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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

Claiborne County

Volume XI

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

Introduction

# Educator

Since Claiborne County is one of the oldest historic counties of Mississippi it is fitting that the descendants of her pioneers, and the citizens of today should have a true and accurate record of the achievement and progress of the people of this county. In this record we are able to read copies of valuable records, papers and documents which, otherwise, we would not have been privileged to see. We owe a great debt to the founders of our county; to these brave pioneers who dared the wilderness to pave the way for later generations. Those hardy ancestors of ours, who cleared forests, built homes, and brought their religions into the then unknown county, at the daily risk of death, have left us a great heritage. This history of Claiborne County, made possible by the Works Progress Administration, represents a true and successful attempt by the authors to satisfy the very real need and desire of the people of Claiborne County- a history of the county's development from the earliest beginning to the present time, based on the best sources of information.

Claiborne County was the third county created while Mississippi was a Territory. It was established, January 27, 1802, and named for William C.C. Claiborne, Mississippi's second territorial governor. It is a county full of culture and historical background. Some of the earliest settlers were soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War. In every war thereafter, some of the proud citizens of Claiborne County have participated and glorified their country by their high courage. During the War between the States the county seat, Port Gibson, was the scene of much fighting when Grant was forcing his way to Vicksburg. During these disturbing days, the people of Claiborne County

displayed, to the invaders, a calm front, and that spirit which they had inherited from their ancestors kept the Union soldiers from destroying much of the beauty of the town.

Claiborne County has produced many famous people; governors, lawyers, judges, statesmen, doctors, authors and artists. These men have implanted in their descendants a pride of race which has seldom been equalled. At first the pioneers settled along the streams of the county. ~~nty~~ and the Mississippi River. Here plantations were built and towns sprang up. Life along the Mississippi River front was busy, the river teeming with boats bringing manufactured goods in exchange for the planters cotton and corn, for those were the first big crops in Claiborne County. Cotton is still the largest crop, but it now shares its estate with truck farming products, fruits, lumber and livestock. The undulating land of the county is fertile and bears some of the finest timber found in the state of Mississippi. Game and fish are abundant among the the woods and streams of the county. Nor is Claiborne County lagging ~~be~~ behind her agriculture in her cultural pursuits. Her schools are ranked among the best and her churches are the finest. The people of the county engage side by side in their chosen professions, however different, and have a common pride in upholding the name of their county.

Claiborne County has developed, has matured along with the people in it. It has thriven and prospered through war and peace, through prosperity and adversity. Since history is a study of the deeds, thoughts and emotions of mankind, the history Claiborne County is a study of the people who made its history. And thus it is a pleasure for the descendants of these people to be able to read and study the events of the past which have had a direct bearing upon the present. An understanding of the struggles of these early citizens, and the means by which their successes were attained will better equip our youth to be good citizens.

The story of Claiborne County is but a small fraction of the long ~~life~~ of Human history, but it is of immense importance to the people of this county, and we are grateful to those who have made it possible for us to be able to read these pages. The facts will be a source not only of pleasure, but of great profit to the readers and students of this history. Any one who wishes to understand the world in which he lives, will do well to acquaint himself with the interests of the pioneers and the knowledge of the ways of thought and action which have constituted our civilization. It is when we look beneath the habits and institutions of our county to discover their origin and purpose, that we begin to have real understanding of our civilization.

An understanding of the past and present history of Claiborne County ~~city~~ which is embodied in this book will better prepare the citizens of today to face the problems and difficulties of the future. Much laborious research has gone into the making of the History of Claiborne County ~~city~~ by those who are greatly intrested in the county's welfare. I predict that it will have a widespread influence, not only among the people of Claiborne County, but among those people of the south who appreciate an interesting, faithful account of a cultured and historical county.

2nd copy Compilation (Copy)

## Chapter One

## FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### Obtained

Claiborne County, is located in the southwestern part of the state, along the Mississippi River, in the Bluff Hill region. It is one of the oldest ~~counties~~ in Mississippi, having been organized January 27, 1802, fifteen years prior to the adoption of the first constitution.(1)

### Name

It was named for, the governor of Mississippi Territory at that time, ~~William C. C. Claiborne~~. The second Legislative Session of 1801-1802, ~~on January 11, 1802~~, changed the name of the Pickering County of 1799 to Jefferson County, January 11, 1802. On the 27th of the same month, Jefferson was divided, and the northern section became Claiborne. This was by act of the second session of the Territorial Legislature. (2)

### Shape ~~and~~ Size, Boundaries

The county is in shape an irregular right angled triangle with original boundaries as follows: "Beginning on the river Mississippi, at the mouth of Petty Gulph Creek; thence running up the main branch of said creek four (4) miles, or to its source, should that not exceed four miles; thence by a line drawn due east to the eastern territorial line, and all that tract of country north of the above mentioned creek, an east line south of the northern boundary of said territory, and east of the Mississippi." (3)

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1. Rowland, Dunbar--History of Mississippi (Heart of the South), V.1, p.381
2. Goodspeed--Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Miss., V.1, p.178
3.

## Shape and Size (~~continued~~)

The present boundaries ~~of this county~~ are the same as the original except for a change in the dividing line between Claiborne and Jefferson made by the Act of June 29, 1822, as follows: "Beginning on the bank of the Mississippi River, at the lower end of the Petit Gulf Hills, running thence a direct course to the most northern part of the tract of land known by the name of Robert Trimble's, on Tabor's Creek of Bayou Pierre, continuing the same course until it shall intersect the South Fork of Bayou Pierre, at Elijah L. Clarke's wagon ford on said creek, thence up said creek to the township line between townships 9 and 10, thence pursuing said line east to the old Choctaw boundary line."(1)

## County Seat

The original county seat was Gibson's Landing, located on the south fork of Bayou Pierre, in the southwestern part of the county. This name has varied, being shown on early maps as "Gibson's Port" ~~in 1815,~~ and "Ft. Gibson" ~~included~~.(3) The present county seat, Port Gibson, on the same site as Gibson's Land, received its name in 1803 by act of the Territorial Legislature.(2) The founder of the town, and the donor of the land upon which it was built, was Samuel Gibson. It was one of the principal landings on Bayou Pierre, from whence cotton of the adjacent country was shipped to New Orleans.(2)

An extract from "Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi" follows:

"Early in 1802, the Governor appointed the first officials

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(1) Dunbar Rowland, ~~Dunbar--History of~~ Mississippi (Heart of the South), Vol. 2, p. 702
~~Mississippi Official and Statistical Register (1908), pp. 228, 229~~
(3) Port Gibson Reveille of Aug. 10, 1926
(2) ~~Unnamed--~~Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. 2, p. 213 ~~Vol. 1, p. 179~~
(2) Biographical & Historical Memoirs Mississippi - Vol II, P. 213
(3) Port Gibson Reveille Aug. 19, 1926

for the new County of Claiborne as follows: Justices of Peace: William Downs, Daniel Burnet, James Harmon, G.W. Humphreys, Ebenezer Smith and James Stansfield; Sheriff, Samuel Cobun; Clerk of the County Court, Matthow Conway Tierney; Coroner, Samuel Gibson; Militia Officers: Daniel Burnet, Lt. Colonel, and William Neely, Major. On July 19, 1802, the foregoing Justices organized and presided over a County Court, the first court of any kind ever held in Claiborne. It is not known exactly where it was held, as no location had been chosen for the County Seat, and the future town of Port Gibson was merely a river landing in the forest, where a private ferry was kept, and with perhaps a store near the landing, that of Robert and George Cochran. (Mr. Gibson's residence was then in the upper part of the present town, about three quarters of a mile from the bayou.)"

"The first panel of jurors for the July term of court 1802 ~~of the County~~ were: William Smith, William Lindsey, Waterman Crane, Francis Nailor, Simeon Holliday, Abram Wilkinson, Thomas White, Andrew Mundall, Richard Singleton, George W. Humphreys, William Neely, Tobias Brashears, Joseph White, John Anderson, Theodore Fortner." (1)

From the earliest recorded minutes of the county court at Port Gibson, the following description of a proposed court house is taken: (2)

"The house to be built of round logs thirty feet in length and twenty-four ~~logs~~ feet in breadth, with a plank floor having two doors and four windows, and to be covered with clapboards, to be fastened on with pegs; the house to be hewed inside and out, the walls to be nine feet high. A jury room likewise to be built at the end of the house twelve feet by twenty-four the width of the house. The

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~~3. County Court Minutes~~

(1) Biographical & Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol I, P. 177.

(2) County Court Minutes July 19, 1802

County Seat (continued)

house to be built sufficiently strong so as to bear the inspection of the approving commissioners.

"Let it be observed that the time allowed for building the goal is prolonged to the July term of 1803, and the court house the December following; and in case the commissioners are not enabled from the collected public tax to pay the undertakers for said public building when finished, they are to be alowed the sum of twenty dollars per month, or in that proportion for any sum that may be paid to them by the said approving commissioners."

And from the same Minute Book is quoted the following description of a jail for Claiborne County "as agreed on by the commissioners of said county on the 4th day of November, 1802":

"To be eighteen feet square, two stories high, the first story to be built out of timber one foot square, to be double in the floor and walls, and seven feet in the heighth in the inside and floored with timbers one foot square, with one door with double shutters, four inches thick each, and two windows well grated with one inch iron bars, with good approved locks on each door; the upper story to be eight feet high in the clear; to be floored with three inch plank, on a loft with one foot square timber; having one door and two windows with iron grates, and to be well roofed with joint shingles."

"N.B. The windows in the lower story to be one foot long and six inches wide, in the upper or debtors room the windows to be twenty inches long and eight inches wide."

"It is to observed that the goal is to be built on a stone or brick foundation, the thickness of a brick at least." (1)

Above is exact copy from minute book (1802) 4

(1) County minute book July 1802

Early Settlements and Settlers

~~"The first white settlements in Claiborne County were made earlier than is generally thought. At the time of the Indian uprising against the French colony at Natchez in 1729, there were one or two plantations on Bayou Pierre. These plantations, we must understand, do not compare with what is now termed plantations, but were merely huts in the wilderness inhabited by the Catholic missionaries."~~ (1)

In ~~the year~~ 1788, Samuel Gibson obtained a grant of 850 arpents of land on the waters of Bayou Pierre from the Spanish government, embracing the present location of PORT GIBSON. Almost immediately, he moved his family here and settled, ~~down in the wilderness,~~ the second man to penetrate this far, having been preceded one year by Jacob Cobun, who had obtained a grant of ~~800~~ eight hundred acres three or four miles to the southeast. (1)

All about the broad plateau was the virgin forest beneath whose trees were dense jungles of canebrakes. Gibson's last surviving child, Mrs. Ann Minor, who died in Port Gibson in 1863 at the age of seventy-four, used to tell of "bears, wolves, and panthers coming within a few feet of the house." (2)

Mr. Gibson's first house was a rude log structure. He brought slaves -some native Africans- with him to his Bayou Pierre home, ~~some being native Africans.~~ He prospered and grew rich as a large planter and slaveholder, with great herds of cattle, sheep and swine. Life was simple, and everything except coffee and sugar was raised at home—tobacco, indigo, rice, potatoes, wheat, and buckwheat, the last for bees, of which Mrs. Gibson had many hives. There was a large orchard of peaches, figs, pears, apples, chestnuts, and melons. Besides the wild flesh from the forest, the flocks furnished milk, butter, and fresh meats. There was

(1) Rev. H.G. Hawkins, ~~Rev. H.G.~~ -"History of Port Gibson, Miss." (Pamphlet) Reprint
(2) Ibid. from Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society-Vol.X

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a grist mill for grinding wheat, and some years later a cotton ~~gin added~~, one of the earliest in the country, was added (1)

Mrs. Gibson "made honey and lard, and cured hams and bacon, and all the plantation, white and black, wore cloth of home-made cotton and wool, spun and woven under her supervision." ~~This industri-~~ She even ~~one~~ woman prepared ~~even~~ the starch that was used on ~~us-ton~~ the place, the field adjoining the present Port Gibson cemetery being ~~devoted to the~~ used for growing of a kind of flinty corn for that purpose.

Mr. Gibson was evidently ~~must have been~~ a man of some literary taste, as he had a library of ~~one hundred and sixty~~ 160 volumes, including standard works of history, philosophy, travel and poetry. ~~and~~ His house was a stopping place for the early preachers, who sometimes held services there.(1)

~~Mr. Gibson~~ He died December 19, 1817, at his home in Port Gibson and is now buried in the northwest corner of the Protestant cemetery beside his wife, Rebecca, who died in 1821. His grave is marked by a sandstone tablet twenty inches wide and thirty-six inches high considerably discolored, but on which the following inscription can easily be read:

"Memory of Samuel Gibson
First Settler
Of this place
Forty-five years a resident
Of this State
Who departed this life
December 19, 1817."

6

(1) Rev. H. G. Hawkins, ~~Rev. H. G.~~ --"History of Port Gibson, Mississippi", pamphlet reprinted from Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, V, IX

By Act of Congress, Port Gibson was "made a port of entry prior to its incorporation, and customs were collected early in the history of what was then the Mississippi Territory. In those days Bayou Pierre was the only means of connection with the Mississippi River, and numbers of water craft of every kind lined the shore next to this thriving town."(1)

In 1803, the name of the town was changed by the territorial legislature to Port Gibson,(2) and in 1811, ~~the town~~ was incorporated, including twelve squares extending from what is now known as H. Frishman's corner to the bayou on either side of Main Street.(3) By 1829 the village ~~claimed~~ had 592 inhabitants and had ~~one~~ a hundred dwellings and store houses, including an academy, a bank, and a printing office.(4)

Port Gibson was the second town in the state to have a newspaper; "The Correspondent" which began publication in 1818.(5) In 1826 Clinton Academy & College (See Chap. 13 - Education) ~~for~~ for women was established, which had a long and useful history, and as time went on numerous other educational institutions arose and thrived.(6)

In 1833 local capitalists organized the Port Gibson and Grand Gulf Banking and Railroad Company, (See Chap. 16 - Transportation) the earnings of which exceeded all expectations. Soon this little city outgrew the older river city of Grand Gulf.

