not much to tell, and
it does not seem like a thing of any importance now, but it caused
great excitement then and spread great terror among the people
of Alabama and Georgia. I was then a Young man, living in Georgia,

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about twenty miles from Ft. Gaines. The Country was very thinly settled and it was frequently several miles from one house to another. The Creek Indians had become hostile, and were killing Cattle and stealing horses and occasionally murdering a settler during the Summer and Fall of 1834, but in the Spring of 1835, the war broke out in earnest and many families in Eastern Alabama and Western Georgia were murdered by roving bands of Indians. In my neighborhood one Sunday morning in May, a man and his wife were shot and killed, while standing in the door of their house, and their daughter, a young woman about twenty years of age was shot through the body as she was getting over a fence. She fell behind the fence and was left unmolested by the Indians, who probably supposed her to be dead. She was found by a searching party on Monday afternoon, still alive. By careful nursing she finally recovered. I saw her several years after that and she was a healthy, fine looking woman. In another locality several persons took refuge, from a party of Indians, in a large dwelling house made of logs, The Indians attempted to set fire to the house, but the men in the house opened fire on them and killed one of them. The rest then ran off, taking their dead Comrade with them. Having no water in the house and fearing to go to the spring, the people in the house put out the fire with milk.

The next attack in my neighborhood, was made on the town of Roanoke and was led by Chief Jim Boy, a great number of people were killed and the town was plundered and burned. The Indians then retreated to an island in the Chattahoochee River, carrying with them a great quantity of goods taken at Roanoke, The attack

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and burning of Roanoke thoroughly aroused the people and in June of 1835 a company of soldiers was organized in my neighborhood, under Captain Wilson. I joined this company and we marched to Ft. Gaines and joined the regiment of Colonel McInty. It was then decided to attack the Indians on the island in the Chattahoochee, and the march to that place was taken up. After several days of hard traveling through woods and swamps, we reached the vicinity of the island except in time of high water and in the summertime it could be reached by crossing several marshes and lagoons. On reaching the point nearest the island, we camped for the night and planned to attack the Indians the next day. On the morning of the following day, which I think was July 1st., we began the march for the island and after several hours of hard work cutting our way through vines and thickets and wading through marshes and lagoons, we reached firm ground. It was then about 10 O'Clock in the morning, but not an Indian was to be seen. As the island contained only about five hundred acres of dry land we knew it would not be long before we were discovered, so the order was given to post ourselves behind trees and logs and wait developments. Guards were then posted in front with orders to shoot the first Indian who showed himself. We did not have long to wait. An Indian came down to the water to wash some kind of a garment and as he stooped over the water, a guard shot at him, but missed him. The Indian ran off giving the war-whoop, which was the most blood-curdling yell I have ever heard and seemed to go curling and twisting up through the tops of the trees. Almost immediately the whole island seemed to be filled with the same terrible yells, and in a few minutes the Indians were coming from every

direction. As they came up the order was given to fire, and as we were well protected by logs and trees we killed numbers of them before they were aware of our situation. They returned the fire, but they were so much surprised at our number and we killed them so fast, that they did not continue the fight very long, perhaps not over half an hour. They then took to the marshes, while their dead and wounded were carried off by negro slaves belonging to the Indians. We found the stolen goods, but as we had no boats and could only carry away a few articles, we burned almost all of the goods except some cask of gunpowder which we buried in a marsh. After resting a few days we marched back to Ft. Gains where we remained about six months before we were disbanded.

I was not in any more fights, but there were a number of skirmishes with the Indians and a considerable number was killed on both sides.

Attacks were made on nearly all boats coming into Ft. Gains. The Indians would secrete themselves behind bluffs and around bends of the river and shoot any one they could see, and they frequently killed a man in that way. A few Indians remained friendly to the white people and the hostile Indians seemed to have a greater hatred for them than for the whites.

I remember on time that a wooden dummy dressed like an Indian was placed in the stern of a boat coming up the river and when the boat reached Ft. Gains, more than seventy bullets were found in the dummy, having been fired by Indians from the river bank.

The guns we used were obtained from the United States arsenal at Ft. Gains and were large muskets weighing about thirty six

pounds. The Indians were really better armed than we were, as nearly all of them had rifles which they had bought from traders.

The guns then in use were mostly what were known as flint and steel guns, though percussion caps were beginning to come in use.

By the close of the year 1835, the Indian outbreak was entirely quelled, and a short time afterwards they were removed to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River. Many of them hated to go, and after all, it seemed hard for them to have to leave their old homes and go to a strange land.

I cast my first vote for President Van Buren in 1836, and in the winter of that year I married. I moved to Mississippi in 1846, and settled on White Sand creek in Lawrence County. On Sunday the 15th day of April of that year, snow fell to the depth of three inches. All vegetation was killed and thousands of trees died from the effects of the cold. Almost all the chestnut trees were killed and you could smell the decaying vegetation for weeks afterward.

In 1847, I moved to Simpson County. Ed Vangant was sheriff and I think Alex Banks was Clerk of the Court. Judge McNair was probate Judge. Dr. Funchess was then a young man and was practicing medicine at Westville. I don't think there was a lawyer in the County, and there were only two merchants. One was a Dutchman named Hurst. I have forgotten the name of the other one.

I did not serve in the Mexican War, but joined the Confederate Army and was in the war between the States. I have seen many strange things during my life. I saw the great shower of shooting stars in November, 1833. I saw the great Comet of 1832, and Halley's Comet in 1835. These things made a wonderful impression on me and

I remember them all as well as if I had seen them yesterday. There are many other things I would like to tell you about, but my memory is getting bad and I cannot recall them just now. I was married but once my wife died seventeen years ago and I have lived with my children ever since. Yes I may live to be a hundred years old, I don't think much about it. I don't care. It don't bother me. I am ready to go any time.

We had a splendid dinner and "Uncle Jimmie" blessed the food and ate as heartily as the rest of us, and apparently enjoyed himself as much as we did.

As we rode away in the afternoon leaving him sitting in his rocking chair, he seemed almost like a figure of the past. Where are the the children he played with when a boy? Where are the associated of his young manhood? They died long ago. Gone are Captain Wilson and Colonel McGinty, gone are Jim Boy and his braves. The ramparts of Ft. Gains have crumbled to dust and the boats on the Chattahoochee are troubled no more, but "Uncle Jimmie" still lives on. Among his children, honored and loved nearing the end of his century of years sure of the future and with unquestioning faith, he stands at the gates of the eternal morning. When they open to him may it be to a realm of everlasting peace.

(This interview was given to us by, Mr. Bee King, Mendenhall, Mississippi. It was related to him in March 1911.)

Another outstanding family in Simpson County, is the May family. This family migrated from Tennessee, to Pike County, and William May along with Joe, John, Berry, and Willoughby and their two sisters, Tilda and Nancy, came to Simpson County. Jim

went to Rankin County near Dry Creek Church to make his home.

John, settled near Floyds bridge. His children were, John Thomas, William Green, Selana, Wincie, Rebecca, Fount, and Wilburn. All are dead except Wilburn, Fount, William Green, and Rebecca.

Berry, settled near Mendenhall, His children were, Dick, Jim, George, and one girl who married Green Ponder.

Willoughby also settled near Mendenhall, He had two children One married a Benton, another died in early womanhood.

Joe, died without issue.

Jim, who lived in Rankin County, had five children, namely; Jim, Anse, Thad, Serena and Laura.

Among the descendents of Anse, are Dr. Ruel and E. A. May of Jackson, and Lewis of Brandon.

Nancy married a 'Mangum' from near Magee, Mississippi. Among her descendants are John Mangum of Magee and others of the county.

Tilda married a Powell. She reared a family of children who died before they were grown.

William, the oldest of the pioneer brothers and perhaps the least known by the younger generation, owned most of the land where our county site is situated.

He married Betsy Ross. They had nine children, all of whom are dead except, Mrs. Jane Williams of D'lo. The children were, namely; Joe, Elizabeth, Redding, ^{Rebecca} Jane, Sarah, Callie, Angeline, Augusta and Albert J.

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Joe married Catherine Howell, and settled down near Strong River, the settlement called Jupiter, near Scots Bridge. Their children are L. H. May, of Mendenhall. W. L. May and Mrs. C. W. Magee of Lombardy, and Judge Joe May of Sumner, Mississippi.

Joe May was a confederate officer during the war serving under General Lowry, at one time and General Joe Johnston, at another. He was among the first to leave Simpson county in a company known as the "Westville Guards." So dependable was he that General Lowrey put him in command of a company of soldiers to come to Simpson County to round up the deserters and run off the negro sympathizers. He served as Captain from the Battle of Port Hutson until the close of the war.

Elizabeth, married James Dent, who also was a noble soldier. He was a member of the 10th ^{Miss} Regiment. It was he, who bore the body of his chieftan, Colonel R. A. Smith to a place of safety after the Colonel was fatally wounded.

Nine children were born to this family; Tom, R. L., A. W., E. L., Mrs. G. M. Everett, Mrs. Benton O'Neal, Mrs. J. R. May, and Major ^{James} Dent of Gulfport. This issue furnished six gallant soldiers in the World War; Major Jim Dent, Lieutenant Fred Dent, Ben Everett, Pat Everett and A. Q. Everett. Joe Dent was a Spanish-American War Veteran.

Redding May married Mary Frances Johnston in 1872. They settled at D'Lo. Eleven children were born to them; three of whom died before reaching manhood and womanhood. The living are; George W. May of Jackson, Mrs. W. D. Cook of Meridian, Mrs. A. J. Price of Gulfport, Mrs. W. M. Boggan of D'Lo, Mrs. L. L. Coleman

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of Cleveland Ohio; R. R. May of Louisville Kentucky, C. L. May of Jackson and J. R. May of Memphis Tennessee. J. R. was a lieutenant in the world war.

The Redding May homestead is the pride of the family. It is owned and operated by the oldest son, Honorable George W. May of Jackson, Mississippi. Mrs. W. M. Boggan lives in the old home and keeps open house for the others who come back to renew the scenes of their youth and to get renewed inspirations for tasks to be done. They were taught early in life that no task is too great if it should be done. The old Home is a monument to their belief.

A. Q. May, the youngest son of Elizabeth and William May, was an outstanding figure in Simpson County Politics for many years. He served as sheriff, and was Chancery and Circuit Clerk until his promotion to a state office. He was State Treasurer term and Railroad Commissioner one term. During the years he had the vision to buy up heavily timbered lands which later he sold to northern syndicates for a large sum of money. He bought a Delta farm; improved it and later sold it to his nephews; W. L. and Judge Joe May of Sumner. At the time of his death which occurred on July 24, 1922, Mr. May was considered one of the wealthiest men in Simpson County. I say Simpson county--for though he lived in Jackson, he called Simpson his home and at his own request his body was brought back home and now rests by the side of his father on the hill overlooking the beautiful town of Mendenhall. Mr. A. Q. May was twice married; first, to Miss Mattie Scott and second, to Mrs. Kate Bush Thompson.

The May's are people who believe in the education of their

children. Every branch of this great family is represented in the colleges of our state and in the states where the descendants live. They are keenly alive to political situations of the state and have never been known to vote against their convictions. They are clanish in their devotion to one another and would spend their last dollar to render assistance to one of their numbers if necessary. They are active church members--most of them are of the Baptist Denomination."

(This interview was-- Mrs. Gussie May Boggan, of
D'Lo, Mississippi.)

The following interview was also given by Mrs.
Gussie May Boggan.

In an interview with Mrs. Gussie May Boggan, we find that Millhaven is one of the old settlements of the county, and was the site of the old Jaynes Saw-Mill. This property now belongs to the May estate. Mrs. Boggan's father, W. R. May, having purchased this as the Old Jaynes estate in 1872. This is located on Strong River just at the River Bridge at D'Lo.

There was a small mill located here; no doubt, a crude affair, but much of the lumber that was used in the Old Capital Building and many buildings in Brandon where the Jaynes family lived, was sawed at this mill and was hauled by ox-teams to the place that is mentioned. Mr. Lewis C. Gibson, who was connected by marriage to the May family hauled most of this lumber to Jackson for the Old Capital Building.

"W. G. Bell homesteaded 120 acres of land from the government in 1889. To this 120 acres he bought 80 acres from the north side of the Weathersby place. Later he bought seventy acres more. This land is located on what is known as the old Brandon and Westville road which later became known as No. 49. It is one and one-half miles south of Braxton on the G. & S. I. Railroad and one-half mile north of Gum Springs church. The new highway (no. 49) crosses the northeast corner, and a railroad, telephone line, Mississippi Power and Light line all cross this property.

Sanders Creek runs through the western part and the famous Weathersby Spring on the east--thus, always affording a supply of water and excellent camping grounds. After the railroad came through, a large tract of pine timber was sold and a mill was erected near the railroad where the timber was cut. The mill pond remains today and affords plenty of fish and also water for pasturing cattle.

W. G. Bell married Cora Mary Harper, daughter of George P. Harper in 1891. They operated a tenant farm with the Post Office known as Box, Mississippi. Later they moved to Braxton but the old homestead remains with a part of the land in cultivation, an excellent pasture and a forest of growing timber.

Members of this family at present are: Mr. W. G. Bell, Braxton; Professor H. M. Bell, Benton, Mississippi, Mrs. H. K. McLure, Shreveport, Louisiana; W. G. Bell, Jr., Alexandria Louisiana; Mrs. W. F. Mahaffey, Mendenhall Mississippi. Lillie Maje Bell died at the age of three."

(This is an interview from Mrs. W. F. Mahaffey, Mendenhall,
given in her own words.)

From an interview with Hamp Patterson we learn that he is 81 years of age. Mr. Patterson was born about one and one-half miles Southeast of Weathersby.

The old home still stands as his grandfather built it about one hundred years ago, but could not give the exact date. His father was born in 1818, and this old home was erected when Mr. Patterson's father was a small boy. It is made of logs, while another room has been added and the house is ceiled but the same foundation remains. Albert Patterson, a brother to Hamp is living in this place. Mr. Patterson states that his brother, Cooper Patterson, was born- he lived and died in this house at the age of seventy-five. His last request was to bury him under an old oak tree where he had played as a boy.

The John Hays mill on Highway 49 is located about two miles from the State Sanatorium. This mill was built in 1850. It was a grist mill and saw-mill combined. There is a spring at this place that has never been known to cease its flow. Mr. Patterson carried corn to this mill to make bread ^{for} the family during the Civil War.

Inez Gibson
Acting Supervisor Historical Research
Project
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FC
Katie Lou May, M.S.G. W. Student (Volunteer)

MENDENHALL

Mendenhall, the county seat of Simpson County, owes much of its charm to the fact that it is a new town, the growth of which has been accomplished since the building of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad about the year, 1900. The town was founded by Messers Didlake, Hamilton, and Edlen, who plowed up the land and laid out the plans for a small village. The village was named Edna, in honor of Mr. Didlake's wife. The towns in those days were named after people, usually someone closely connected with the founding of the towns. The people usually added a "y" or an "ae" to the ends of names--making the town Edna, "Ednae" or "Ednay". The courthouse was moved here from Old Westville, a neighboring town, in 1901. At this time, the Board of Supervisors passed an order designating the town as the county seat, and it is here that the magnificent courthouse, the best of its kind in the state, was constructed in 1907, at a cost of about three hundred thousand dollars. The courthouse was moved back to Old Westville a few years later, but after considerable litigation about the removal of the courthouse to Mendenhall, in which the Supreme Court decided in favor of Mendenhall, the present courthouse was built. Also, during the same period, in 1907, the Baptist and Methodist churches were built, each having fine new brick buildings, and the public school system established.

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In 1907, Thomas A. Dickson, lawyer, suggested to the Board of Supervisors that the name of the town be changed from Edna to Mendenhall, for two reasons, which are: to honor T. L. Mendenhall, by naming the town after him, and to abolish forever, the word "Ednae" or "Ednay" as it was almost universally pronounced. The town was then named Mendenhall in honor of Honorable T. L. Mendenhall, who was a notable lawyer and pioneer of development in Simpson County, a generation ago.

Mendenhall was located on the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad, about thirty one miles from Jackson. The town is situated in the beautiful pine clad hills of Simpson County, and is surrounded by the good farm country. There is a good market for cotton, cattle, and all kinds of country produce. The manner in which the town is laid off attracts visitors immediately. Main Street is a broad street, paved from the railroad to the courthouse.