WPA, Dance #1

1. Martin, ~~John McC.~~--Pamphlet "Port Gibson and Claiborne County", p.11
2. ~~Goodspeed~~-"Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi" Vol.2, p.213
3. "Port Gibson Reveille", Aug. 19, 1926
4. Ibid " " " "
5. Ibid " " " "
6. Ibid " " " "

John McC.

Dust ditto.

When the population was 1200

In 1839, the entire business section of the town was totally destroyed by fire including the court house. ~~At this time the population was twelve hundred.~~

By 1858 the local newspaper, "The Southern Reveille" had become a daily paper. The town boasted a number of educational institutions. (See Chap. 13 - Education) Local merchants were receiving goods directly from Liverpool and Germany.

On May 1, 1863, was fought the Battle of Port Gibson, scars of which are still plainly visible, but recovery came with time, and the latter years of the nineteenth century found the community surpassing its most prosperous period of former times.(1)

## Early Settlers and Settlemants

Claiborne's Mississippi says that there were one or two settlements in the present county of Claiborne on the Bayou Pierre at the time of the Indians uprising against the French. But these were small and they perished in the massacre of 1729. It was then thirty-five or forty years until other settlers came.

On February 2, 1775, a tract of 20,000 acres on Bayou Pierre and Big Black, extendingwithin a short distance of where Port Gibson now stands, was granted to Cap tain Thaddeus Lyman of Conneticut in return for the eminent services of his father in Canada and the West Indies. This is one of the ~~s*****~~ only two grants in Mississippi direct

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, Port Gibson, Miss. August 19, 1926



er" published as early as 1834. In the early days it was a rival of Port Gibson and came very nearly being chosen as the county site.(2) The Port Gibson and Grand Gulf Railroad was of immense importance in the early history of both these town. The shops for the road were located in Port Gibson, where rapair work was done by hand. The town was almost destroyed three times, twice by fire and once by flood, the first fire being in 1851 and the second during the War Between the States (See Chap. 7 - Wars) when the town was burned by General Grant.(3) Because of the river's changing course, the town is now practically abandoned.

The following interview with a resident of Grand Gulf throws interesting light on this early settlement:

"My great uncle, Joseph Callendar, settled in Grand Gulf as early as 1805, the family coming down from Virginia in flat boats. In 1832, Uncle Joseph built a bank there. When money was needed, it was the custom to go into the back of the bank and grind it out on a machine, putting all denominations on the same sheet, and later clipping them out with scissors. You could trust a man in those days; no security was required of a borrower; his word was his bond. No money issued by the bank was good unless signed by the cashier.

"Martha Coleman, a niece of my great-grandfather, A.C. Callendar, was captured during those early days at Grand Gulf by the Indians. She lived with them for three years, doing much to create understanding and good will between the red and white races. Later, she

1. "Port Gibson Reveille", Aug. 19, 1926
2. Drake, ~~H. W. Mr, local banker in interview~~. Port Gibson, Miss
3. Callender, ~~C.~~ Port Gibson, Miss
4. Callendar, ~~A. C.~~ Port Gibson, Miss

2) H.W.D.
3) A.C.
H.C.

was recaptured by the whites at Muscle Shoals.

"There are many well authenticated stories of hidden treasure in the vicinity, and there has been much searching, but no treasure has ever been found.

"It's an interesting fact that the first Mason in the state is buried in the Grand Gulf cemetery." (1)

GRINDSTONE FORD, now extinct, was located in the north central part of the county on Bayou Pierre on the old Natchez Trace. An early traveler on crossing the bayou at this point spoke of his joy at hearing the heels of his horse "ringing on the broad rocky pavement when ascending the bank of this stream from the water" after passing more than two years in the stoneless soil of this region. (2) From this rock millstones were made. Hence the name of the settlement and the ford. (3)

This is the earliest date found

As early as 1786, Mrs. Ralph Humphreys and her two sons, Ralph and George Wilson Humphreys, landed at this famous ford, where they were soon afterwards joined by her husband, Colonel Ralph Humphreys of Revolutionary War fame. (4) The Humphreys family history is closely connected with Grindstone Ford. The home of Daniel Burnet, who married the widow of Ralph Humphreys, became the post office at this point on this early post road in 1815. As early as 1802, there was a detachment of United States troops here. Governor Claiborne wrote to Lieutenant S. Rennick, who was in command of troops at this

(1) ~~J.C. Gallucci, Port Gibson Miss~~ "A Yankee"--"The Southwest", p. 166

(2) ~~Mrs. S. P. Sawyer, writer of this county, in an interview.~~ Goodspeed, "Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Miss.", p.980 V. I. Natchez Miss

(3) map ref. (E).

(See Chap. 9 - Outlaw Days)

point to scour the country for Mason and his band of robbers.(1)

At this famous landing, there was a preaching station established as early as 1800, one of nine such stations set up by missionaries on their first mission through this territory.(2)

"Grindstons Lane, one mile in length on the Natchez Trace, was a great rendezvous for horse racing, the Indian Ball game, and La Crosse. Here Jackson frequently witnessed these sports--his love for horse-racing clung to him throughout his life. At Grindstone Lane, Col. A. S. Colthrop from Kentucky ran his thoroughbred horse against General Jackson's,betting four slaves as well as money to determine the winner. Colthrop lost horse, money, and slaves to General Jackson."(3)

Mabun Cooper settled at ROCKY SPRINGS on the Natchez Trace in 1796, and is found in the census of 1817 entered as the head of a family and a land owner.(4) In 1829 the Rocky Springs election precinct received ninety-four votes. The keeper of the tavern here was Isaac Powers, who served also as postmaster. The great mails from the north and south met at this old established tavern eighteen miles north of Port Gibson three times a week. There were a store run by Dr. Garrett Keirn, and as early as 1837 there were quite a few residences, several stores, and a Methodist church which is still standing.(5) (See Chap 12 - Religion)

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1. Rowland, Dunbar, "History of Mississippi" Heart of the South, p.383
2. "Port Gibson Reveille", Aug. 19, 1926
3. Stanton, Elizabeth Brandon "Sidelights on the History of the Natchez Trace", p.23
4. Davis, Mr., local attorney and antiquarian in interview Port Gibson, Miss.
5. "Port Gibson Correspondent", Aug. 15, 1829

BRUINSBURG was settled in 1788 by Peter Bruin, who held office under Spanish rule as a Territorial Judge.(1) Here the flag of the United States was first unfurled on Mississippi soil.(2) This historic village was located in the southwest part of the county on the Mississippi River near the mouth of Bayou Pierre. It was a shipping place of considerable importance in early times, and has been made historic as being the point where General Grant landed the United States forces in May, 1863, (See Chap. 7 - Miss) preparatory to the battle of Port Gibson and the siege of Vicksburg;(3) and also as the location by General Andrew Jackson of a small store, or trading establishment, where he received the negroes purchased by his partner at Nashville, and sold them to the planters of the neighborhood.(4)

When Aaron Burr came down the river, he landed and paid a visit to Judge Bruin, who had known him during the Revolutionary War. Later Burr was captured on the Louisiana side of the river just across from Bruinsburg."(5)

This port was superseded by Vicksburg and Natchez and was gradually abandoned as a shipping point even by the neighboring planters. All that remains of this once important settlement is a cotton field, representing the old-time crops of the broad acres of Bruin's plantation.

Cannot get exact date

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1. Lowry and McCardle, "History of Mississippi", pp.147-148
2 & 3. Davis, ~~B. H.~~, ~~Attorney and antiquarian~~ Port Gibson, Miss
Lowry and McCardle, "History of Mississippi", pp. ~~148~~ 147-148
~~4. Rowland, Dunbar, "History of Mississippi" (Heart of the South)~~
4. Lowry and McCardle, "History of Mississippi", ~~p.148~~ p.142
5. Lowry and McCardle, History of Mississippi p-148

BUCKLAND, settled by the Buck family, was situated in the southwestern part of the county. The plan of the town, on a record made in 1827, shows it lying on the Mississippi River. It was only partly built, due to the regular overflow of the river, and by 1836 it had practically disappeared, only two or three houses being left to mark its former site.(1)

There was a church of importance at Brandywine

The village of BRANDYWINE was situated about twenty miles southeast of Port Gibson in a"fine, open, pine country, abounding in fish and game."(2) Health giving springs lead to the erection of a hotel to accomodate thirty-two guests, and the place became a very popular health resort.(3) General Nichols, the proprietor of the hotel advertised as follows: "The buildings are new, large, and commodious. There is good stabling, careful and experienced ostlers. Table will be furnished, and the bar is supplied with every variety of the best liquors. Accomodation carriages can always be had at Port Gibson, and those living in the vicinity of the Mississippi River may procure stages at Grand Gulf for Brandywine Springs."(4)

From 1830 to 1838, this place ~~contained~~ had five business houses and saloons in addition to the hotel, and is referred to as "a thriving town". But the popularity of the springs as a health resort began to wane early in the 1840s, and this sealed the fate of the village.(5) Now there is only a neighborhood settlement.

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~~1. F. Riley, F. L., "Extinct Towns and Villages of Mississippi", p.330~~
2. Port Gibson Correspondent, May 2, 1832
~~3. Riley, F. L., "Extinct Towns and Villages of Mississippi", p.330~~
4. Port Gibson Correspondent, Sept 8, 1832.

(1) Franklin L. Riley, Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society Vol I P.P. 329, 330
(3) (5) Ibid

PATTONA was named for the Patton family who came here from Georgia soon after the Revolutionary War, settling in the eastern part of the county. This community center had a post office in 1857, and the Pattona, or Pisgah box polled about one hundred votes. The nieghborhood was one of the most thickly settled in the county at that time.(1)

One of the earliest Masonic lodges in the state was located at ~~Pattona~~ Lee, but after the founding of the town of Hermanville, the lodge, post office, and ~~the~~ polls were moved from Pattona to this place.

There lies buried in the cemetery where old Pisgah church once stood one of the few Revolutionary soldiers who are buried in Claiborne County. This soldier, Philip Thurman, was born Nov. 17, 1757, and died Sept. 4, 1830. The inscription on his tomb reads:

"Young people, all as you pass by;
Young and active, so once was I;
And ever true to my country's fame.
I pray that you may be the same."

His wife, Johannah, was born Dec. 25, 1765 and died Jan.11, 1844. These were the parents of Malinda Mira Thurman, wife of Francis Patton, all of whom migrated to this country from Georgia. They were accompanied by two brothers of Francis Patton, James Patton and Robert Patton. Francis Patton and Malinda Mira are the parents of William Patton, who is the grandfather of Senator Byron Patton Harrison.(2)

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1. "Port Gibson Reveille", May 9, 1857
2. Trim, ~~Mrs. Myra, a direct descendent of the Patton family-an inter-~~ view Hermanville Miss

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RUSSUM was built on a tract of land granted by Spain to Major Samuel Gibson, This is not the same Samuel Gibson who founded Port Gibson. In the early nineteenth century. There is a record of a deed in the vault in the Chancery Clerk's office in the court house in which William H. Russum and Sally A. Davenport sold the land around Russum to R.T. Wilson of New York, a representative of the Louisville, New Orleans, and Tennessee Railroad, for the sum of $1 in hand and the benefits to be derived from his laying out a town on their land.

In 1882, the railroad had come through this district and the people wished to have a town there, and on January 18, 1885, the land was sold for the establishment and maintenance of a station and the laying out of a town thereon. The town was surveyed and laid off on the L. N. O. & T. Railroad. At one time it contained five stores, but was never incorporated.(1)

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1. Deed Book Y/Y ~~page 188~~ aug 30, 1884 - Feb 14, 1886 - Page 188

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The following is a partial list of the early settlers of the county: Peter B. Bruin, Abs. Green, Robert Cochran, Waterman Crane, Samuel Cobun, Samuel Gibson, Tobias Brashear, Daniel Burnet, S. Holliday, Robert Moore, John McCaleb, Elias Barnes, Anthony Gloss, William Neely, Joseph White, James McCaleb, James Nailor, John Anderton, Thomas White, Peter A. Van Dorn, Thomas Freeland, John B. Cobun, Samuel K. Montgomery, Isaac Powers, Ignatius Flowers, E. W. Haring and Cornelius Haring, G. W. Humphreys, Thomas Barnes, Joshua G. Clark, William Sillers, John Patton, James Davenport, John L. Torry, Benjamin Hughes.

The early history of Claiborne County would be incomplete without the colorful story of Blennerhassett's connection with it. Mr. Austin C. Wharton has probably written the fullest account of this and it follows in part:

"While occupying the home that he had established on an island in the Ohio River, Blennerhassett became interested in the schemes of Aaron Burr--whatever they may have been--and in January, 1807, followed him down the Mississippi. It was possibly in 1808 that he settled in Claiborne County, about six miles from Port Gibson, on a thousand acre tract of dense woodland belonging to Drury W. Breazeale, a prominent lawyer and planter. Pleased with its fertility and wild beauty, in February, 1810, he purchased the tract for $4000, calling it La Cache, in token of his purpose to lead a life of seclusion. There this polished man of the world and his delicately reared reared wife spent the next eleven years, their only neighbors a few pioneers scattered in the wilderness around. Two children were born to them at La Cache, a daughter who died in infancy and, in 1812 a son, Joseph Lewis, their youngest child, and the last surviving member of the family.

"Blennerhassett seems quickly to have identified himself with the people of the county. In 1809 his name appears in the public records as a commissioner appointed to mark out a road to the Jefferson County line; and in September, 1813, during the great Indian panic, caused by the massacre at Fort Mims, he was one of the men selected by the citizens to sperintend the erection of stockade forts for refuge from the expected invaders. Doubtless his wealth helped to make him prominent, for he had retained an English prope ty that yielded $6600 per annum, a great income in that primitive community.

"One of his neighbors was the lawyer Breaseale, from whom he had purchased La Cache plantation. The families were intimate but on one occasion a difficulty arose between the two men that came near costing Blennerhassett his life. Riding over to Breaseale's one morning to discuss some matter of business, he had an interview with the latter which ended in high words. Breazeale, a man of impetuous spirit, was so incensed by a remark made by Blennerhassett that he seized an axe lying near them in the yerd and advanced with the weapon uplifted. Fortunately, his arm was stayed by his daughter, Sarah, who clung to him and impeded his movement until his passion had time to cool. This daughter, afterward Mrs. Joseph Callerdor, died in New Orleans about the year 1875, and it is on her authority that this incident is here related. She described Mrs. Blennorhassett, whom she knew well,

1. Port Gibson Reveille, Aug. 19, 1926

as an attractive woman, of superior culture and intelligence.

"In 1813-14 Blennerhassett's affairs went badly. Debts accumulated; sixteen suits against him were pending in the county court at one time, and losing heart, he advertised an auction sale of his household effects with the purpose of leaving Mississippi. Soon, however, his considerable income freed him from these difficulties, and he decided to remain and build a handsome residence on his plantation.

"But while preparing for this work, he got into a feud with a neighbor, one John Hays, which upset all his plans, and eventually decided him to sell out and leave. This affair shows him in a very bad light. A dispute about the trespassing of some hogs belonging to Hays led to an exchange of threats; and one evening, after dark, in February, 1818, Blennerhassett and his son Dominick went to Hays' dwelling on an adjoining plantation, called him to the gate and beat him to insensibility.

"The following month the Blennerhassetts were arraigned before the county court on a charge of assault with intent to murder. Public opinion being strongly against them in Claiborne, they procured a change of venue to Jefferson. This affair rendered Blennerhassett so unpopular that life in Claiborne County became unpleasant for him. Accordingly, in December, 1818, he sold La Cache plantation, together with eighteen slaves, for $25,000 and soon afterwards removed to New York and thence to Montreal. Failing to establish a law practice in Canada, he returned to England in 1822 and there made his home with a maiden sister. Finally, broken in health and spirits, he died in 1831, while on a visit to the Island of Guernsey." (1)

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, Port Gibson Miss, Aug 19, 1926



Peter Brian Bruin, (the name probably was O'Brien) was a lieutenant in Morgan's company of riflemen during the Revolutionary War, and was soon promoted to the rank of Major. After the war he came to Natchez and settled on his plantation, Bruinsburg, near the mouth of Bayou Pierre. This place has a historic celebrity as being the point where General Grant crossed the Mississippi and began his march to Vicksburg. Judge Bruin spent his entire life on his plantation. Although his name is extinct, he left decendants of the well known names of Briscoe, Watson and Scott.

He was appointed an Alcade under the Spanish government, and when Mississippi Territory was organized became one of the three judges. He was a man of high moral character, a devoted patriot and greatly esteemed.(I)

Colonel and Mrs. Ralph Humphreys were natives of South Carolina. He served in the Revolutionary War and went to Michigan with his regiment after the war, Leaving Mrs. Humphreys in South Carolina. She sold their plantation there, took her negroes and emigrated to east Tennessee, sailing down the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi rivers landing at the famous Grindstone Ford landing of the north fork of the Bayou Pierre ~~rivers~~. The country was under the Spanish governor, Gayoso at that time, and from him, Mrs. Humphreys secured a large tract of land. Soon after her husband obtained a furlough, and the long and toilsome journey to be with his family for a short time was made on horseback, during which time, he no doubt, suffered many privations and hardships. A few months

(I) Lowry and McCardle, History of Mississippi-p.147

after reaching his family he sickened and died, being burried at Grindstone Ford. His widow, who was much younger than himself was rich and beautiful, was left with one son, George Wilson. She afterwards married Colonel Daniel Burnett, a Spanish officer, and one of the most distinguished men of the territory at that time. He was a member of the territorial legislature until he died, and was strongly talked of for governor. He was a man of ability and took an active part in political matters, holding all offices from magistrate to president of the senate, being widely known throughout the entire state. He and his wife lived to a ripe old age, she surviving him several years, and now sleeps by his side in a cemetery at Grindstone Ford.(I)

(I) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi-Vol.I-pp.979-980



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State-Wide Historical Research Project — Canvassers; Miss Mary Naasson, Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

August 21, 1936 — County History

Supplement to Assignment Two.

5

I. FORMATION OF COUNTY

5. County Seats

(a) Original

"Early in 1802, the governor appointed the first officials for the new county of Claiborne as follows: Justices of the peace, William Downs, Daniel Burnet, James Harmon, G. W. Humphreys, Ebenezer Smith and James Stansfield: sheriff, Samuel Cobun; clerk of the county court, Matthew Conway Tierney; coroner, Samuel Gibson; militia officers, Daniel Burnet, lieutenant-colonel and William Neely, major. On July 19, 1802, the foregoing justices organized and presided over a county court, the first court of any kind ever held in Claiborne. It is not known exactly where it was held, as no location had yet been chosen for the county seat, and the future town of Port Gibson was merely a river landing in the forest where a private ferry was kept, and with perhaps a store near the landing, that of Robert and George Cochran. (Mr. Gibson's residence was then in the upper part of the present town, about three-quarters fo a mile from the bayou).

Five attorneys were admitted to practice at this first session of the county court: Drury W. Brazeale, Stephen Bullock, Edwin L. Harris, Theodore Stark, and T. E. Trask. During the session of court William Smith presented a deed containing three hundred acres of land, the first record of deed ever made in the county.

The first panel of jurors of the county were as follows; to wit: William Smith, William Lindsey, Waterman Crane, Francis Nailor, Simeon Holliday,

Supplement to Assignment Two.

I. FORMATION OF COUNTY

5. County Seats----------(continued)

(a) Original----------(continued)

Abram Wilkinson, Thomas White, Andrew Mundall, Richard Singleton, George W. Humphreys, William Neely, Tobias Brosheers, Joseph White, John Anderton, Theodore Fortner."(1)

6. Early Settlements

"It may be well to mention that the first white settlements in Claiborne county were made earlier than is generally thought. At the time of the Indian uprising against the French colony at Natchez, in 1729, there were one to two plantations on Bayou Pierre. These plantations, we must understand, do not compare with what is now termed plantations, but were merely huts in the wilderness, inhabited by the Catholic missionaries."(2)

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

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1. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I. Page 179.
2. " " " " " " " " Page 178.

I. FORMATION OF COUNTY:

6. Early Settlements

Pattona

A large tract of land in the eastern part of Claiborne County was surveyed by the Patton family who came here from Georgia soon after the Revolutionary War. The neighborhood in which these Pattons settled soon became known as "Pattona". This community center had a post office in 1857. The post office was hardly located before it was changed to another place.(1)

"The Pattona or Pisgah box polls about 100 votes and the neighborhood is one of the most densely populated in the county. Perhaps a more reading or commercial set of planting people are not to be found in the South than encircle the Pattona Post Office."(1)

One of the earliest Masonic Lodges in the state was located at Pattona. After the founding of the town of Hermanville the Masonic Lodge and the post office, also the polls, were moved from Pattona to Hermanville.

Continued on next page

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1. Port Gibson Reveille, May 9, 1857.

Supplement to Assignment Two on

Early Settlements

I. FORMATION OF COUNTY----------(continued)

6. Early Settlements----------(continued)

----------(continued)

Pattons----------

There lies buried in the cemetery where old Pisgah church once stood, one of the few Revolutionary soldiers who are buried in Claiborne County. This soldier, Philip Thurman, was born Nov. 17, 1757, and died Sept. 4th, 1830. The inscription on his tomb is

"Young people, all as you pass by;
Young and active, So once was I;
And ever true to my country's fame
I pray that you may be the same."

His wife, Johannah, was borneDec. 85, 1765 and died Jan. 11, 1844.

They were the parents of Malinda Mira Thurman, wife of Francis Patton, all of whom migrated to this country from Georgia. They were accompanied by two brothers of Francis Patton, James Patton and Robert Patton. Francis Patton and Malinda Mira are the parents of William Patton, who is the grandfather of Senator Byron Patton Harrison.

William Patton is also buried in this cemetery. (1)

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1. From an interview with Mrs. Myra Trim.

Supplement to Assignment Two on

Early Settlements

I. FORMATION OF COUNTY----------(continued)

6. Early Settlements----------(continued)

Russum

Russum was built on a tract of land granted by Spain to Major Samuel Gibson(This is not the same Samuel Gibson who founded Port Gibson.) in the early nineteenth century. There is a record of a deed in the vault in the Chancery Clerk's office in the Court House in which William H. Russum and Sally A. Davenport sold the land around Russum to R. T. Wilson of New York, a representative of the Louisville, New Orleans and Tennessee Rail Road, for the sum of $1 on hand and the benefits to be derived from his laying out a town on their land. In 1882 the rail road had come through this district and the people wished to have a town there. So, on January 12, 1885, the land was sold for the establishment and maintenance of a station and the laying out of a town thereon. The town was surveyed and laid off on the L.N.O.& T. Rail Road. At one time it contained 5 stores but was never incorporated as a town.(1)

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1. Above information gathered from Mr. Lecky Davis and Deed Book YY, Page 188.

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

~ Supplement to Assignment Two on Early Settlements

Canvassers;

Miss Mary Naasson

Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. FORMATION OF COUNTY

6. Early Settlements.

Grand Gulf.

"Mr. Editor:- Few towns in this section of the country have progressed more rapidly since the war than Grand Gulf. Her tendency has been onward and upward, and we predict she will so continue until she attains, at last, her whilom greatness. Twenty years ago Grand Gulf numbered in population nearly two thousand people- within her precincts several fine stores, one bank, a daily newspaper, with other evidences of prosperity were to be found. Then it was that Pearson & Humo, J. W. Champlin, and other like thorough-going characters were among her citizens. "Time works many changes", and I know of no place that can be better cited to verify the statement, than Grand Gulf. She has certainly passed through a fiery ordeal, being subjected for near two years to the wrath of a powerful and vindictive foe. Bombardment after bombardment, in connection with depradations too numerous to mention, were the visitations sent upon her. ut why pause and deliberate on so great a lamentation.

The hour is over-the fleet is gone, and Grand Gulf, to-day, bids fair to become one of the chief emporiums on the river. Already three commission houses have gone up viz: "Broughton & Dearie, D.V. McAlpine & Co. Jno. Taylor Moore & Co. each of which has prospered, having done a large business. Besides these institutions, we have the house of Messrs. Johnson & McGilvery, quite an extensive establishment, and also in the com-

Supplement to Assignment Two on Early Settlements

I. FORMATION OF COUNTY----------(continued)

6. Early Settlements----------(continued)

Grand Gulf----------(continued)

mission business.

Here, too, we have a livery stable, under the management of John R. McAlpine, which has beenand is doing a fine business. Among the saloons none is more conspicuous than Hawkins & Barrott. They keep the best of liquors and always, are glad to see any of the Port Gibsonites, especially those who are capable of enjoying a good drink, either in a toddy or otherwise. Messrs. Hall & Buckley also keep the material that will drive away dullness and make one feel gay and happy. And there is the fishery, where the finny tribe can be obtained; and the bakery, where a nice roll or a nice cake is always on hand.

Other buildings are in contemplation, and ere long a fine church is to be erected. In consideration of the morality of our town a church might be dispensed with; but if its erection is insisted upon by outsiders, there will be no great opposition among the Gulphites.

The wharf-boat is still here, though the Leviathan, some three weeks since, came near landing her out among the hills. Trade at this point will always be sufficient to sustain a good wharf-boat. It is a great accomodation to the people generally.

Thus it is from all the developments with indications for greater strides, our town is to be the place. Port Gibson must stand aside and have no further pretensions."

Gulphite

Grand Gulf, Feb. 27, 1866.

The above article was copied from the Port Gibson Standard.

Supplement to Assignment Two on Early Settlements.

I. FORMATION OF COUNTY----------(continued)

C. Early Settlements----------(continued)

Grand Gulf.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Supplement to Assignment Two on Early Settlements.

6. Early Settlements:

In addition to the settlements mentioned in Assignment #2 may be mentioned these small towns of today: Hermantille, Pattison(formerly Martin), Russum, Carlisle, Tillman, St. Elmo, and Rocky Springs. These towns, with the exception of Rocky Springs, are on the Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas Railroad.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor

COMPILATION

Chapter II

TOPOGRAPHY

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Ages ago the upper Mississippi, the Missouri and the Ohio rivers discharged their waters separately into a lnndlocked basin from the Gulf of Mexico. This ancient estuary included southern Illinois, parts of western Kentucky and Tennessee, southern Missouri, eastern Arkansas and Louisiana, as well as that part of our state known as "The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta".

The Missouri River, (Big Muddy) brought down incredible quantities of silt, and the erosion of prehistoric worlds, to join the Upper Mississippi at St. Louis. Making deposite as it came, this combined river created the lower half of Illinois and met the Ohio in a bed of slush at Cario.

Their united waters forming the Mississippi River, flowed southward bearing dirt, dirt, dirt, through patient eons, filling filling, filling, between irregular highlands on either side. Below the Memphis bluffs, extending to other bluffs at Vicksburg, Father Mississippi found a vast crescent of sea that reached eastward to the blue hills of Carroll County - a tremendous depression where an ocean must be converted into land. Let there be land. Father Mississippi made it - the richest cotton acres of the earth- the northwestern Counties of Mississippi. Our delta land is parts of thirty one states, built up from the leaf mould and fertility of a continent. (1)

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(1) Bolton's Our State p. 143

Water-Sheds

"The name given to the Mississippi River by the gulf coast Indians was written by the French as Malabouchia." "Meeshee Seepee" was the name applied to the river by the Indians of the nobbhwest, visited by LaSalle and Marquette. The "Meeche" or "Misse", is the same in meaning as "Micco" of the Creeks and other Muscogees, meaning great, as an adjective , and chief as a noun. Mississippi means great water, or great river. The French ortho-graphy was Mississsippi, and the Spanish, "Misisipi", both pro-nounced "Meese seepee", which correlates with the general Indian pronunciation. Pere Marquette, in 1672, was the first to introduce the name into the Geography of America as "Mitchisipi". Father Hennapin, in 1698, spelled the name of the river "Mechasipi", or "Meshasebe", and Charlevoix, in 1744, gave it as "Misisipi", or Mississippi. "A description of the English Province of Carolina, by the Spaniards, called Florida, and by the French, La Louisiana; as also of the great and famous river Meschacebe or Mississippi", was published in 1722 by Daniel Coxe, a prominent member of the New Jersey Council. Thus, more than twenty years before the publication of Charlevoix, the English author and politician, had virtually suggested the ppesent spelling. Finally, the consonants were all doubled. (1)

Big Black River flows southwest in to the Mississippi; It was called Chittaloosa by the Indians. Quoting from Claiborne's History, page 169- "From Stony River to the Big Black (Chittaloosa) is ten miles."