There is both an Elementary and a High School, and they are both under one Superintendent, Mr. Monroe Ball, and known as the Mendenhall Consolidated School. The Elementary School is located across the street from the courthouse. It is a separate up-to-date new brick building, and affords ample playground space and apparatus. Beautiful shrubbery and trees are planted about the grounds. The High School is located on a hill at the end of the street leading from the railroad station. The school occupies forty acres of ground, and has football, basketball, baseball, and tennis courts. There is also a beautiful gymnasium, an attractive teacher's home, and a modern brick up-to-date Home Economics building located on the grounds. The grounds are beautified by the trees

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and shrubbery that are planted about the buildings. The High School is conducted in what was formerly the Agricultural High School, being at one time a Junior College. The plans have been approved by the W. P. A. for demolishing and rebuilding the High School Building, and making a new modern one story brick building at a cost of about thirty five or forty thousand dollars. In the year 1935, a county library was installed in the town with a full time librarian. There is also a good librarian in the High School, and the library is under good management. The town library is in a part of the Community House. With the help of the W. P. A., the women of Mendenhall have remodelled and equipped an attractive Community House and Canning Kitchen, and installed up-to-date cafeterias in both Elementary and High School. The schools are fully affiliated, and are maintaining a good grade of work, as no teacher is employed in either school who is not a full four year college graduate.

Mendenhall is connected with Jackson and Gulfport by Highway Number 49. This highway is paved all the way to Jackson and almost all the way to Gulfport. This highway affords a shorter route to Jackson, as the distance is now only twenty six miles where it was formerly thirty one. The Tri-State Bus Lines give Mendenhall transportation facilities as well as the Railroad. The nearest airport is at Magee, which is only eight miles from the town, and also one at Jackson, which is twenty six miles from the town.

There are no manufacturing industries in the town, but it possesses a number of progressive business houses, a strong bank, an

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ice plant, and a number of filling stations. Some of Mendenhall's chief claims to progress are the modern electric light and water systems, both of which are furnished at unusually low rates for small towns in the section. Minimum rates are only \$1.50 each for lights and water, a small extra charge being made for the use of more water or electric current.

The streets of the town have oak trees or shrubbery planted on each side. There are many attractive homes in the town, among them being the homes of Mrs. Delos Mahaffey, Mrs. B. King, Mrs. C. C. Jones, and Mrs. H. E. Raley. Most of the homes have flowers planted on the front walks, and along the driveways of the garages. Mendenhall is very beautiful in the Spring. It seems that all the inhabitants are trying to make the town more beautiful by making their homes more attractive with flowers, shrubbery, and trees in the yards. Last year, the women in the Fortnightly Club, beautified the cemetery, by planting flowers and shrubbery. The climate of the town makes it a pleasant place in which to live, as it is pleasant all the year round. The town gets the coast breeze in the summer, and the winters are not severe. The population of Mendenhall is between fifteen hundred and two thousand, having a fairly homogeneous race of people. The altitude is about six hundred feet above sea level, and the town has an even rainfall.

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Katie Lou May, M.S.C.W. Student (Volunteer)

Mendenhall has a playground, and during summer months it is in charge of a recreational worker who gives the children personal attention. She supervises play and swimming in concrete wading and swimming pools for little children. This playground is well equipped with playground apparatus, as it contains a swimming and wading pool, swings, sand boxes, seesaws, trapezes, and rings on which stunts may be performed. Children both large and small play here in the afternoon after school. The children have the privilege of using the playground apparatus as well as the apparatus on the schoolgrounds. Paths back of the High School are used for horseback riding. There are tennis courts in the town other than the courts on the schoolgrounds.

The Community House, equipped by the women of the town, and the E. R. A., is used for parties, teas, and other social activities. Here the Christmas, New Year, and other celebrations are held. The Community House is attractively equipped, and it has a Canning Kitchen adjoining it.

A Government C. C. C. Camp is located in the town about two hundred yards back of the High School building. The houses are made of logs, and in the shape of a circle with roads going in and out of the camp and around the buildings. There is a Mess Hall and a school building, as Shorthand and Typewriting are taught to the boys at night. There are about two hundred and fifty boys in the camp. These boys come from all

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parts of the United States. They do various kinds of work, such as cutting down trees, fighting forest fires, loading timber, digging stumps, and hauling gravel. The boys have certain rules and regulations which they must obey or they are dismissed from camp. Their work is of a great help to the town. The boys are benefitted by being in the camp, as they get work, food, clothing, and board. They send half of the money that they make to their parents, and keep the other half for their own expenses.

Mendenhall has one good hotel which is noted as the "Home of The Revolving Table". The hotel is named "The Hotel Heil", and is operated by Mr. W. H. Goodwin. There are nineteen bedrooms, not including the rooms of the various members of the family. There are also a kitchen, a dining room, a living room, and a lobby. Rooms without bath are \$1.00; with a connecting bath, \$1.25; and with a private bath, \$1.50. Free and spacious garage service is given to the occupants of the hotel. Most of the occupants are permanent, and have some kind of business in the town.

Honorable R. C. Russell; Judge Sheehy; the Rev. Mr. J. P. Williams; J. F. Thames, Superintendent of the State Penitentiary; T. B. Durr; and L. H. May, have lived in Mendenhall during its whole existence. Other notables who have lived in the town for a number of years are the Rev. Mr. C. C. Jones; D. W. Duckworth, sheriff; Walter Dent, District Attorney; R. T. Hilton, District Attorney; W. D. Hilton, District Attorney; J. P. and A. A. Edwards, District Attorneys; and B. King, Mayor.

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Katie Lou May, M.S.C.W. Student (Volunteer)

Mendenhall has only one publication, "The Simpson County News". It is published weekly, on Thursday. It is edited and published by Mr. S. J. Knight and Mr. E. B. Hales. Subscriptions rates are \$1.00 for a year in the county, \$1.50 for a year outside the county, and \$0.50 for six months. This paper is the official organ of Simpson County and town of Mendenhall. During the week of March 23, 1936, "The Simpson County News" enjoyed its sixty fourth birthday, making this paper by far the oldest established business in the county. "The Westville News" was established in 1872, by Joseph L. Meade, a lawyer and prominent citizen of the county who at one time represented Simpson County in the State Legislature. A few years later the paper passed into the hands of Judge Thomas E. Gowan, an honored citizen of the county, and who served his county as probate judge and County Superintendent of Education. Judge Gowan sold the paper to the Rev. Mr. Robert A. Whitfield, father of the late Gov. Henry L. Whitfield, who continued its publication until October, 1881. Mr. H. A. Geiger became its editor at this time, and continued its publication until October, 1881. Mr. H. A. Geiger became its editor at this time, and continued its publication until 1907, when it was moved to Mendenhall, and its name was changed to, "The Simpson County News". In the course of a few years the paper passed through the hands of Hon. A. S. Russell, S. D. Burton, H. A. Geiger, L. A. Myers, and then into the hands of its present owners, Mr. S. J. Knight and Mr. E. B. Hales. For sixty years the "Simpson County News" has endeavored to serve the people.

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The editors say, "We have confidence in the people and we are led to believe that this confidence is reciprocated by our customers, since we have in our mailing list names of subscribers who are paid up until the year, 1951, and we have perhaps a larger circulation than any other county newspaper in the state". In the Simpson County Chancery Clerk's Office there may be found copies of the county paper, issue by issue, number by number, neatly bound into book form. There may be found on these pages, advertisements of the former leading merchants of the county, in which prices are quoted on buggies, side saddles, spinning wheels, etc., these items being almost unknown to the present generation.

Mendenhall has the reputation of being a very lovely town in which to live. Most people who live here for one year remain longer, and those who move away usually come back.

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References

Persons interviewed are:

Mr. B. King, Mayor of the town,
Mendenhall, Mississippi

Mr. S. J. Knight, and Mr. E. B.
Hales, editors and publishers
of the "Simpson County News",
Mendenhall, Mississippi.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. May,
Mendenhall, Mississippi

RH

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT FOR MISSISSIPPI

SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT
ALICE B. TERRY, HISTORIAN
IDA T. FITZHUGH, SENIOR TYPIST

SIMPSON COUNTY AREA #13

ASSIGNMENT 32

PIONEER 4-H CLUB WORK, 1910-1916

1. EARLY HISTORY

Until 1898 farming was just farming; not as a profession but as a means of sustenance. One's father was a farmer, hence--in most instances--the son was a farmer. Few boys had opportunity for scientific education along agricultural lines. They were merely taught to plow, to plant, cultivate, (to the best of their knowledge) and garner the season's crops. This was done for a livelihood; not for the joy of new achievements in the realm of agriculture. Farming was raising corn, cotton, and by-products. But in 1898 the state of New York, under the auspices of the College of Agriculture of Cornell University, advocated a state wide movement for organized agricultural clubs for boys and girls. Soon Texas, South Carolina and Georgia endorsed the idea and became equally active. One by one other states became imbued with the interest and idea of organized clubs. Various agencies in the different States sponsored the movement but, more often, these clubs were perfected through efforts of some individual or official connected with the State Department of Education, State Agricultural Colleges, or the United States Department of Agriculture.