Bayou Pierre is commonly believed to derive its name from the French Pierre, meaning Peter, or rock, and the French Bayou meaning

(1) Heart of the South | Rowland, Dunbar- pp29,30

river. This belief is verified by the following excerpt taken from a statement in Captain Matthew Phelps' Mannal: "From Petit Gulph to Stony River (Bayou Pierre) is a league and a half." The north and south forks of this stream flow in a westerly direction through the central portions of Claiborne County in to the Mississippi River. (1)

Commissioner Creek derives its name from the fact that a treaty between the Choctaw Indians and the white peoples was signed on the banks of this stream. Choctaw Creek was named for the Indian tribe because it was a favorite camping ground of these Indians. It flows northwest into the north fork of Bayou Pierre. Center Creek gets its name because of its location, which is near the center of the County, Rapilje Creek was named for a Frenchman, who was killed on its banks. Widows Creek, flowing northwest into the north fork of Bayou Pierre, was so named because several widows owned adjacent lands. Willis, Baker and Clarks Creeks are all named for the original owners of plantations through which they run. They flow northwest into the south fork of Bayou Pierre. James and Brandywine Creeks, flow northwest into the south fork of Bayou Pierre. (2)

Having so many rivers, creeks, bayous and lakes, Claiborne may be considered one of the best-watered Counties in the state. The drainage of the uplands, and nearly all of the terraced areas, is good; there are, also, some well-drained bottom-lands, although in the Mississippi Valley, most of the land is poorly drained, and deeply inundated during high-flood stages of the river; due, in part

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(1) History of Miss.

(2) E. W. Davis

to lack of levee protection on the Claiborne County side of the river. In spring and early summer the rainfall is great enough to overflow the land, causing considerable damage to roads, bridges and low land crops.

Claiborne has a warm temperate, humid climate, characteristic of long summers during extended periods of which, the day temperatures range between 90 and 100 degrees F.; short mild winters, with intermittent cold periods of a few days duration and pleasant spring and fall weather. Thxough the heat of summer is rather depressing, it is not unhealthful. (1)

## Elevation

The extreme northeastern section of the County attains an altitude of about 275 feet above sea level, reaching the highest point in Reganto vicinity, near the Hinds County line.

The boundaries of Claiborne County lie in such positions that a narrow border along the northwestern side lies wholly within the low Mississippi alluvial plain; this stretch of land, being the lowest in Claiborne, is spoken of as Big Black River, Mississippi River and Bayou Pierre bottoms. Nearly all of these lands are heavily forested with willow, cotton wood, water oak, sycamore, elm and cypress. There are no pararie lands in Claiborne. A belt in the western part of the County, lying parallel to the northwestern boundary line, ranging in width from one mile or two to four or five miles, together with belts along both sides of the streams, is maturely dissected and rough. The rest of the area is smooth, consisting of plain upland, not at all modified by dissection.

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(1) Soil Survey of Claiborne County B. H. Hendrickson. P.P. 1, 2, 7,

The western half of the County lies wholy within the Bluff Hills section; the eastern half in the Long Leaf Pine Region.(1) One of the rugged regions, known as Scotchille Hills, covers a large area in the northwestern part of the County, and is designated on the soil map recently made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Lakes, Marshes, Bayous

The lowlands adjacent to the Mississippi River have a longer growing season than the inland valleys, on account of the tempering effect of the water;(2) decaying vegetables generate heat in the lake, marshes and bayous through fermentation, causing warmth of temperature. This decay in vegetation, with the rainfall overflowing the banks, makes the ground marshy and damp, thus affording breeding places for mosquitoes and causing malaria in some sections of the County. The soil is especially adapted for growing crops.(3)

Springs, Wells and Mineral Waters

Numerous natural springs, affording fine free-stone water, are found in the valleys of caney hills, and in many instances on the peaks; occasionally, private owners have had the water analyzed, and found that it contained medicinal qualities, and for a short time, such a spring would be frequented by visitors in search of water beneficial to their health.

BRANDYWINE SPRINGS, now extinct, (See Chap.1,Formation)

In regard to ELMWOOD SPRINGS the following excerpts from articles in the Port Gibson Herald of August 10, and 31, 1849 are self explanatory:

(1) Bolton's Our State- Map showing soil division of County, p.135
(2) Soil Survey of Claiborne County B. H. Hendrickson, p. 3
(3) Dr. E. P. Jones Hermanville, Mississippi

"These springs are upon the plantation of John Haines, About three miles from Port Gibson, in a delightful and healthy region; at the foot of a steep hill, and close to the edge of a stream, gush forth three bold springs. The water they yield is strongly impregnated with sulphur, and in a smaller degree with Epsom salts, Glauber salts, lime, etc., and several invalids of the town and vicinity have derived great benefit from daily visits there. Often the springs have been visited daily by, from one hundred to three hundred persons, many coming from Jefferson and other adjoining counties. Several cottages have been erected, whereby private families and some invalids are sheltered in canvas tents. Many of our citizens have determined to build cottages in time for occupation next summer, and probably a hotel will be erected. The supply of water is unfailing, and thousands cannot drink these springs dry. A fine ridge road, bordered by magnificient forest trees, has recently been opened through the woods adjacent, and no more delightful drive can be found than that from Port Gibson to the springs. The reputation that they have so suddenly acquired convinces us, that during the coming season they will become one of the most popular summer resorts in Mississippi."(1) This dream, however was never realized.

Ordinary wells are common throughout the County, the quality of water depending on the stratification of the land. Wells in the eastern section have been analyzed, showing that a depth of 90 to 100 feet, lime water can be obtained; at 80 feet sulphur, and the presence of iron; at 25 to 40, free-stone water. Claiborne's largest well is located in Port Gibson, at the Mississippi Power and Light Company, and furnishes the town's water supply. It is equipped with a pump.

(1)Port Gibson Reveille, August 19, 1926, Port Gibson, Miss.

Behind the Hedrick house, eight miles from Pattison, there is and old spring walled up with stone, believed to have been built by the Indians, but possibly of nature's making. (1)

(1) Mrs. B. S. Jordan, Pattison, Miss.

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State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Assignment Seven

I. Soils

1. The principal soil-forming material.

The principal material is loess. "This soil is supposed to have been dust blown up here by the wind thousands of years ago, when the climate must have been quite different."------"when the loess of Mississippi has mixed with the loam and with the lime from the thousands of snail shells found in it, there is no richer soil in the state." (1)

2. List of soil types.

Memphis silt loam
(a) Broken phase
(b) Smooth phase
Memphis silty clay loam
Grenada silt loam
(a) Broken phase
Grenada silty clay loam
Lintonia silt loam
Olivier silt loam
Calhoun silt loam
Vicksburg fine sandy loam
Vicksburg very fine sandy loam
Vicksburg silt loam
Collins very fine sandy loam
Collins silt loam
Collins silty clay loam
Waverly silt loam
Waverly silty clay loam
Sarpy very fine sandy loam
(a) Low phase
Sarpy silt loam
(b) Low phase
Sarpy clay
Sharkey clay (2)
River wash

1. Our State by Willa Bolton, Page 134.
2. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi by B. H. Hendrickson and J. E. McKeehen, Page 11.

I. Soils(continued)

3. List of series of soils.

Memphis series
Grenada series
Lintonia series
Olivier series
Calhoun series
Vicksburg series
Collins series
Waverly series
Sarpy series
Sharkey series
River Wash

Characteristics

Memphis series-"Typical Memphis silt loam consists of light-brown silt loam with a buff silty clay subsoil Memphis silty clay loam is similar, but over the greater part of it the original silt loam surface soil has been removed by erosion."(1)

Grenada series-"Typical Grenada silt loam is light-brown silt loam, with a yellowish-brown silty clay upper subsoil layer and compact mottled lower subsoil layer containing iron concretions. Grenada silty clay loam is similar to the silt loam except in the texture of the surface soil."(1)

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1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Miss. by B. H. Hendrickson and J. E. McKeehen, Page 10.



I. Soils(continued)

3. Listoof series of soils-Characteristics.

Lintonia series-brown silt loam with a buff or yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil.(1)

Olivier series-brown silt loam surface soil and a yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil mottled with gray.(1)

Calhoun series-yellow and gray mottled silt loam surface soil and a strongly mottled gray or solid gray silty clay subsoil.(1)

Vicksburg series-brown surface soils and yellowish-brown subsoils.(2)

Collins series-brown surface soils and mottled slightly heavier subsoils.(2)

Waverly series-yellow and gray mottled in both surface soil and subsoil.(2)

Sarpy series-brown or grayish-brown surface soils and subsoils.(2)

Sharkey series-dark grayish brown, characteristically mottled in both surface soil and subsoil.(2)

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

Memphis silt loam-Memphis silt loam is the most extensive cultivable soil in the county and the most important upland soil.--The principal crops are cotton and corn, but oats, cowpeas, velvet-beans, soybeans, Lespedeza and other clovers, Bermuda grass, sorgo, ribbon cane, potatoes, cabbage, and tomatoes are also grown with good results.(3) Lespedeza, red and white clover are planted for grazing. "During the last 15 years there has been a marked increase in the raising of beef cattle and hogs on this soil. Commerdial dairying is carried on to some ex-

1. Soil Survey of Claiborne Co., Miss. Page 10
2. " " " " " " " 11
3. " " " " " " " 12

I. Soils(continued)

4.The value of each as to crop raising, grazing, timber crop or any other value.(continued)

Memphis silt loam(continued)

tent near Port Gibson. Pastures are excellent."(1)

Memphis silt loam-smooth phase.

"This is not an extensive soil, but 85 or 90% of it is in cultivation, largely to cotton and corn. Oats, cowpeas, vegetables, fruits, and other miscellaneous crops are grown, and some dairy cattle, beef cattle, and hogs are raised. Lespedeza and other clovers and Bermuda grass make excellent pastures. This land commands from $20 to $50 an acre."(2)

Memphis silt loam-broken phase.

"This is now an unimportant agricultural soil, less than 5% being in cultivation and the remainder in timber and woods pastures. Cotton, corn, cowpeas, and vegetables are the principal crops, also early tomatoes. Some of the former tilled acreage is given over to pastures for hogs and beef cattle. Some goats and a few sheep are raised. Land of this kind sells for $5 or $10 an acre or more, depending largely on the value of the timber stand."(3)

Memphis silty clay loam.

"Drainage is excellent and the soil is inclined to be droughty. It is not important agriculturally, about 30% being in cultivation. The greater part is in abandoned fields, upland pastures, and timber. Some cotton is raised. Some cowpeas, potatoes, and early tomatoes and other vegetables

1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi, Page 12.
2. " " " " " " " 14.
3. " " " " " " " 15.



I. Soils(continued)

4. The value of each as to crop raising, grazing, timber crop or any other value. (continued)

Memphis silty clay loam.(continued)

are grown. Lespedeza and Bermuda grass thrive, except on the more barren places where erosion is most active. Reforestation of all the steeper slopes is taking place naturally-----.Land of this kind commands from $5 to $15 an acre."(1)

Grenada silt loam.

"This is not a very extensive or important soil in this county. About 50% is in cultivation, and the remainder is in timber and pastures. Pines are more numerous than on any other soil in the county. Crops grown and soil management are the same as on the Memphis soils. Land of this kind commands from $10 to $25 an acre."(2)

Grenada silt loam, broken phase.

"This soil is all in forest of mixed hardwoods and loblolly pine and and is of no importance agriculturally except as pasture. Bermuda grass and Lespedeza grow in open spaces. The soil has the same relief as Memphis silt loam, broken phase. This soil commands $5 and acre and upward, depending on the value of the timber growth."(3)

Grenada silty clay loam.

"This is neither an extensive nor important soil. On account of the poor physical condition of the surface soil and slow moisture-absorptive ability, this soil is inclined to be droughty. Cotton is about the only crop raised. Yields are low. Old fields are utilized for

1. Soil Survey of Claiborne Co., Miss. Page16.
2. " " " " " " " 17.
3. " " " " " " " 18.

I. Soils(continued)

4. The value of each as to crop raising, grazing, timber crop or any other values. (continued)

Grenada silty clay loam.(continued )

hill pastures and timberland. This soil commands from $5 to $15 an anre, depending onlocal conditions of soil and relief and on the valye of the timber."(1)

Lintonia silt loam.

"This is an important agricultural soil and more than 90% of it is in cultivation. It is the mostly highly developed and best terrace soil in the county. It is very similar to Memphis silt loam, smooth phase, in relief, configuration, color,character of soil material, profile, reaction, crop adaptation, and value."(2)

Olivier silt loam.

"This is not a very important soil, although 80% is in cultivation. Cotton and corn are the main crops grown, in spite of the boll-weevil damage. Oats do well. Bermuda grass and Lespedeza are grown for pasture and hay. Some ribbon cane and sorgo are produced. This soil commands from $15 to $40 an acre, depending on distance from towns and transpottation lines."(3)

Calhoun silt loam.

"About 30% of the land, mainly areas included in large fields of better-drained terrace soils, is cultivated to cotton and corn. Timbered areas support a growth of willow, water oak, swamp white oak, black gum.

1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi, Page 18.
2. " " " " " " " 19.
3. " " " " " " " 20.



I. Soils(continued)

4. The value of each as to crop raising, grazing, timber crop or any other values. (cnntinued)

Calhoun silt loam.(continued)

and some cypress. Land of this kind sells for $5 or $10 an acre."(1)

Vicksburg fine sandy loam.

"This soil is unimportant. About 20% is in cultivation to cotton and corn. The selling price depends on the nature and value of surrounding soils with which this soil is included in farms."(2)

Vicksburg very fine sand loam.

This soil is not important agriculturally. About 25% is in cultivation, largely to corn and cotton.A strong growth of mixed hardwood flourishes on the uncleared tracts, and the open spaces support an excellent sod. The value of this soil depends on that of the soils with which it is included in farms.(3)

Vicksburg silt loam.

"This the best and most highly developed botton-land soil and one of the most fertile soils in the county. About 70% is in cultivation, and the soil is still producing heavily of cotton and corn without fertilization, though much of it has been farmed for many years. Uncleared areas are in botton-land forest, consisting of oaks, hickory,

1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi-Page 20.
2. " " " " " " " 21.
2. " " " " " " " 21.

I. Soils(continued)

4. The value of each as to crop raising, grazing, timber crop or any other values. (continued)

Vicksburg silt loam.(continued)

gums, elm, and other trees. The grass growth in open places and pastures is strong and vigorous, consisting largely of Bermuda, carpet, Johnson, and other grasses, and Lespedeza, bur, white, and other clovers. Sugarcane sorghum, cowpeas, and oats are other important field crops. Some areas are maintained as pasture for beef cattle----. This soil is probably the most valuable in the community. It commands from $25 to $60 an acre, depending on improvements and distance from towns and shipping points."(1)

Collins very fine sandy loam.

"This soil is unimportant agriculturally. About 30% is in cultivation to cotton or corn. Some good pastures were seen. The greater part of the soil is forested with the kind of mixed hardwood tree growth found on the Vicksburg soils."(2)

Collins silt loam.

"This soil is second in extent and importance among the bottom-land soils."-----"This is a rather important soil agriculturally, about 60% being in cultivation. The remainder is in woodlands and pastures.

1.Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi-Page 22.
2. " " " " " " " " 22.



I. Soils(continued)

4. The value of each as to crop raising, grazing, timber crop or any other values. (continued)

Collins silt loam.(continued)

Pastures are excellent and make the soil valuable for cattle raising. Corn, cotton, sugarcane, sorgo, and oats are the main crops. Corn yields from 20 to 40 bushels to the acre and cotton from one-fourth to one-half bale. This land commands from $15 to $40 an acre, depending on the location and improvements."(1)

Collins silty clay loam.

"About 60% of it is cultivated, mainly to corn and to a small extent to cotton. This soil commands from $10 to $20 an acre."(2)

Waverly silt loam.

"This soil is unimportant agriculturally. About 10% is in cultivation. Corn and cotton are about the only crops raised. Most of the soil is forested with willow, overcup and water oaks, gum, elm, and some cypress. Wild swithh cane is abundant in places. The soil is too wet and too heavily forested to allow much grass growth."(3)

Waverly silty clay loam.

"The value of the land depends on the stand of timber, which consists of willow and overcup oaks, gums, hickories, maple, cottonwood, and some cypress. The soil has some agricultural value as pasture for beef cattle."(4)

2. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi-Page 23.
3. " " " " " " " " 24.
4. " " " " " " " " 24.
4. " " " " " " " " 25.

I. Soils(continued)

4. The value of each as to crop raising, grazing, timber crop or any other values. (continued)

Sarpy very fine sandy loam.

"Although neither extensive nor important agricultusally, this soil is the best suited of the Mississippi bottom lands to cultivation under prevailing conditions. About 60% is in cultivation."(1)

Sarpy very fine sandy loam, low phase.

"The soil is not extensive.-----It has little value except for pasture and timber production."(2)

Sarpy silt loam.

"It is a very strong and productive soil, producing from one-half to 1 bale of cotton to the acre and from 25 to 50 bushels of corn. It cannot often be planted early in the season, but it drains well when flood waters have subsided. Land vlaues are from $10 to $15 an acre."(3)

Sarpy silt loam, low phase.

"The soil is all in timber."(30

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1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississipoi-Page 25.
2. " " " " " " " 26.
3. " " " " " " " 26.

I. Soils(continued)

4. The value of each as to crop raising, grazing, timber crop or any other values. (continued)

Sarpy clay.

"Sarpy clay is unimportant agriculturally. About 30% is in cultivation. Cotton and corn are grown, cotton yielding from one-third to 1 bale or more to the acre and corn from 30 to 50 bushels. The cleared but uncultivated areas support an excellent sod of Bermuda grass and clovers. The forest consists of overcup, post, and white oaks, elm, willow, hickory, cottonwood, and sycamore. Commands from $5 to $15 acre."(1)

Sharkey clay.

"It is entirely forested with overcup oak, swamp white oak, water oak, gum, cottonwood, sycamore, poplar, willow, and cypress, with, in most places, a tangle of underbrush and vines.---Some beef cattle range over soil,------.----Land of this kind is valued according to its stand of merchantable timber."(1)

River wash.

"These strips and areas of river wash are barren and devoid of vegetation,------."(2)

5. Commercial Stones.

"Perhaps the most valuable of the commercial stones of Mississippi is what was long known as the Grand Gulf sandstone. It is hard, gran-

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1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi-Page 27.
2. " " " " " " " 28.

Assignment Seven

I. Soils(continued)

5. Commercial Stones------(continued)

Ito-like, variable in color and texture and has some of the qualities of the primitive or igneous rocks. Many specimens have the appearance of aggregated grains of coarse, angular, black and bluish sand incorporated in a matrix of a white porcelain or enamel-like character. This variety is frequently spoken of as "petrified rock".---------The Grand Gulf sandstone has been often quarried and used for paving and building purposes."(1)

6. Petrified Rock

"This variety of sandstone(having the appearance of coarse, angular, black and bluish sand) is frequently spoken of as "petrified rock".(1)

Close to the Herlong graveyard, about ten miles above Pattison, there is an iron ore rock hill. The ore, broken into pieces, is all different colors. Blocks of the ore are used for pillars under the houses by people living near there.(2) (Probably petrified rock.)

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1. Heart of the South by Dunbar Rowland, Page 40.
2. Mrs. B. S. Jordan, Pattison, Mississippi.

II. Minerals

1. Metallic Minerals

(a) Iron

1. Bessemer ores-none.

2. Non-Bessemer ores-none.

(b) Aluminum

1. Kind of ore

No beauxite found in Claiborne County.

2. Non Metallic Minerals

(a) Cement Resources-It is made of clay, chalk, lime-stone or marl.(1) In Claiborne there stages of white and blue marl.

(b) Lignite-On J. M. Taylor's place, in the northeast part of the county, there is what appears to be a bed of coal which projects out into the creek. The metal is very heavy and burns like coal. The negroes break it off, dry it, and use it in the fire to sharpen their plows, as it gives a very intense heat.(2)(Probably lignite)

There are lignite strata from 6 inches to 1½ feet deep in streams near Big Black.(3)

(c) Clays, kinds.

Sarpy clay-"Sarpy clay consists of brown or grayish-brown somewhat plastic silty clay, or clay somewhat mottled with yellow and rust brown in places. This is underlain by a light grayish-brown or light brown silt loam, very fine sand, or fine sand.(4)

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1. Heart of the South-Dunbar Rowland, Page 33.
2. Mrs. B.S.Jordan, Pattison, Miss.
3. Mr. Sam H. Bagnell, former sheriff of Claiborne County.
4. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, 1926-Page 26.

II. Minerals(continued)

2. Non Metallic Minerals(continued)

(c) Clays, kinds(continued)

Sharkey clay-"Sharkey clay consists of brown or dark grayish-brown plastic silty clay or clay conspicuously mottled with bluish gray, rust brown, and yellow."(1)

(d) Special clays-none.

(e) Bentonite-none.

(f) Other minerals-We have a little mica between the layers of sandstone.

(g) Sands, for glass manufacture and pottery. There is a great amount of white sand on nearly all the creek bottoms and creek banks, also in the gravel pits but it is not utilized for making glass and pottery.

(h) Mineral Waters-none.

(i) Oil and Gas-Attempts have been made, so far unsuccessfully, to discover oil and gas.

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Miss. by B.H. Hendrickson and J.E. McKeehen, Page 27.

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COMPILATION

Claiborne Co

Chapter III

III KH

SOILS AND MINERALS

Soils

The principal soil-forming material is loess. This soil is supposed to have been blown up here by the wind thousands of years ago, when the climate must have been quite different. When the loess of Mississippi has mixed with the loam and with the lime from the thousands of snail shell found in it, there is no richer soil in the state.

The different series of soils in Claiborne County are the, Memphis, Grenada, Lintonia, Olivier, Calhoun, Vicksburg, Collins, Waverly, Sarpy, Sharkey, and River Wash.

MEMPHIS silt loam consists of light-brown silt loam with a buff, silty clay subsoil. Memphis silty clay loam is similar, but over the greater part of it the original silt loam surface, soil has been removed by erosion.

Typical GRENADA silt loam is light-brown silt loam, with a yellowish-brown silty clay upper subsoil layer and compact mottled lower subsoil layer containing iron concretions. Grenada silty clay loam is similar to the silt loam, except in the texture of the surface soil.

LINTONIA series is brown silt loam, with a buff or yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil.

OLIVIER series is brown silt loam surface soil, and a yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil, mottled with gray.

CALHOUN series is yellow and gray mottled silt loam surface soil, and a strongly mottled gray or solid gray silty clay subsoil.

VICKSBURG series are brown surface soils and yellowish- brown subsoils.

COLLINS series are brown surface soils and mottled, slightly heavier, subsoils.

WAVERLY series is yellow and gray, mottled in both surface soil and subsoil.

SARPY serie are brown or grayish-brown, characteristically mottled in both surface soil and subsoil.

Memphis silt loam is the most extensively cultivable soil in the county and the most important upland soil. The principal crops are cotton and corn, but oats, cowpeas, velvet beans, soybeans, lespedeza and clovers; Bermuda grass, sorghum, ribbon cane, potatoes, cabbage and tomatoes are also grown with good results. Lespedeza and red and white clover are planted for grazing; consequently, during the last fifteen years there has been a marked increase in the raising of beef cattle and hogs. Commercial dairying is carried on to some extent near Port Gibson because of the excellent pastures.

Memphis silt loam-smooth phase is not an extensive soil, but 85 or 90% of it is in cultivation, largely in cotton and corn. Oats, cowpeas, vegetables, fruits and other crops are grown, and some dairy and beef cattle and hogs are raised. Lespedeza, clovers and Bermuda grass make excellent pastures.

Memphis silt loam-broken phase is now an unimportant agricul-

tural soil, less than 5% being in cultivation; the remainder is in timber and woods pastures. Cotton, corn, cowpeas and vegetables are the principal crops, also early tomatoes. Some of the former tilled acreage is given over to pastures for hogs and beef cattle. Some goats and a few sheep are raised.

Memphis silty clay loams drainage is excellent, but the soil is not important agriculturally; the greater part is in abandoned fields, upland pastures and timber. Cotton, cowpeas, potatoes, early tomatoes and other vegetables are grown. Lespedeza and Bermuda grass thrive, except on the more barren places where erosion is most active. Reforestation of all the steeper slopes is taken place naturally.

Grenada silt loam is not a very extensive or important soil in this county. About 50% is in cultivation, and the remainder is in timber and pastures. Pines are more numerous than on any other soil in the county. Crops grown and soil management are the same as on the Memphis soils.

The soil of the Grenada silt loam, broken phase is all in forests of mixed hardwoods and loblolly pine, and is of no importance except as pasture. Bermuda grass and lespedeza grow in open spaces. The soil has the same relief as Memphis silt loam, broken phase.

Grenada silty clay loam is neither an extensive nor important soil. On account of the poor physical condition of the surface soil and slow moisture-absorptive ability, it is inclined to be droughty. Cotton is about the only crop raised, and yiels are low. Old fields are utelized for hill pastures and timberland.

Lintonia silt loam is an important agricultural soil and more than 90% of it is in cultivation. It is the most highly developed and best terraced soil in the county. It is very similar to Memphis

silt loam, smooth phase, in relief, configuration, color, character of soil material, profile, reaction, crop adaption and value.

Olivier silt loam is not a very important soil, although 80% is cultivated. Cotton and corn are the main crops grown, in spite of the boll- weevil damage. Oats do well. Bermuda grass and lespedeza are grown for pasture and hay. Some ribbon cane and sorghum are produced.

About 30% of Calhoun silt loam soil, mainly areas included in large fields of better-drained terrace soils, is cultivated to cotton and corn. Timbered areas support a growth of willow, water oak, swamp white oak, black gum and cypress.

Vicksburg silt loam is the best and most highly developed bottom-land soil, and one of the most fertile soils in the county. About 70% is in cultivation, and the soil is still producing heavily of cotton and corn without fertilization, though much of it has been farmed for many years. Uncleared areas are in bottom-land forest, consisting of oaks, hickory, gums, elm and other trees. The grass growth in open places and pastures is strong and vigorous, consisting largely of Bermuda grass, carpet, Johnson and others; and lespedeza, burr, white and other clovers. Sugarcane, sorghum, cowpeas and oats are other important field crops. Some areas are maintained as pasture for beef cattle. This soil is probably the most valuable in the community.

Collins silt loam is second in extent and importance among the bottom-land soils. It occurs in the eastern part of the county, generally in the stream bottoms. This is rather important soil agriculturally, about 60% being in cultivation. The remainder is in woodlands and pastures. Pastures are excellent, and make the soil valuable for cattle raising. Corn, cotton, sugarcane, sorghum and oats are the main crops. Corn yields from 20 to 40 bushels to the acre and cotton from one-fourth to one-half bales.

Collins silty clay loam is about 60% cultivated; mainly to corn and a small extent to cotton.

Waverly silt loam is unimportant agriculturally. About 10% is in cultivation. Corn and cotton are about the only crops raised. Most of the soil is forested with willow, overcup and water oaks, gum, elm and some cypress. Wild cane is abundant in places. The soil is too wet and too heavily forested to allow much grass to grow.

Waverly silty clay loam value depends on the stand of timber, which consists of willow and overcup oaks, gums, hickories, maple, cottonwood and some cypress. The soil has some agricultural value as pasture for beef cattle.