It came to be a recognized fact that such clubs would be a prime factor in agricultural development. The first step taken by Mississippi of which we have record was in 1908, when the State Legislature passed a bill creating the Agricultural High School. This was followed

1. Simpson County News. Vol. 40 No. 26. March 28, 1912

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISS.

in the same session by an act "to authorize boards of supervisors of the various counties of Mississippi to offer prizes to the corn clubs of the public schools of the county an amount of money not exceeding fifty dollars in any one year in any county. The sum offered may be divided into three prizes of twenty five dollars for the first prize, fifteen dollars for the second prize and ten dollars for the third prize, or in that proportion".²

This act passed on March 16, 1908.

2. a. Promoters b. Dates of Organization

It was two years later, however, that Simpson County took any action on such matter. On February 26, 1910, a Boys Corn Club was organized at the court house in Mendenhall. The organization was perfected by Commissioner of Agriculture, H. E. Blakeslee, there being no county agent at that time. A. D. Kennedy, president of the board of supervisors, was appointed District Supervisor of the club, and R. A. Maddox, county superintendent of Education, designated as local supervisor and counsellor to the body. There were about seventy boys who entered into the organization but only twenty six entered into the contest in corn raising. We find in the issue of March 10, 1910, Simpson County News, an article by superintendent Maddox announcing that the time for joining this club would be extended through March 20.³

c. Nature of 4-H Club Work.

No record is available as to the number subsequently joining, and it has been impossible to get a complete list of membership. Effort was made to obtain this information from the records at State College but we are informed that no records are on file there prior to the designation of that office as a permanent filing office. Three boys in the organization, however, were prize winners that year, viz; George Garner

2. Laws of Mississippi, 1908

3. Simpson County News. Vol. 38 No. 22 March 6, 1910

Magee, first prize; Frank Barnett, Pinola, second prize; and Johnnie Williamson, Mendenhall, Route , third prize. (See Assignment #17, 4-H Clubs.) An interview with Mr. Garner brings the following story: His father had little faith in the venture so granted him one acre of semi-swamp new ground. He raised 126½ bushels of corn. A group of six men, viz. R. B. Hughes, Willis Kennedy, Jasper Kennedy, Albert Yelverton, Henry Mangum and L. D. Kennedy were appointed by Mr. Maddox to oversee the gathering and grading of the corn raised in the contest. When it was known that George Garner would be the winner he was given by the county an all expense trip to the State Fair where his corn was displayed and the prize of Twenty-five dollars awarded. Further, he was given a certificate of award for his successful work. This certificate is signed by Governor E. F. Noel, State Superintendent of Education, J. N. Powers, P. P. Garner, Professor of Industrial Pedagogy, and H. E. Blakeslee, Commissioner of Agriculture. Mr. Garner treasures this certificate still and says that no United States President was ever more proud or felt a keener sense of pleasure in accomplishment than he when he stepped forward to receive the prize, first for the county and second for the entire state. He had just cause to be proud. Mr. Garner says that in 1911 his acre was assigned him in another part of the field and the yield was not so great as the preseding year. His brother, Alonzo Garner, was winner of the first prize at the State Fair in 1911.⁴

Regarding the entire yield of corn in the State in 1910, Special Field Agent, W. L. Pryor, of the Bureau of Statistics, United States Department of Agriculture, issued a statement from Meridian in which he says "The corn crop just harvested was the finest ever grown in the State, the yield being 60,000,000 bushels, or an average of 20½ bushels on the

4. George Garner, Magee, Miss.

entire acreage, whereas the yield in 1909 was only 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, or about 20,000,000 less. He also reports the corn larger and of better quality than for many years." That this fact was due largely to the activity of the Boys Corn Club is unquestioned.⁵

It was in 1910 that we find the first Farmer's Institute in Simpson county organized by W. L. Hutchinson, Director of Mississippi Farmer's Institutes. So far as can be ascertained this is the first concerted effort of farmers since the famous "Farmers' Alliance" was in active force. However, we have no information of any boys belonging to this organization.⁶

In the issue of July 13, 1911, Simpson County News, Vol. 39, No. 41, C. A. Cobb, Special Agent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in charge of the boys' Club work in Mississippi, states that "The 1911 Corn Club exhibit at the State Fair will far exceed that of 1910."

He further states that at that time there were sixty counties organized into these clubs with 6,000 boys now active members.⁷

We also find by record that Simpson County's quota in this organization was growing month by month, yet there were no records of the actual membership. That the boys were instrumental in making crop production higher than ever before is illustrated by an item appearing in the Simpson County News of June 8, 1911, Vol. 39, No. 37, which states that the thermometer registered higher that week than at any period of like date for forty years. Inasmuch as we know that that particular time of the year is a busy one on the farm and that such temperatures are very detrimental to farm products, it must be recognized that only by supreme effort were the crops so abundant in that year.⁸

5. Simpson County News. Vol. 39 No. 6

6. Simpson County News. Vol. 39 No. 6

7. Simpson County News. Vol. 39. No. 41

8. Simpson County News. Vol. 39. No. 37

No immediate records of any kind are found for the year of 1911, so far as Club activities are concerned further than that chronicled above. Evidently the work was somewhat on the wane as the next available record is from the Simpson County News of January 25, 1912, Vol. 40 No. 17, excerpts of which chronicle the meeting of a large crowd of citizens who attended a "public meeting in Mendenhall with the following prominent speakers, to-wit: Mr. Turner, president of the Iowa Corn Growers' Association, W. H. Smith, (Corn Club) Mr. Carter, president of the Farmers' Union, Mr. Thompson, connected with the Agricultural Department at Washington, and Mr. C. A. Cobb, president of the State Corn Club." ***** These addresses were all along agricultural lines. The article states further that "A Boys Corn Club was organized".

***** Then just as the crowd was leaving Chancellor Sheehy arose and addressed the audience; Through his efforts a Men's Corn Club was organized and a prize of \$50.00 offered to the winner in a contest. Chancellor Sheehy's speech was one of the best of the occasion.⁹

In the issue of the Simpson County News, Feb. 8, 1913, Vol. 40, No 19, has this to say regarding the Men's Corn Club; "Through the wisdom and liberality of Chancellor Sheehy, Hon. W. W. Dent, and J. F. Thames, the Men's Corn Club was organized at the conclusion of the addresses delivered to the citizens of Simpson County January 24, (1912) These men have offered \$100.00 to be awarded, \$50.00 to the man producing the greatest amount of corn on five contiguous acres, \$30.00 for the greatest yield on three contiguous acres, and \$20.00 for the greatest yield on two contiguous acres. This offer is made to every white man in Simpson County over 21 years of age." ***** The same publication under same date carries an article from County Superintendent of Education J. R. Williamson, in which he states to the Boys Corn Club the awarding of \$50.00 in cash prizes for that organization.

9. Simpson County News. Vol. 40, NO. 17

At the same time Prof. F. M. Ball, superintendent of the County Agricultural High School offered \$20.00 on board bill at the school for the member of the Corn Club who made the most corn, \$15.00 on board to the boy making second best corn, and \$10.00 board to the third winner.¹⁰

Much interest and encouragement was given the clubs that year by a statement sent out by Dr. W. D. Hunter, chief etymologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, that the cold of February, 1912, had practically destroyed the boll weevil and other insects which were so destructive to the crops of this country. It instilled new hope into the clubs. However, so far as we have been able to find record, no prizes were awarded in the club that year. Also, we find no record of prizes in any of the counties, though doubtless some were awarded.¹¹

Under date of August 29, 1912, the Simpson County News carries an article which reads as follows: "Jackson.--There is no longer any doubt that Mississippi is going to harvest one of the very biggest corn crops in her history, and that in spite of the destruction of thousands of acres of young corn by grass worms, especially in the delta or overflowed districts. But for the worms there would not have been clear land enough on which to pile the corn." Follows in the same issue;

" TO CORN CLUB MEMBERS:

To the members of the Boys' and Mens' Corn Clubs. The following men are appointed as a committee to measure your corn and the land on which it grew. The prize money was given with the understanding that the corn must be measured by a committee appointed for each supervisor's district.

10. Simpson County News. Vol. 40. No. 19.

11. Simpson County News Vol. 40 No. 38

You must pay the committee but if your corn is not as good as you expected, and you are confident that it is not sufficiently good to win a prize, you need not have it measured by the committee.