Sarpy, very fine sandy loam, although neither extensive nor important agriculturally, is the best suited of the Mississippi bottom lands to cultivation under prevailing conditions. About 60% is in cultivation.

Sarpy silt loam is a very strong and productive soil, producing from one-half to one bale of cotton to the acre, and from twenty five to fifty bushels of corn. It cannot often be planted early in the season, but it drains well when flood waters have subsided.

Sarpy silt loam, low phase, is all in timber.

Sarpy clay is unimportant agriculturally. About 30% is in cultivation. Cotton and corn are grown, cotton yielding from one-third to one bale or more to the acre, and corn from thirty to fifty bushels. The cleared, but uncultivated acres, support an excellent sod of Bermuda grass and clovers. The forests consists of overcup, post and white oaks, elm, willow, hickory, cottonwood and sycamore.

Sharky clay is entirely forested with overcup oak, swamp white

oak, water oak, gum, cottonwood, sycamore, poplar, willow and cypress, with a tangle of underbrush and vines, Land of this kind is valued according to its stand of merchantable timber and pasturage. Pearl River wash consists of strips and areas that are barren and devoid of vegetation.(1)

Perhaps the most valuable of the COMMERCIAL STONES of Mississippi is what is known as the Grand Gulf sandstone. It is hard, granite-like, variable in color and texture, and has some of the qualities of the primative or igneous rocks. Many specimens have the appearance of aggregated grains of coarse, angular, black and bluish sand, incorporated in a martix of a white porcelain or enamel-like character. This variety is frequently spoken of as "Petrified rock." The Grand Gulf sandstone had often been quarried and used for paving and building purposes.(2)

Petrified rock, seems to occur most abundantly in the vicinity of the Big Sand and Bayou Pierre, the fiber texture and color of the wood being often preserved.

Close to the Herlong graveyard, about ten miles above Pattison, there is an iron ore rock hill. The ore, broken into pieces, is all different colors. Blocks of the ore are used for pillars under the houses of people living near there.(3) (Probably petrified rock)

(1) Soil Survey of Claiborne County, 1926-Pages 11-28 inclusive.
(2) Mississippi Heart of the South-p 40-Vol.I Dunbar Rowland
(3) Mrs. B. S. Jordan, Port Gibson, Miss.

## Minerals

No irone ore is found in the geological formations of Clainorne county.

The chief NON-METALIC products are limestone, marls, clay, sand and gravel. Gravel deposits of fine quality are found in beds of streams, especially Bayou Pierre. These gravel deposits are valuable for road construction.

On J. M. Taylor's place, in the northeast part of the county, there is what appears to be a bed of coal which projects out into the creek. The mineral is very heavy and burns like coal. The negroes break it off, dry it and use it in fire to sharpen their plows, as it gives a very intense heat.(1) It is probably lignite. There are lignite strata from six inches to one and one half feet deep in streams near Big Black.(2)

Sarpy clay ranges from a depth of twelve to fourteen inches. It is of a brown or grayish-brown color, somewhat plastic. Sharkey clay, to a depth of eight to fifteen inches consists of brown or dark grayish-brown plastic clay, mottled with bluish gray, rust brown and yellow.

There is agreat amount of white sand on nearly all creek bottoms and creek banks, also in the gravel pits, but it is not utilized for making glass and pottery.(3)
Attempts have been made, so far unsuccessfully, to discover oil and gas.

(1) Mrs. B. S. Jordan, Pattison, Miss.
(2) S. H. Bagnell, Port Gibson, Miss.
(3) Soil Suevey of Caliboren County, 1926-pp 26-27.

## References

Bagnell, S. H. — Port Gibson, Miss.

Jordan, Mrs. B. S. — Pattison, Miss.

## Bibliography


Hendrickson, B. H. and McKeehen, J. E. — Soil Survey- Claiborne County Series 1926 PP.11-28 inclusive

Rowland, Dunbar — Mississippi-Heart of the South. Vol.I-p.40(Chicago-Jackson, S. J. Clarke Pub. Company 1925)

Re: Soil - Claiborne

In regard to Assignment #3, page 2, paragraph 2, should read - "Probably the highest terraces are at Port Gibson and between this town and Pattison. " In paragraph 3 on page 4, the first sentence may be omitted, ex., "No iron ore or metalic minerals is found in the geological formation of Claibore County." I will change my copy to read same.

Make correction

Southern Package Corporation.

Mr. Homer Rhymes moved to Port Gibson in 1924 and organized the Port Gibson Box Company. In October of the same year Mr. H. A. Wilson of Hazlehurst bought the mill in and reorganized under the name Port Gibson Veneer Company, moving the mill from a site on the western side of town to a more desirable location on the extreme eastern edge of the town in 1925.

In 1930 this mill was merged with other mills and the name changed to Southern Package Corporation. The other mills referred to are located at Utica, Crystal Springs, Wesson, Terry, and Gallman, the Port Gibson one being operated on a larger scale than the others mentioned, handling almost every marketable timber with prices on car lots ranging according to quantity and quality, the rough sometimes bringing $300.00 and finished, $1,000.00. Approximately $9,000 per month is paid to timber dealers in the county for logs in the rough.

Mr. H. A. Wilson, attorney of Hazlehurst, is the president, his son Alec is treasurer, and W. B. Alford, also of Hazlehurst, is secretary. The present superintendent is Mr. J. A. Gallman, the bookkeeper, J. C. Wheeless, and the timber cruiser, Percy Trailor. There are numerous stockholders in these mills, the majority of whom live in Utica, Crystal Springs, Wesson, and Terry.

This mill has been of unlimited importance to Port Gibson. The fact that Port Gibson has had no business failures through the depression is due in part to the enormous pay roll of this mill. Affording a splendid market for timber this thriving industry has benefited the entire county and also



Southern Package Corporation ----------(continued)

adjoining counties by its fortunate existence. It is with pleasant anticipation that the merchants, doctors, etc. await "draw pay" at the Southern Package Corporation. $30,000 monthly, the bulk of which is spent with local business people, is worthy of mention in a town of Port Gibson's size. With this and the Port Gibson Lumber Company pay rolls business swells considerably. This mill has furnished a livelihood for scores of under privileged people as well as the higher type.

Passing through Port Gibson this mill can easily be seen from the train as it is purposely situated very near the track.

Greer's Mill

Mr. W. C. Greer has operated a log business for seventeen years and a mill for one and one half years. He maintains an office, is himself manager of the business with the aid of one stenographer, deals in hard woods only, and employs from twelve to fifteen woodsmen. He does a great deal of contracting for logs and hauling. He ships approximately five cars per week, bringing from sixty dollars ($60) up.

Port Gibson Lumber Company.

In 1925 Nolan and Manis organized a lumber company which was owned and operated by them for a short while. For several years it changed hands often, and in January, 1933 the Port Gibson Lumber Company was organized by the present owner Sam Weiner of Shreveport, Louisiana.

Mr. L. W. McBride is the present manager. Under his efficient management this business has prospered and the output increased rapidly. The mill manufactures yellow pine lumber either finished or in the rough. The shipments total about six million (6,000,000) feet per year, with a mill value of $110,000. The value of shipments in car lots varies according to grade and amount the car contains. A large amount of lumber is sold locally in connection with other building materials. All timber used at this mill is purchased within a radius of twenty five (25) miles.

This mill provides employment for eighty (80) to a hundred (100) people in the various departments, seventy per cent (70%) being colored. The pay roll reaches six thousand dollars ($6,000) or seven thousand dollars ($7,000) monthly, the greater portion of which is spent in the town. The location of these mills has greatly increased the business of Port Gibson.

Cedar Mill

This mill manufactures aromatic cedar and was moved into Claiborne County May, 1930. It is operated by W. H. Jones under the trademan-Jackson Cedar Company, being a branch of this company. This company for the past seven years has cut in excess of five million feet (5,000,000) or in excess of three hundred (300) car loads, paying to the owners of this timber approximately seventy five thousand dollars ($75,000). The cars bring from



Cedar Mill ----------(continued)

four hundred ($400) to five hundred dollars ($500). At various times this mill has given employment to thirty(30) men directly, and in 1931 and 1932 indirectly to more than fifty (50) men. At the present time they are operating to a limited capacity requiring only about fifteen (15) men due to the scarcity of cedar.

The products of the Jackson Cedar Company are shipped to markets all over the United States and some points in foreign countries. The by products of this company, one of which is sawdust, have been shipped to plants that extract the oil of cedar wood from this waste. This local company is also making a floor sweep from its waste product.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Assignment Eight

5

1. FOREST RESERVES

a. National----------None.

b. State Parks----------None.

c. Forest Nurseries----------None.

2. FOREST TREES AND FOREST TYPES:

a. Conifers

Pine trees-Claiborne County's short leaf, yellow pine is found almost altogether in the hill section, is very seldom found in the swamp lands. There is more pine lumber shipped from this county than any other kind. Practically all are manufactured into the finished product.

Cypress-bears balls-Althoughtthe growth of cypress in Claiborne is not extensive, quite a lot grows along the river front. A goodly per cent grows to an immense size. They swell at the base and many are found to be hollow for a short distance and occassionally all the up.

Cedar-bearing balls, is not found in the lowlands, but is found scattered elsewhere in the county. It is plentiful enough to furnish a mill.

b. Hardwoods, Kinds

Red oak-plentiful.
White oak-scarce-found in hilly section. Hardwoods are shipped

2. FOREST TREES AND FOREST TYPES: (continued)

b. Hardwoods---------continued.

White oak----------continued.

from Claiborne to other sections of the state to be manufactured. There is only a small amount cut in Claiborne County.

Overcup oak----Found in swamps altogether.

Black gum- It is cut and prepared for furniture at the Port Gibson Veneer Mill, also veneer.

Red gum- It is cut in veneer, this being a high class veneer shipped in carload lots to Morrimack Veneer Co., Jackson, Mississippi.

Sweet gum- Cut in veneer.

Tupelo gum-- Cut extensively for egg cases and white vegetable packages.

Maple- Claiborne has very little maple. Soft maple, such as we have grows in the swamp. Hard maple grows in the hills. The amount found is not worthy of mention.

Poplar- Very desirable timber of Claiborne is found in the hills. At the present time this timber, marketable poplar, is extinct, due to the great demand for export purposes. This timber works up beautifully in veneer packages and lumber for furniture. We have a vast supply of small poplar.

Lynn or basswood- It is found along the same places as poplar. This timber is manufactured here almost exclusively for inside of radio cabinets.

2. FOREST TREES AND FOREST TYPES: (continued)

b. Hardwoods----------continued.

Beech-Beech is a swamp timber used principally for toys, and some for flooring. It is shipped to Jackson to a factory.

Elm-A small amount is mostly shipped to Vicksburg in the rough for manufacture.

Cucumber-This timber is scarce, used the same as poplar.

Ash-Claiborne has very little, a small amount being manufactured for boat oars and base ball bats. A large amount is consumed locally for fuel purposes.

Sassafras- It is plentiful and valuable. A goodly per cent is found to be 24 inches in diameter. It is cut and shipped to Kimner, La. to be manufactured into paddles.

c. Fruit bearing trees.

Acorns: The oaks.
Balls: Sweet gum, sycamore.
Berries: Black gum, basswood(linden), dogwood, holly, sassafras.
Cones or "burrs": Pines, cypress, cedars.
Cone resembling a cucumber: Cucumber tree.
Nuts: Black walnut, beech, hickories, pecan.
Pods: Willow, redbud, catalpa, locust.
Rounded head containing red berries: Magnolia.
Samara(key or winged fruit): Elms, maples, ashes.
Food much liked by birds: Fruit of dogwood, cedar, the mulberries, pine.

Skip red & manuscript to Will Flowers



3. LOCATION AND EXTENT OF WOODLANDS:

In every section of the county some woodlands may be found. There is no part of the county that is especially noted for woodlands. A great deal of timber, both hardwood and soft wood, is found in various parts but it is being rapidly cut.

4. ECONOMIC VALUE OF FORESTS.

Skip from here

a. As soil conserver
and
b. Protection against soil erosion

"Tree roots hold the soil and prevent washing-erosion."(1) They are builders and protectors of soil. "The value of forests in relation to floods lies not so much in storage of water in the forest's floor as in their ability to prevent erosion."(2) "Because of the holding power of the roots on the soil, the forests is the most effectual natural agent for the prevention of erosion."(3) "Of all vegetable covers, forests are the most useful in preventing erosion on slopes and the silting up of streams."(3) "The relation of forests to floods is therefore more directly a matter of soil control than stream control."(3)
On hillsides of 8% slope the average erosion tons per acre is:

.0025 when covered with virgin woods
.35 when covered with burned over woods
19.40 when covered with continuous cotton.

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1. Edgerton's Our Southern Forests-Page 161.
2. " " " " " 172.
3. " " " " " 175.

4. ECONOMIC VALUE OF FORESTS.

c. As shelter against extreme temperature

"The leaves of the forest trees cool the air by transpiration, or evaporation of surplus moisture brought up from the roots. The very growing process of the tree itself helps to temper the atmosphere."(1)

"First, because the leaves evaporate water. Second, because the heat of the sun is consumed in this evaporation, and the plant cannot become heated to the same extent as, for instance, a rock or soil without any vegetative cover. Similarly, the ground under plants cannot become greatly heated on account of shading. Third, the surface from which heat radiates at night is much greater when vegetation is on the ground than when the ground is bare. ---------- Many observations in various countries show that the maximum temperature inside the forest is always lower and the minimum temperature higher than outside. In one comparison of regions fairly similar, except that one was forested and the other treeless, the mean temperature of the forestral region was from two to twelve degrees lower than that of the treeless region. Most striking was a reduction of seventeen degrees in the absolute temperature."(2)

d. Increasing farm income

The high value of wood crops makes forests profitable to the farmer. Lumbering is really a branch of agriculture. "Considering labor costs timber, if kept in perpetual growth, is a more profitable crop than any

1. Edgerton's Our Southern Forests-Page 61.
2. Fifth Biennial Report of the Mississippi Forestry Commission.-P.-47.



4. ECONOMIC VALUE OF FORESTS. (continued)

d. Increasing farm income(continued)

other grown by the farmer. The accomplishment of this end is the great economic problem which faces the South."(1)

Forest products in this section are raised on lands unsuitable for agriculture because the land is either too steep, too poor, or flooded part of the year. Therefore any return is not possible. If carefully managed a forest should yield from $5.00 to $20.00 profit per acre per year.