Committees.

District No. 1, E. V. Jones, A. Overby; District No. 2, H. D. Cook, J. H. Mangum; District No. 3, (North of Strong River) E. C. Phillips, R. R. Mahaffey; District No. 4 (South of Strong River) Mick Williamson, John R. Williamson; District No. 5, E. A. Bush, Tom Moore; District No. 6, Dan Moore, Billie Barlow;

J. R. Williamson, County Superintendent.¹²

In the Simpson County News of December 12, 1912, Vol. 41, No. 11, we find the following, regarding record keeping: "Jackson--In the January Bulletin from his department, Commissioner of Agriculture, H. E. Blakeslee expects to include as a leading feature a full record of the corn growing contests among the boys of Mississippi. Commissioner Blakeslee has mailed a letter to every County Superintendent of Education, in which is carried questions to be answered, setting forth the number of boys in the Corn Club work in the county, the name and addresses of the winners in 1912, the highest production per acre, average production of one acre, and similar information. This information will be in the nature of a permanent record and twenty-five, thirty, or fifty years from this time, it will be a record of much value and interest."¹³

In 1912 the Board of Supervisors ordered that the usual \$50.00 prize to Corn Club Boys be divided into four parts, rather than the three prior to that time, as follows; \$20.00 for the largest yield of corn on one acre of land, \$15.00 for the second largest yield, \$10.00 for the third largest and \$5.00 for the fourth. The matter of judges to measure land and corn and to report the persons entitled to prizes

12. Simpson County News. Vol. 40. No. 49

13. Simpson County News. Vol. 41. No. 11

was vested entirely in the Superintendent.

Prize winners for 1912 and 1913 are not available, if any there were.

In 1914 the Board of Supervisors awarded the prize for the finest corn by the club boys to William Ross. After the order for the warrant had been issued, however, it was learned that the said William Ross was not a member of the club for that year so the order was rescinded and the prize of \$20.00 given to Willie Duckworth whose yield was not so great but was the highest of any club boy, and he was a member in good standing.¹⁵

In 1915 the first prize went to Newell Garner, who raised 107 bushels and twelve pounds on his one acre of ground. Second prize was won by G. W. Brewer, who raised 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, and Wiley Harris and Vardaman Duckworth tied for third prize so the remaining \$15.00 was divided¹⁶ equally between the boys.

In the early stages of the Club Work the various agencies were paid by Federal and County appropriations. In 1916 the State Legislature enacted a law appropriating the sum of \$12,000.00 for that year and the sum of \$20,000.00 for the year 1917, to be used in different phases of the extension work, which included all branches of the 4-H Club Work. Said appropriation was to be disbursed through the trustees of the Agricultural and Mechanical College. (State College). This act was ap-¹⁷proved April 5, 1916.

We further find that in 1914 Senate Bill No. 56 presented the following:

"Appropriation for Boys' Corn Club Work. Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That the sum of fifteen hundred (\$1500.00) dollars for the year 1914, and the sum of fifteen hundred (\$1500.00) dollars for the year 1915, or so much thereof as

14. Minutes of Board of Supervisors, February meeting, 1912
15. Minutes of Board of Supervisors, October meeting, 1914
16. Minutes of Board of Supervisors, October meeting, 1915
17. Laws of Mississippi, 1916, Chapter 44 Page. 46

may be necessary, out of any funds in the State Treasury, not otherwise appropriated be, and the same is hereby appropriated to provide clerical assistance, stationery, postage, prizes, and for the general expense of conducting the Boy's Corn Club work in the State of Mississippi.

Section 2. That accurate accounts of the expenditures of money received under this act shall be kept by the treasurer of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College separate from the general college account, and that an itemized and detailed report of such expenditures to be made biennially, and published in such manner as the board of trustees of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College shall direct.

Section 3. The money hereby appropriated shall be drawn and expended under the direction of the board of trustees of the Mississippi Agricultural College for the purposes above named and no other, and in the same manner as other appropriations of the State College.

Section 4. That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.¹⁸

(This law was approved March 21, 1914)

At the March, 1914 term of the court of the Board of Supervisors, the president issues, in part, the following order; "It is understood that no member of a Club shall be entitled to compete for a prize who raises corn on a fractional part of an acre and arrives at the yield per acre by estimate, but the corn must be actually raised in one body on an acre¹⁹ of land, but the acre may be in any shape to be measured."

In 1917 Simpson County's first County Agent was employed by the Board of Supervisors. He was P. M. Smith, and his tenure of office was from January 20, 1917 to December 31, 1919, when he resigned to take up work in another county. The first Pig Club was organized by him and records

18. Laws of Mississippi, Chapter 56 Page 53-54
19. March, 1914, Minutes Board of Supervisors.

which do not appear to have been included in a former manuscript on the Agricultural chapter five the following: "This is to notify all Pig Club members who desire pure bred pigs to send me their names as early as possible. The Banks of D'Lo and Magee have arranged to furnish pure bred pigs to all boys who are really interested and ready to do something along this line. The Club boys and girls will meet at some place in the county next fall to compete for prizes. Every teacher should see that their school is represented in at least one of these clubs.

Respectfully Yours,

W. F. Smith, Co. Agent."

20

In 1917 there were eight prizes given, as follows:

(Article from Simpson County News, Vol. 46, No. 19, Oct. 18, 1917)

The boys of the county who have enlisted in the Pig Club and Corn Club, or part of them, met here yesterday to exhibit their products, but on account of some of the boys not having gathered their crop, no prizes were awarded; There were about thirty of the Pig Club boys here and some five pigs were exhibited. It demonstrated what can be accomplished by the proper treatment of live stock, and especially hogs. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Sows; 1st. Shirt, Tie, Supporters, from Union Mercantile Co., and \$5.00 awarded Jack Hemphill. 2nd. prize, \$4.50 shoes from Elliott Bros. and \$2.00 to Herbert Carmichael. 3rd. prize, \$2.00 Never-Rip pants from T. J. Sowell and \$2.00 to J. T. Prine. 4th. prize, One sack flour 90¢ from H. B. Dickey and \$2.00 to Jim Sinclair. 5th. prize, one box candy, hair cut, Crosby, and 50¢ to Claude Mangum. 6th. prize, one hair cut, Hall, and 75¢ to Fred Finley. 7th. prize, one meal at restaurant and 50¢ to Biline Cox. 8th. prize, 50¢ to W. J. Hubbard Jr.

21

20. Simpson County News, Vol. 44 No. 38

21. Simpson County News, Vol. 46, No. 19, Oct. 18, 1917

Bears; 1st. \$4.50 shoes, Middleton, \$2.00 by D'Lo Guaranty Bank awarded Estes Everett; 2nd. \$2.50 riding bridle from T. P. Cross and \$2.00 by D'Lo Guaranty Bank to John Warren; 3rd. prize, \$1.00 cap, Caughman Brothers, box of shells, Union Mercantile Company, and \$2.00 by D'Lo Guaranty Bank to Luther Steen. 4th. prize, pocket knife, People's Drug Store, to Grady Prine. 5th. prize, 75¢, D'Lo Guaranty Bank, to Floyd Edwards. \$2.50 was given by the People's Bank of Mendenhall and \$1.00 was given by the Simpson County News. These prizes will be awarded to boys keeping the best record and giving best history of their pigs."

21

Earlier in the same year, we find from the records of the Simpson County News, Vol. 45, No. 50, June 7, 1917, that a Pig Meeting was held in D'Lo and several prominent speakers were on program, the speaking ending with an address by Agent F. M. Smith. That Year instead of the number of five pigs, of the year before, forty-three pure bred Duroc Jersey pigs were on exhibit.

22

On June 16, this Pig Meeting was held at Magee.

On October 11, 1917, a Community Fair was held at Braxton at which prizes were awarded to any one in the agricultural and stock line. No names of prize winners were given.

21. Simpson County News, Vol. 46, No. 19, October 18, 1917

22. Simpson County News, Vol. 45, No. 50, June 7, 1917

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISS.

So we see that since the year 1912 the Boys club work has been progressive. Since the appointment of the first County Agent the work has been carried on quite extensively and the interest grows from year to year. From the one organization of the Boys' Corn Club in the county has been added the Pig Club, Tomato Club, Poultry Club and, in fact general farming operations. At the present time, Dec. 1937, there are enrolled in the various boys' clubs of the county a total membership of 435. These are actively engaged in fifteen different varieties or features of the work. General farming, stock raising, and poultry lead in the activities, however. C. C. Stone, assistant County Agent is in active charge of the operations of the club boys.²³

GIRLS CLUBS.