5. PRODUCTS FROM THE HOME FOREST:

Building Material.

"In every dwelling from the pioneer's log cabinand the modest farm house to the luxurious modern home, the products of theforests are necessary building materials. Wood abounds in the finishing and furnishings of every home."(2)

Fuel.

Wood for fuel is a daily necessity.

Food.

Forest trees are a source of food supply for man as well as animals. The forests furnish material for such things as fences, barns, silos, and tools, also raw material for many manufactured products. Locust trees are used extensively for fence posts.

1. Edgerton's Our Southern Forests-Page 245.
2. " " " " " 125.

6. REPORT ON METHODS OF CUTTING & HANDLING TIMBER ON YOUR FARMS.

The farmers as a rule sell timber to the manufacturer in the woods. The mill man cuts and removes same from the land, either on stumpage per thousand or on estimated count in the volume. In some instances the owners, using farm labor, cut their timber and put same on the road. In this case they are paid so much per thousand which allows remuneration for their labor and hauling same. Prices range from $7 to $10 for logs in the rough.(1)

There are a number of individual log dealers in Claiborne County, working on a large scale. Cars may be seen, at any and all times, being loaded with logs to be shipped to various markets. This is true of the surrounding small towns, as well as Port Gibson proper.

7. MARKETING FARM TIMBERS:

Port Gibson Veneer Mill is the principal market for Claiborne County timber. This mill uses approximately 75,000 ft. of logs per day. The products from this mill go to all the states, to Canada, Cuba, and Porto Rico. The mill proper employs 300 or more, with 300 woodsmen haulers. Their pay roll amounts to $15,000 every two weeks. This company handles various timbers.(2)

The Port Gibson Lumber Company.

Short leaf pine is the principal timber handled by the Port Gibson Lumber Co. It is manufactured into finished product and shipped in carload lots to various parts of the United States. In addition to shipments, a large portion is sold to consumers in the local territory. It is exported

1. Mr. Tom Segrest, timber dealer.
2. 2" " " " " "



7. MARKETING FARM TIMBERS:-(continued)

The Port Gibson Lumber Company.--(continued)

to Kansas City and various parts of Kentucky principally. 30% is shipped to points in Mississippi.

This mill's output is approximately 35,000 ft. per pay. 80 to 100 people are employed in various departments, 75% being colored. Prices of their product ranges from $16 to $65, according to grades and size of finished product.(1)

8. PROTECTING THE WOODS:- Against fire, fungi, insects, waste, etc.

Fire Wardens----------None.
Forest Rangers----------None.
Any other method used for protection----------None.
CCC Camps----------None.

9. IMPROVEMENT AND REPRODUCTION OF HOME FORESTS.

There has been no improvement and reproduction of forests in this county.

10. STREET & HIGHWAYS TREES- Kinds, planting and care of:-

Too much cannot be said concerning the trees bordering the streets of Port Gibson, Claiborne County's county seat and bordering the surrounding highways. Tourists comment first on the beauty of the trees.

Beginning just below the business section, Main, for a distance of five or six blocks, is bordered with huge cotton woods which were planted forty years ago. The older part of Main Street used to be shaded with china-

1. Mr. Yzrbrough, representative of the Port Gibson Lumber Co.

10.- STREET & HIGHWAY TREES- Kinds, planting and care of:-(continued)

berry trees but age and winds left broken trunks, and eventually most of them were cut, not by lovers of trees.

Church Street presents a beautiful view, an avenue of oaks, A suggestion as to the removal of one brings forth a battle royal, so close are they to the hearts of the owners. Not so far in the past china trees were plentiful on thisbeautiful street also, and thespring air was fragrant withe purple china blossoms, and in the fall made streets of gold. They decayed and from time to time were cut, generally being replaced by oaks.

One of our native poets, Miss Annie Kelledy Gilbert, writes "Fall Song", full of memories of "An autumn-chant through china trees

With the song keened by the wind as it hurries
Through the china berries."

skip

Trees of all descriptions surround homes, churches, and official buildings. A row of sycamore has been recently planted infront of the Port Gibson Bank. Sweet gums surround the Court House.

What is known as suburbs of Saint Mary had and still has some of the most beautiful oaks in the state. Oak Square formerly had 24 enormous oaks, and still has as a desirable number. There is one particularly beautiful oak causing all who pass to stop and admire.

The trees in Winter Green Cemetery are age old cedars, very beautiful. Just outside the cemetery gate there is a cotton wood, enormous. As long as people remember the trunk has been only a shell big enough for several boys to stand in. Dying for so many years, the tree still bears

10. STREET & HIGHWAY TREES Kinds, planting and care of:-(continued)

leavesevery spring. The wind still blows through to sing the cotton wood song.

During the Washington Bi-centennial, under the auspices of the Woman's Club, 265 trees were planted on the highway and in town.

Pecan trees are plentiful throughout the town. The majority of the residents can boast of splendid pecans in their yard. Chamberlain Hunt Academy on 61 Highway has a beautiful pecan grove.

In the mention of trees the grounds of the Port Gibson High School could not be omitted. They are the beauty spot of the town. Under the direction of Mrs. Carrie W. Ramsey, the principal, almost every known tree and flower has been planted. Enormous oaks make a magnificent Backgraund.

Many of the highways throughout the county have deep cuts, with beautiful trees of every kind overlapping, causing dense shade. On the banks of these cuts are found ferns of every variety, wild hydrangeas, azaleas, and violets. In the early spring, along the highways throughout the county, red-bud, dog wood, and yellow jessamine bloom in profusion.

There has been no systematic care of the trees along the highways. An expert forester is badly needed. And if one could be afforded, there would be no limit to the beauty which might be developed.

11. WILD FLOWERS.

Tne wild flowers of Claiborne County are very abundant. Stretched along the highways and nestling in fence corners almost every variety of flo-

11. WILD FLOWERS----(continued)

wer in Mississippi is represented. The rainbow hues of flowers and gloriously colored birds form a lovely picture against the background of green foliage. In the spring and summer, especially, the country is a natural park with flowers blooming from the appearance of the first red bud until the last golden rod disappears.

These wild flowers include:

Azalea, dog wood, white hydrangea, mock orange, phlox(many colors), wild verbena, sand pinks, both white and pink, dwarf pussy willow, yellow jasmine, white clematis, fox glove, iris, lobelias, wild asters, golden rod, snap dragons, coral woodbine, pond lilies, lotus, scarlet tanager, wild larkspur, both pink and blue, butter cups, dandelions, Cherokee rose, magnolias, two kinds of cucumber trees, Indian paint brush, Indian snake root, perry winkle, kiss-me-at-the-garden-gate, violets, black-eyed susan, honeysuckle, redbud, May pops, tiger lilies, morning-glories, marsh mallows, azuratum, bluets, May-apple, trumpet flower, wistaria, plum blossoms, maiden hair fer, wide leaf ferns and many others.

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #25

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lola E. Hamilton

Subject: Tree Survey

I. Historic Trees

1. A beech tree known as the Lorenzo Dow Tree, formerly standing near Rocky Springs in the northern part of the county. Under this tree Lorenzo Dow, a preacher throughout this section as early as 1803, camped. He is known to have "secured several tracts of land in the locality, and for a year or two resided, along with his wife Peggie, about four miles from Port Gibson." An entry in his Journal has this to say of the spot:(1)

"Cosmopolite(as he calls himself) retired into a canebrake at the foot of a large hill where was a beautiful spring which he named Chickamaw,(good spring), by which he got a small cabin made of split poles, where the bear, wolf, tiger, etc., and all kinds of serpents in North America abound."

"Once he met three animals while going to a neighboring house upon a long by-way which he had hacked through the cane. He told them to get out, and chinked his tins together; one took to the left and two to the right a few feet, and he passed between when they closed behind. He inquired if Mr. Neal had been there, having seen his bull dogs. The family on hearing their description reported that they were wolves."

On this beech tree Dow carved his name. In 1904 the tree was struck by lightening. Soon thereafter J. A. Regan of this county, knowing the tree would soon die and wishing to preserve the name, cut it out and sent it to Whitworth College whence it was later sent to Millsaps. Not even the stump remains, and the spring is dry.(2)

1. History of Port Gibson, Miss., page 282--Rev. H. G. Hawkins
2. Mrs. Cornelia Clark of Carlisle, long a teacher in the county.

Claiborne County
Assignment #25

Subject: Tree Survey

I. Historic Trees (continued)

Overcup Oak on the A. E. Shaifer place three miles southwest of Port Gibson on the old Rodney road.

Located on the site of the Battle of Port Gibson stands this immense and picturesque tree, bearing in its trunk the scars of the battle when the top was shot out by a cannon. A portion of the tree near the top is now hollow as a result of this wound. Only thirty yards west of this tree, the first shot of the battle was fired. Within twenty or thirty feet stands a monument to the memory of the confederate dead.

Despite its wound seventy-four years, this tree is today in a flourishing condition. Four and a half feet above the base, the circumference measures four and one half yards. The boughs, many of which measure two feet in diameter extend fifty to sixty feet in all directions, affording beautiful shade.

Mr. Dufner, a yankee soldier and participant in the Battle of Port Gibson, afterwards became a friend of Mr. Shaifer. In letters to his Port Gibson friend, Mr. Dufner sometimes referred to this tree, asking if the tree that was hit by the cannon was still standing.(1)

Nothing is being done to preserve these trees.

---

1. Mr. Hubbard, overseer of the plantation.



Claiborne County
Assignment #25

Subject: Tree Survey

2. Largest Trees

Pine Tree on the George Mehler place in the eastern part of county between Sandy Bayou and Bayou Pierre. 11 feet 8 inches in circumference. From forty to fifty feet to the first branch. Smooth bark.

Pin Oak in Mrs. Mary L. Richmond's yard, Carlisle. Eleven feet in circumference. Branches with a spread of about seventy-five feet.

Cedar Trees in Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson. With the exception of the new addition of the cemetery, there is scarcely a grave which is not over shadowed by a stately cedar. Some of these are of great size and of towering height and have evidently been standing there for many a life-span before the bodies of those now lying at their bases were place there. Above the graves of Samuel Gibson, Peter Van Dorn, and other of the very earliest pioneers of the county they keep silent vigil today even as they must have when these men were yet young. This friendly grove of cedars seem in some celestial way to protect this beautiful city of the dead.

Claiborne County
Assignment #25

Subject: Tree Survey

3. Unusual Trees

Avenue of Cedars ~~over two hundred yards~~ 375 feet long, forming a driveway on W. M. Richmond's place two miles north of Carlisle. (1)
These trees are well over one hundred years old.

Cottonwood Tree located near Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson. The circumference measures eight yards. This tree has the appearance of one tree but is in reality a double tree. Aged citizens living today recall having played in early childhood within the side which has decayed today to the extent that a person can walk within. An old citizen says that the dirt within this hollow tree furnished excellent fishing bait for him for many years. The actual age is unknown but the estimate is at least one hundred fifty years. (2)

Grape Vine located in Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson. This grows apparently from the roots of a huge cedar. Two feet from the ground this vine, twenty-four inches in circumferance, by some strange force of nature has made a loop in which a person might stand or sit, then has grown up into the cedar parallel with its body to a point near the top and has crossed to neighboring trees. The limbs in the tree are as large as a man's arm. This freak vine has many times been photographed by collectors of oddities in nature.

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1. A. McByrnes of Carlisle, relative of Mrs. Lake who planted the trees.
2. Mr. Marschalk of Port Gibson

- - - -

Claiborne County
Assignemtn #25

Subject: Tree Survey

4. Fine Specimens of Flowering Trees

We have in the county in quantity dogwood, redbud, magnolia, loblolly, but have no outstanding specimens so far as we can find.

Mimosa Grove located on the A.B. Phillips place five miles east of Pattison on the Pattison-Brandywine road. The person who planted this is unknown, but the grove is of unusual ~~size~~ extent and the trees of large size. Another grove of this kind is to be found on the property of Mrs. Clara Cox near Beechgrove Church. Mrs. Cox named her place "Mimosa" because of the presence on it of this beautiful grove.

Spanish moss is very characteristic of this region and is found hanging in long festoons from the branches of the hardwood trees.

Enid Richmond

Enid Richmond
County Historian

Enid Richmond

Claiborne County

COMPILATION

Chapter IV

FLORA

Our predecessors found in Mississipii a county clothed in the green forests and prairie grasses, interspersed with a variety of wild flowers, herbs and berries seldom excelled. The usefullness of this flora in providing shelter, fuel, transportation and food had much to do with early settlement, and later in supplying our greatest manufacturing industry with its raw materials. Towns, cities, railways and ports were built, in many instances, almost entirely on the basis of the adjacent virgin forests, eagerly sought for the upbuilding of our natural vegetation. The story is filled with romance, woe and good fortune, as is evidenced by this presentation of the study of the flora of Claiborne County.

Trees

About two thirds of Claiborne County is forested, the tree growth consists of mixed hardwoods and varieties of conifers. Among the latter, may be found pine, cypress and cedar. Pine is more common in the eastern part of the county. Although our growth of cypress is not extensive, much of it occurs along the river front, some tress reaching an immense size. They swell at the base and many are hollow for a short distance, and occasionally, all the way up. Gropus of cedars are scattered throughout our highlands.

The county is known to produce high quality hardwood lumber, large quantities of which have been cut and shipped to Natchez, Jackson and Vicksburg lumber mills. The most important merchantable hardwoods are ash, oak, magnolia, poplar and gum. The bottom lands



of the Mississippi and Big Black Rivers are haavily forested with willow, cottonwood, water oak, sycamore, elm and some cypress. There are areas of wood land on nearly every farm, the timber occupying the rougher land, steep slopes and poorly drained areas. A limited quantity of soft maple may be taken from our swamps, and a harder species from the hills. Poplar is one of the desirable timbers found in our more rugged areas. At the present time, however, marketable poplar has become practically extinct, due to the past demand for export purposes. It works up beautifully into veneer and lumber for furniture. Lynn, or basswood, seeks the same localities as poplar, its lumber being shaped almost exclusively for the inside of radio cabinets. Beech, a swamp timber, makes attractive toys for children, and fine flooring, being usually shipped to a Jackson factory. Sassafras is plentiful and valuable. A good per cent here will measu re twenty fpur inches in diameter, and goes to Kenna, Louisiana to be made into paddles and oars. Locust is also found scattered throughout the county.