There were no organized clubs along agricultural lines for girls of the county until 1917, when the first Home Demonstration Agent came to the county. In 1911 Miss Susie V. Powell, who was State Home Demonstration Agent, started the movement of organizing the Girls into various clubs. Tomato clubs were organized in Copiah and Lincoln counties, these being the first in the state. In 1912 there^{were} twelve counties organized, with some three hundred members. In 1913 she had increased the organizations to twenty counties and the membership had increased accordingly. The only incident connected directly with our county during those years were two conferences which were attended by women who are now actively engaged in this county, viz; Mrs. Della Luter, County F. S. A. Home Management Supervisor, and Mrs. Cora E. Graves, County Home Demonstration Agent. The first of these conferences was held at Brookhaven in 1912. The few members--and in fact, the leaders themselves--really learned scientific canning at this meeting which was held under a huge oak tree just back of the school building. The organization was, evidently of little importance as the building was somewhat crowded, so the "Canning Conference"

²³. J. M. Hennington, County Agent.

was held in the open. Then, in 1913, this conference was held at the "State Normal College" in Hattiesburg. At this meeting there were many more present, greater interest manifested, and a shed had been erected solely for this purpose. It is an interesting fact that the day after this conference closed a cyclone visited the place and the shed under which the women had labored so faithfully was entirely demolished. One near tragic incident which occurred at this conference was the accident which befell Miss May Haddon, present State Nutrition Agent, who had the misfortune to overturn a kettle of boiling water on her^{self}, painfully scalding her foot.²⁴ Miss Powell was--and is--a tireless worker, never allowing adversities to overcome her enthusiasm and efforts. She did not cease her efforts in her club work until she had the entire State enrolled. It was not until 1917, when Miss Earline Parker came to the county, in the capacity of Home Demonstration Agent, that the Girls Clubs were organized. The work has widened through the administration of the several Demonstration Agents who have served here until the girls are now active in practically every line of activity connected with rural, or home, life. They have been taught to do all kinds of canning, sewing, in fact, every phase of home work. They have Tomato Clubs, Poultry Clubs, Sewing Clubs etc. Through the influence of this work has developed one of the most important features of our public standard schools--the Home Economics teacher. This teacher is well versed in her line of work, must be one of high literary learning, and must be well qualified in every respect. She receives among the highest salaries paid to any teacher except the superintendent.

RECORD FOR COUNTY

a. quantity canned. No records have been kept, so far as we can ascertain, prior to 1927, when Mrs. Cora E. Graves was appointed County Home Demonstration Agent in Simpson County. In the eleven consecutive

²⁴. Information from Mrs. Cora E. Graves and Mrs. Della B. Luter.

years' service she says that she has enrolled in her Girls' clubs approximately 2358 and they have canned 12,515 quarts of various vegetables and fruits. They have also given special attention to poultry raising. These clubs have federated with the State Federation of Women's Clubs and also have a County Federation. The Conservation Chairman of the county co-operates with the State Conservation Chairman, assisting in finding a market for all standardized canned products. This band of workers has been of inestimable aid and has added strength to the work of the Home Demonstration Agent.

So we find that the club work among the girls of the county has come to occupy as important sphere as has the boys' club work. Our girls are interested and enthusiastic and rapidly preparing themselves for their natural position as home makers. The club work connected with the schools is among the foremost of all school work. Much of the success and advancement of this work is due to the efforts of Miss Susie V. Powell, who has been tireless in her endeavor to promote the work; and the women who have had direct charge of the Home Demonstration work in the county at various times have aided very materially. We cannot close this assignment without adding a note of worthy commendation to the present Agent, Mrs. Graves. She has labored well and faithfully. She is never too tired nor too busy to answer the call for help in any realm of her work. She has the happy faculty of making, and keeping, friends. She is efficient, and no more popular woman is there in the county

25. Mrs. Cora E. Graves, County Home Demonstration Agent.

Alice B. Terry, Historian.
Historic Research.
Simpson County.

December 10, 1937

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI

SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT
ALICE B. TERRY, HISTORIAN
IDA T. FITZHUGH, SENIOR TYPIST
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 13

ASSIGNMENT #32

PIONEER 4-H CLUB WORK, 1910-1916

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SIMPSON COUNTY, MISS.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE-CONSULTANT

WILMA GLADNEY, SENIOR TYPIST
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 13

THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SANATORIUM

The first appropriation for the Mississippi State Tuberculosis Sanatorium was made at the 1916 session of the legislature, when \$25,000.00 was appropriated to carry out the provisions of the law creating the Sanatorium, also passed at that session.

Two hundred acres of land were donated by the citizens of Magee, and the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad. At the biennial period of 1917, when I took charge, the Institution consisted of the Superintendent's residence, a service building, and two cottages accommodating twenty patients each. The erection of these buildings had been started under the supervision of Dr. W. H. Rowan, who was slain by death only a short time after his appointment as superintendent, and before he had an opportunity to carry out any of the plans of the Institution,

The buildings mentioned above were accepted as completed in August, 1917, but practically all the appropriation had been expended and with no lights, water, or sewer system, and only a small amount of money left, it was impossible to open the Institution for work until more money was obtained. In the fall of 1917 at a special session of the Legislature, upon the Governor's recommendation an additional appropriation of \$20,000.00 was passed. This amount was expended upon the necessary things for the operation of the Institution, and after advertising for bids on other necessary things for the opening of the Institution we found ourselves faced with the further need of \$11,500.00. A request was sent from the governor's office

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by letter asking the approval of the individual members of the Legislature for this increased expenditure, which could be taken care of at the approaching session of the Legislature, then only three months off. We were gratified to find that only three negative replies from both houses were received. This appropriation enabled us to construct a power plant, install a standard light system, modern water and sewerage system, disposal plant, ice plant, cold storage room, nurses' home, and cottages for colored help.

On February 4, 1918, the first group of patients was admitted for treatment, consisting of twelve women coming from different sections of the state. The number of patients was gradually increased from time to time as the building plan and staff were perfected and in the early summer of our capacity of forty beds was reached.

During this time the administration offices consisted of two small rooms in the service building which were wholly inadequate and materially limited the scope of the work. During the year of 1918 our success was practically assured, both as a financial investment for the state, and a humanitarian enterprise, and at the 1918 session of the Legislature we asked for a considerable increase in the bed capacity to meet the demands of those clamoring for admission. This met with opposition, however, as some of the members of the Legislature thought that the Institution should remain small and be used as experimental work. In justice to the majority of the Legislature I will state that there were only twenty-seven men in the House and none in the Senate who objected to giving whatever sums were necessary to take care of our needs. However, we finally got an appropriation for an administration building additional servants' cottages, engineer's cottage, a farm and equipment, and additional equipment for educational work to be carried on from the Institution; also money enough to build several hundred feet of walks and drive.

ways. The Institution was gradually growing and the addition of a modern farm in 1918 materially helped in furnishing produce. Mr. R. R. Redden, professor of agriculture at Clark County High School was the first superintendent of the farm. In 1935 Mr. Redden was succeeded by Mr. Walter Johnson, Jr., who was a farm demonstration agent. Since the purchase of the farm it has been more fully equipped and a more detailed description will be found in this report under the head of "Farm."

Applications continued to be made to enter the institution which far exceeded our capacity, and there came to us the appeals of hundreds of people afflicted with tuberculosis who needed the training which only the Sanatorium could give in order to teach them how to care for themselves and to protect others. With this crying need before us, a vigorous campaign was launched during the summer of 1919 for the purpose of securing an Institution commensurate with the demands of the state at large. In this campaign we were assisted by every organization in Mississippi, particularly the State Federation of Women's Clubs, church organizations, and similar associations. The papers gave generously of their space and helped broadcast our needs to the remotest corners of the state. The results of the campaign were very gratifying, and the Legislature of 1920 appropriated \$1,043,000.00 for buildings, and more than 1,000,000.00 for equipment, which assured the people of the state that they would have an Institution in keeping with the sacrifices and desires of our people in order to do justice to those of our citizens afflicted with this particular disease, and the Legislature of 1920 is to be commended for making it possible to launch this humanitarian enterprise on this scale proportionate to its magnitude. In passing, it is interesting to note that this was the largest appropriation ever up to that time by a state legislature for a similar purpose in the entire country. A

very satisfactory part of this was the fact that it included the care of our negro race, and insured them the same scientific treatment and care given the white people.

NEW BUILDINGS

Under the appropriation of 1920 we were able to begin the construction of a building program which included an infirmary building for white people, service building, nurses' dormitory, power house and laundry, and negro infirmary. The appropriation for permanent improvements was placed in the hands of the State Bond Improvement Commission, the members of which made a careful survey of the situation, going into details as to the desirability of permanency in every part of the work, and deciding that it would be to the best interest of Mississippi to eliminate certain buildings and add the money to others in order to make them permanent and fireproof, so that the next generation would not have to do again what we were doing at this time, and also have to continue paying the bonds issued for this work. It is a source of gratification to be able to say that all buildings constructed were according to the ideas of the Bond Commission and myself, with the exception that after sacrificing barns, silos, and cottages for the farm, and houses for my assistant physicians in order to insure a good building of fair size for the negroes the Bond Commission saw fit to reduce the size of that building and transfer a fair sized sum from our appropriation to other institutions. We felt that this was unfair. However, it was the judgment of the Bond Commission and we had to be satisfied.

All of the buildings constructed through the appropriation of the Legislature of 1920 are of permanent type, fireproof throughout, with modern construction and arrangements for handling tuberculous patients. The power house, laundry, service building, and nurses' home are built to take care of the future growth of the Institution. The equipment of

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all these buildings is of the very best, thus giving Mississippi one of the most modern institutions of its kind anywhere.

The 1924 session of the Legislature did not make an appropriation for improvements except to give us \$30,000.00 for a new water works system. With this we purchased a spring four miles from the sanatorium, ran a power line to it, put in centrifugal pumps and are now getting an abundant supply of water of the purest type, and at less expense. We are no longer worried by the failure of deep wells, which proved unsuccessful at this place.

The 1928 session of the Legislature made an appropriation of \$330,000.00 for the following purposes:

A preventorium for the care of fifty children at a time for the rebuilding of these children in an effort to prevent them from breaking down at some future date and either have a long treatment at the expense of the state, or, what is worse, a death loss to the state; these children usually coming from families where one or both of the parents have or have had tuberculosis and where they have been known to be exposed to other people. By rebuilding them in their young life it is possible to prevent them from becoming victims of active tuberculosis.

An auditorium for the holding of church services, as well as combining with the auditorium facilities for furnishing moving pictures and other entertainment for the patients while they are in the Institution. In this same building we have our Sunday School rooms and library.

In addition to these two large buildings we have erected homes for the medical staff which have been needed for many years, and is at last a realization.

At the farm we have constructed a new barn to take care of the increase of our large dairy herd which supplies milk for the Institution.

The remainder of the money appropriated has been spent for land-

scaping. In this we were helped by outside sources and at the present time we have changed the appearance of the Institution from one of handsome buildings placed out in the woods to that of ground which in a measure equals the appearance of the buildings themselves, making the place more beautiful and adding to the appearance which means increased happiness for our patients who are here for the many months that it takes them to get well.

All of these buildings are now practically complete and will be ready for occupancy with the beginning of the biennial period of January 1, 1930.

OBJECT AND AIM OF THE INSTITUTION

The object for which the Institution was created was primarily the eradication of tuberculosis. Tuberculosis has been recognized for many years as a preventable disease, and by having a place where patients can not only be treated but also taught how to protect and impart information to others, we will have an educated tuberculous population, and the Institution looked upon as a school where this knowledge can be gained. For an institution to deal with the treatment only would be pouring the state's money into a bottomless pit, but the patients who come and receive the training return to their communities as teachers in the prevention of this particular disease.

The Institution is operated as a part of the State Health organization, and for further educational facilities and ultimate control of the disease there are still two arms of the work which it is hoped that the Legislature will see fit to take into consideration--one, a home for incurables, particularly the indigent type who wander around and spread the germs of tuberculosis in many communities; and, the other, a children's building.

MEDICAL WORK

Each year we succeed a little better in reducing the number on the waiting list as the capacity of the Institution increases to meet the demands made upon us. However, we are yet forced to maintain a waiting list and cannot accept all patients as they apply. If we were able to do this, we would secure very much better results in the treatment, as often patients are held on the waiting list under very bad condition at home resulting in a constant decline in their physical condition and an advance in their actual disease. The percentage of recoveries would be far in excess of what it is today were it possible for us to take every patient as he applies. The results of treatment in the Institution, even under this handicap, still compare favorably with results in any part of the United States.

In addition to patients actually handled and treated in the Sanatorium during the biennial period just passed, the outdoor clinic has continued to grow, and has reached the point where it is necessary to make examinations by appointment. It would take several assistants working seven days a week to make the examinations we are asked to make. Owing to the short appropriation, we have not been able to maintain the necessary medical staff for this, and it is necessary to limit the number of examinations to the ability of the men already on the staff. They patiently and faithfully work, hoping some day to have the necessary relief. For the past several years we have had our own laboratory, whereas previously this work had to be done in Jackson.

OPERATION OF THE INSTITUTION

In order to make a uniform rule regarding the entrance of patients, we have followed the rules adopted by the Board of Health in requiring each patient to file a formal application, these being filed in numerical order, and also recorded by counties. It has been earnest endeavor to distribute as accurately as possible the patronage

of the Institution to the various counties of the state, allotting so many beds to each county on the basis of the white population and admitting them in rotation. Only in this way can we give fair service to every county in the state. This is made especially necessary by the fact that in many instances strong pressure is brought to bear by people of influence to get members of their families into the Institution regardless of the welfare of others, and we are proud of the fact that by a faithful adherence to this policy we have been enabled to hold the confidence of the general citizenship of Mississippi. It is true some have criticised, but such criticism, in our opinion, usually comes from a purely selfish viewpoint.

DISCIPLINE

Where a large sum of money has been invested by the state for the reclamation of human lives, it is only good business to insist upon rigid discipline in carrying out the treatment in order to hasten the time when one patient can be discharged and another one admitted. To maintain this discipline, it is sometimes necessary to discharge patients for violations of the rules, but this is never done until every effort has been made to hold them within due bounds and to inspire them with a desire to do the right thing for themselves and for the state.

FEES

To prevent the Institution from being known as a charity institution, the Board has continued the policy of making a charge to every patient. Formerly this was limited to \$5.00 per week when an appropriation was made of \$10,000.00 to be used for poor people, and the Board of Trustees passed a resolution averaging the charge according to the individual's ability to pay, giving a schedule of rates in the application blank and giving the patient the right to say whether he was able to pay anything, and, if so, how much per week. A recent legis-

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lature also authorized Boards of Supervisors to appropriate for their local patients, and if a patient is without means he may be paid for by the Board of Supervisors of his county; and so far we have had only one or two boards in the entire state to refuse to help any worthy individual. There has been some criticism of his of his provision, but unless we have a local responsibility for the indigent poor they would be placed in the Sanatorium and forgotten by their communities, and we would soon have many of our beds filled by incurable indigent people who could not be discharged for the reason that no one would be responsible for them. In this way the object for which the Institution was erected would be destroyed. I have failed to see where a hardship has been worked on any one by the graded schedule of expense for treatment.

DONATIONS

We have received from time to time during the life of the Institution various donations for the happiness and cheer of the patients. Some of this has been in money for use during the Christmas holidays to make the stay pleasant for those who must spend this season away from their families, and among other things has been a radio outfit and a piano. Reference has been made in former biennial reports to the library sponsored and promoted by the Women's Federated Clubs of the State. The library has been one of the most valuable contributions made to the Institution at any time since its foundation. Within the past few years Tallahatchie, Hinds, and Forrest Counties have erected buildings and equipped them to take care of their own people. Jones County having done this during the early days of the Institution. The Masonic Fraternity of the state has erected a beautiful building for its members. All of these, of course, become state property but they give an increased bed capacity enabling us to take more patients and to handle the situation more rapidly. To all of our donors I wish

to express the sincere appreciation of the state, of the patients who enjoy the privileges thus made possible, and my personal appreciation as head of the Institution for all donations.

PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS INSTITUTION

The outstanding needs of the entire population of our state through the medium of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium is a home for incurables, a children's building, and additional buildings for negroes, as our capacity for colored patients is entirely too small.

HOME FOR INCURABLES

A home for incurables will enable us to remove the careless, and often ignorant, spreader of tuberculosis from a community that might not otherwise become infected.

CHILDREN'S BUILDING

A children's building will enable the children to be placed in a separate building where a matron could be in charge and the child life more closely supervised. Under present conditions the children must necessarily be placed in the buildings with the grown people where there happen to be beds for them.

This need is not to be confused with the Preventorium which has just been completed as the latter building will house children who do not have active tuberculosis, and the children with active disease should have a building as above outlined.

ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PREVENTORIUM

What is the Mississippi State Preventorium?

A state-owned institution to which underweight and near-sick children may be sent for a stay, usually of a few months, or until they are built up physically into strong, healthy, normal children.

What is implied by the name Preventorium?

A place of prevention meaning the preventing of disease.

Where is the Preventorium located?

On the grounds of the Mississippi State Tuberculosis Sanatorium. It is under the supervision of Dr. Henry Boswell, superintendent of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

When was the Preventorium opened?

On February 17, 1930.

Staff and service force:

There are six members of the Preventorium staff; Director, nurse, teacher, dietitian, playground director, and hostess.

The service force consists of three maids, an orderly, cook, dishwasher, pantry girl, and waiter.

Plan of the building:-----

The Preventorium is a brick structure with stone columns, built on the general plan of the southern ante-bellum home. The central part of the structure is two story with one story extension wings on each side. These wings form the two dormitories, baths, and the two play-rooms, at each end of the dormitories. Also in each wing is an office for staff member, and two bedrooms for children's use when necessary. The central structure consists of living room at entrance, director's office, and examining room and office of Preventorium physician. The examining room has a connecting toilet, as have also the two offices located in the wings. Above stairs are six bedrooms for staff members and three isolation ward bedrooms with ample bath, toilet, and closet facilities.

A hallway runs from dormitory to dormitory and from living room to an octagon-shaped room which occupies the center of the entire structure. This room is on a one-story plan, as are also the dining room, kitchen, and two school rooms which lie beyond. The center room is known as the "Circle". The hall continues on the other side of this room to the rear of the building. To the right of the hall is the dining room, a light and airy room in which are eight tabled seating

eight persons at each table. A turn in the hall to the left leads to the two schoolrooms and a wide porch beyond, running the length of the two rooms. The building is steam heated throughout. Light and heat are furnished by the Sanatorium power plant.

GROUNDS:

The building is situated on high ground. The beautiful lawn in front slopes to the graveled road that runs through the Sanatorium grounds. Handsome shrubs lend an added softened beauty to the building and many trees give pleasant shade and afford nesting place for the Preventorium's feathered friends, most of which come and go with the seasons. The pigeons more constant, abide through the winter and make a pretty sight against the red tile of the roof of the buildings.

To the rear is the spacious play ground for the children, equipped with slide, swings, seesaws, and sandboxes. It is the home of many interesting pets belonging to the children.

Near the Preventorium is the modern cement swimming pool, filled in the summer with clear water from the nearby springs that furnish all water that is used at the sanatorium.

What are the dormitories like?

The dormitories are open-air rooms. The sides are closed halfway up. The windows are cleverly constructed in such a manner that they may be lowered entirely into a space between the walls. The shuttered blinds likewise may be lowered, leaving air space the size of every window. There are twelve windows to a side. Windows are left open in winter and stormy weather but the children are protected by the shutters having adjustable slats arranged so as to permit air to enter while rain is kept out.

Down the centers of each dormitory is a row of steel lockers, and radiators encased in steel. Along the sides of the dormitory are the children's beds, twenty-five in number and in three selected sizes.

cribs, beds with half-rail protection, and others for the older children: All beds have rubber tired wheels that allow them to be moved about with minimum effort, a not inconsiderable point the reach of sudden blowing rain.

The nurse sleeps in the boys' dormitory, the playground director in the girls' dormitory.

Connected with the dormitories are splendidly equipped shower and tub baths. There are three commodes and five lavatories, two of which are dental lavatories. There is also a drinking fountain in each of the dormitory bathrooms, all made to scale suitable for the age of the Preventorium child.

What is the Pinning Room like?

The dining room is a large airy room containing eight tables seating eight persons each, and a center table with seats for four. On the center table, which ordinarily is not set for use, there is always a bowl of lovely flowers from the Preventorium flower gardens, or of seasonable wild flowers gathered in the woods and fields. A member of the staff presides at the head of one or more tables where children are seated. White linen cloths and napkins are used on the tables. Serviceable, good quality china and plated silverware are used. The children are taught good table manners by becoming accustomed daily to correct service of meals. They also learn the value of a balanced diet by being served a properly balanced diet daily. The children are required to drink milk at each meal. Milk is also served to them at mid-morning and mid-afternoon. The dining room windows are bright with flowers. The songs of canaries vie with the sound of the children's voices.

The Preventorium dining room is a very pleasant place at mealtime--an important point, since cheerful and pleasant surroundings have a direct bearing on the disposition of the child to eat.¹

¹The Magee Courier, Prosperity Edition. Friday, Oct. 16, 1936
The History was given to the Courier by Dr. Henry Boswell, Supt.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR MISSISSIPPI
SUSIE V. POWELL, STATE CONSULTANT
WILMA GLADNEY SENIOR TYPIST
SIMPSON COUNTY AREA # 13

"THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SANATORIUM"

REFERENCE:

- 1-The Magee Courier, Prosperity Edition. Friday, Oct. 16, 1936
The History of the Sanatorium was given to the Courier by Dr. Henry Boswell, Supt.

Wilma Gladney
Wilma Gladney, Senior Typist
Historic Research Project

August 17, 1937

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISS.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
SIMPSON COUNTY
CALLIE THAMES, CANVASSEER

COUNTY HISTORY
Assignment One

I. SOURCES OF MATERIAL:

1. Records in the county;—Court House, Sheriff's Office, Chancery Clerk, County Library, County Superintendent of Education, interviewing Pioneer Residents and others that are interested in the history of the county, and from the histories of Mississippi, by Danbar Roland, found in the Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.
2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists;—
 - (a) None.
 - (b) About four miles north of Mendenhall there is an Indian Mound, but we are unable to learn any historical fact concerning it.
 - (c) Strong River Park, Pinola.
Camp Mondamin, owned by the Vicksburg Y. M. C. A., and it is opened at all times during the summer to all girls and boys of Simpson County for Recreational Outings.
Community Park at Mendenhall for the smaller children.
 - (d) The cut-over lands of the Pinkbire Lumber Company, D'lo Mississippi, the Great Southern Lumber Company, Bogalusa, Louisiana and the

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Eastman Gardner Lumber Company, Laurel Mississippi, afford unusually good bird hunting. In the swamps of the Bouie River, Dabbs Creek and the two Indian creeks, Usapaho and Okatoma, and along the streams of Strong River and Camels Creek we find that the red fox and gray squirrel are plentiful and in the streams we find that fishing is unusually good.

- (e) Along the banks of the streams and along the country roads, the hills and the valleys, we find some of the most beautiful scenery in any part of the state.

In the spring of the year the woods are like a fairyland. Wild honeysuckle, dogwood, red buds, flowering maple, yellow jasmine, and white and purple violets make the woods a scene of rare beauty. The grounds of the State Tubercular Sanatorium make an outstanding scenery.

- (f) None.
- (g) The Old Gibson Home on highway 13-20, approximately five miles from Mendenhall, was built by Louis C. Gibson. The brick for the foundation were made in Mr. Gibson's brick kiln. He cut the cypress trees from his own land for the lumber and made the plaster for erecting the walls, he, also, hued the sills and sleepers. The mantles and fixtures were hand-carved. The house is surrounded by giant magnolia and cedar trees.

The Home of Mrs. Addie Thurman of Old Westville has hand-carved shingles on the cupelo. A small

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room on either side of the front porch gives this home a very quaint and unusual attractiveness. It is surrounded by stalwart cedar trees.

The Owen's Home near Harrisville, owing to its age makes it of interest.

The Middleton Home, Mendenhall, is of architectural interest due to the beauty of its grounds and the beautiful wisteria vine completely covering one side of the porch.

- (h) Dr. Henry Boswell, Sanatorium, who is considered the best authority of Tuberculosis in the United States.

We find in our county, Mrs. Elizabeth Crawford Smith, one hundred and one years of age. She was born September 2, 1834 and is the Grandmother of the present Chancery Clerk of Simpson County.

William Michael Lee, 97 years of age, was born December 14, 1839.

- (i) The beautiful scenery, the historical old homes and the Pioneer Citizens of the county and the present day citizens of the county with the youths from the other states who are members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, located at Mendenhall, all make a setting for a novel of great interest.

Supervisor of Historical Research

SIMPSON COUNTY, MISS.