Ecomomic Value

The economic value of forests in relation to floods, lies not so much in storage of water in the forest floors, as in their ability to prevent esosion. Because of the holding power of the roots on the soil the forest is the most effectual natural agent for the prevention of erosion. The leaves of forest trees cool the air by transpiration, or evaporation of surplus moisture brought up from the roots. The very growing process of the tree itself helps to temper the atmosphere because the heat of the sun is consumed in this evaporation.

Similary, the ground under plants cannot become greatly heated on account of shading. Many observations show that the maximum temperature inside the forest is always lower, and the minimum temperature higher than outside.

Wood for fuel is a daily necessity. For domestic use forest trees furnish materials for such things as fences, posts, barnes, silos and tools. In every dwelling from the pioneer's log cabin and the modest farm house to the luxurious modern home, the products of the forests are necessary building materials. Wood abounds in the finishing and furnishings of every home.

## Conservation

forest
No conservation agencies have been organized in Claiborne County, but better methods of forest management are coming into use; forest fires are generally guarded against. The production of timber will doubtless continue to be important in the county.

Soil conservation is the biggest problem confronting the farmers not only of Claiborne County, but of the Nation.

The Department of Agriculture realizing the seriousness of soil losses asked and got special allotments of funds for setting up Soil Conservation Demohstartions for the purpose of working out the best methods of preserving soils and for demonstrating proper land use to conserve soil.

One of these demonstrations was located along the Baker's Creek Watershed lying in Claiborne County and Jefferson Counties. This area consists of approximately 26.000 acres. Each farmer within this area who agrees to cooperate with the Government, will have a survey made of his farm by specially trained Soils men. This survey shows not



only the types of soils found on the farm, but shows the slope of all land, amount of soil erosion and present land use.

From this information, trained agronomists plan a proper land use for each acre of that farm. This includes use of land for clean cultivated crops, meadows and permanent and pasture and forests. Thus it is shown and reccomended to the farmer th most profitable use for each acre so at to prevent futher erosion and hold soil fertility.

Compitent engineers then make detailed surveys for a system of contours, terraces, outlet ditches and other mechanical structure as necessary to dispose of all water with the least amount of erosion. Trained pasture men, foresters and agronomists then supervise all work done.(1)

(I) Ira Carpenter, Port Gibson, Miss. Port Gibson, Miss.

## Historic Trees

Every tourist who sees Port Gibson comments upon the majestic beauty of its trees that border the streets and flank surrounding highways. Beginning just below the business section, Main Street, for a distance of five or six blocks, a line of huge COTTONWOODS which were planted forty years ago, stand on either side. The older stretches of Main Street used to be shaded by CHINABERRY trees, but age and winds left broken trunks, and eventually most of them were cut. Church Street presents a noble vista underneath its avenue of oaks, and every suggestion to remove one, brings forth a battle royal. Not so far in the past China trees were also plentiful on this street, making spring air fragrant with the aroma of pupple china blossoms. But their trunks decayed, and from time to time were felled to be replaced by more durable oaks.

One of our native poets, Miss Annie Kelledy Gilbert, writes "Fall Song", full of memories of "An autumn-chant through china trees
With the songgkeened by the wind as it hurries
Through the china berries".

Foliage of all descriptions give grateful shade to our homes, churches, and often official buildings. Maples adorn the court house grounds. The suburbs of Saint Mary had, and still have, some of the most beautiful oaks in the state. Oak Square formerly boasted twenty four enormus oaks, of which a goodly number are yet standing. One hoary patriarch of the forest, cause all who pass to stop and admire.

In Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson, with the exception of the new addition, there is scarcely a grave which is not over shadowed by a stately CEDAR. Some of these are of great size and of towering height and have evidently been standing there for many a life-span. Above the graves of Samuel Gibson, Peter Van Dorn, and other of the earliest pioneers of the county they keep silent vigil today even as they must have when these men were yet young. This friendly grove of cedars seem in some celestial way to protect this beautiful city of the dead.

There was a historic beech tree known as the LORENZO DOW TREE, formerly standing near Rocky Springs in the northern part of the county. Under this tree Lorenzo Dow, a preacher throughout this section as early as 1803, camped. He is known to have secured several tracts of land in the locality, and for a year or two resided, along with his wife Peggie, about four miles from Port Gibson. On this tree Dow carved his name. In 1904 the tree was struct by lightening. Soon there after J. A. Regan of this county, knowing the tree would soon die and wishing to preserve the mame, cut it out and went it to Whitworth College whence it was later sent to Millsaps. Not even the stump remains.(1)

Located on A. K. Shaifer's place, the site of the Battle of Port Gibson, stands an immense and picturesque OVERCUP OAK, bearing in its trunk the scars of the battle when the top was shot out by a cannon. A portion of the tree mear the top is now hollow as a result of this wound. Only thirty yards west of this tree, the first shot of the battle was fired. Within twenty or thirty feet stands a monument to the memory of the confederate dead. Despite its wound seventy-four years, this tree is today in a flourishing condition. Four and a half feet above the base, the circumference measures four and one half yards. The boughs, many of which measure two feet in diameter extend fifty to sixty feet in all directions, affording beautiful shade. Mr. Dufner, a yankee soldier and participant in the Battle of Port Gibson, afterwards became the friend of Mr. Shaifer. In letters to his Port Gibson friend, Mr. Dufner sometimes referred to this tree, asking if the tree that was hit by the cannon was still standing.(2)

(1) Mrs. Cornelia Clark Carlisle, Miss.
(2) John Hubbard ~~Port Gibson, Miss.~~



A grove of flowering mimosa is located on the A. B, Phillips place five miles east of Pattison on the Pattison-Brandywine road. It is of unusual extent and the trees of large size. Another grove of this kind is to be found on the property of Mrs. Clara Cox near Beechgrove Church. Mrs. Cox named her place "Mimosa" because of the presence of this beautiful grove. When or by whom, these trees were planted is unknown.

The following flowering trees are found scattered throughout the various sections of the county: Magnolia, cucumber, tulip trees,(yellow poplar), honey locust, black locust, dogwood, plum, and China trees.

Flowers

Our wild flowers are abundant, fringing every road and path, nestling in fence-corners, with every variety of leaf and vine blossom in Mississippi. The rainbow hues of flowers and gloriuously-colored birds form a lovely picture against the background of foliage. In spring and summer, espacially, our country becomes nature's own park, where variegated petals flaunt their brilliancy from the opening of the first red bud until the last goldenrod disappears. Many of our highways have deep cuts with tree branches overlapping them, like shaded tunnels. Ferns grow rank on their sloping walls, also wild hydrangeas, azaleas and violets. The following is a list ofother WILD FLOWERS **********; mock orange, phlox (many colors), wild verbena, sand pinks (pink and white), dwarf pussy-willow, fox-glove, iris, lobelias, wild asters, goldenrod, snap dragons, pond lilies, scarlet tanager, wild larkspur, (pink and blue), butter cups, dandelions, Indian paint brush, Indian snake root, perry winkle, violets, May-apple, trumpet flower. Cherokee rosebushes are found in profusion in open fields and pastures.

The following is a list of SHRUBS that abound in every section of the county: redbud, redhaw, red maple, holly, crab apple, witch hazel, pawpa, Spanish yucca.

A freak grape vine in Wintergreen Cemetery has many times been photographed by collectors of oddities in nature. It grows apparently from the roots of a huge cedar. Two feet from the ground this vine, twenty-four inches in circumference, by some strange force of nature made a loop in which a person might stand or sit, then has grown up into the cedar parallel with its body to a point near the top and has crossed to neighboring trees. Among ather vines are : white clematis, wisteria, yellow jasmine, coral woodbine, homeysuckle, morning glory, wild grape vine, Virginia cre eper, poison ivey, southern smilax, cross vine, Spanish moss is very characteristic of this region and is found hanging in long festoons from the branches of the hardwood trees.



## Cultivated Flowers

Too much cannot be said about the beautiful CULTIVATED FLOWERS in the gardens (See chap. 18, The Arts). throughout the county. Home owners are greatly interested in beautifying their grounds by planting shubbery, roses, vines, peranials and various other flowers, among them, cape jasmine, azaleas, camellias, sweet olive and lilacs.

## Cargen Clubs

Claiborne Cpunty has no organized Garden Club, but garden club work is carried on by the WOMENS CLUB. The club has a conservation committee, which sponsors flower exchanges, plants the highways and urges the beautification of the town and country side at large. Their goal is - the same flowering plants and shrubs in every yard and on plubic grounds, all blooming at the same time, emphasising wisteria, flowering quince and Paul Scarlet roses. At the present time they are planting dogwood, red bud, wysteria, flags and blue phlox. Nearly every year a garden pilgrimage is sponsored by this same committee. After going from home tohhome an d and viewing the gardens the members return to the presidents home or to the library where cut fl wers are judged and prizes awarded and tea served. (I)

Miss Pearl Taliaferro, together with her sister Miss Balmayne Taliaferro, has for the past ten years conducted a florist business in Port Gibson. Prior to the operating of the florist business, they were lovers of flowers and an authority on the cultivation of them. Their gardens cover an extehsive area and every shrub and flower that can be grown in this locality is found here.

(I) Mrs. Joseph T. Drake, Port Gibson, Miss.

References

| | |
|---|---|
| Carpenter, Ira, | Port Gibson, Miss. |
| Clark, Mrs. Cornelia, | Carlisle, Miss. |
| Drake, Mrs. J. T. | Port Gibson, Miss. |
| Hubbard, John, | Port Gibson, Miss. |

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Reasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Assignment Twelve.

I. INSECTS

A. INSECTS AS PESTS OF FARM, GARDEN, AND ORCHARD

1. Forage and Cereal crops as: Lespedeza or Japan clover, Corotoleria(species of lespedeza), crimson clover, White clover, Alaska clover, burr clover, species of wild clover, peas, velva beans, soy beans, oats and corn.-

Lespdeza is occasionally attacked by the dodder parasite, only preventitive is used is a special effort to secure dodder free seed. The same applies to Corotoleria, which is a species of lespedeza.

Clovers are not bothered by pests when the seed are of a high grade.

With peas the bean weevil attacks the flower but rarely ever is there a treatment given, but it is essential to plant clean seed.

Soy beans are often infested with blister beetles. In this case the soy bean plant is dusted with calcium arsenate.

The corn has the corn ear worm, also other species of earth grass worms. The corn crop is occasionally treated with calcium arsenate. There is also the roughheaded cornstalk borer. For this diversification is resorted to. (1)

2. Garden crops as: peas, beans, mustard, potatoes, squash, beets, tomatoes, spinach, corn, cucumbers, parsnips, parsley, leeks, onions, cabbage, Swiss chard, lettuce, okra, collards, kale, potatoes, carrots, peppers and egg plants.

"Various methods are resorted to in the destruction of garden pests. Spray-

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1 Mr. J. W. McKewen, County Agent for Claiborne County

Assignment Twelve.

I. INSECTS----------(continued)

A. INSECTS AS PESTS OF FARM, GARDEN, AND ORCHARD-----(continued)

2. Garden crops as: peas, etc.----------(continued)

ing with slaked lime is commonly used for different forms of larvae. Cleaning up and burning all trash destroys many pupae and thus prevents different worms from multiplying. Therefore, in the planting season, all good gardeners have just as clean a place as possible in which to sow their seed.

For weevils (for some of the gardeners who plant on a large scale) the infected seed are put in an airtight box or bin, placing on the top of the pile a dish containing carbon disulphide, a tablespoon to a bushel of seed. Let remain thus from two to five days. Repeated treatments are used if any weevils are found alive. The only practical remedy for squash bug is picking the insects alive.

The flea beetle is repelled by use of tobacco, soot, ashes. The same treatment is used for lice often found on greens, mustard, etc."(1)

3. Field crops as: cotton, corn, sugar cane.

"Cotton being the leading crop in Claiborne County as well as elsewhere in the South, the bird enemies of cotton insect pests naturally deserve first consideration. Few in all this broad land are ignorant of the tremendous damage done by the cotton boll weevil. For some years it has easily ranked

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1. Agriculture for Beginners by Burkett, Stevens and Hill, Page 169.

Assignment Twelve.

I. INSECTS----------(continued)

A. INSECTS AS PESTS OF FARM, GARDEN, AND ORCHARD-------(continued)

3. Field crops as: cotton, corn, sugar cane----------(continued)

as the most destructive pest in the United States. Special study of its bird enemies has been made and the result is that 66 species are now known which, to a greater or less extent, prey upon the boll weevil. The most active of these enemies of the boll weevil are the orioles."(1)

Every farmer in the county poisons for boll weevils if he can afford to do so.

Louisiana sugar cane and sorghum are grown only to the extent of supplying individuals with their own syrup the year around. Occassionally a farmer has a bumper crop and markets 75 or 100 gallons. The cane is very rarely ever bothered by pests.

Corn is the principal feed crop and is given special attention by the farmers; those who can afford use preventitives for ear worm and roughheaded corn borer.

4. Orchards: apples, pear, plum, peach, grapes.

The insects under this heading are the San Jose scale, the codling moth, the plum curculio, grape phylloxera, cankerworm, apple-tent caterpillar, twig, girdler, peach tree borer.

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1. United States Bulletin-No. 758.

I. INSECTS----------(continued)

A. INSECTS AS PESTS TO FARM GARDEN AND ORCHARD--------(continued)

3. Field crops as: cotton, corn, sugar cane.---------(continued)

San Jose Scale--Although a very minute animal, so rapidly does it multiply that it is very dangerous to the tree, and most dreaded of all enemies to fruit trees. Spraying with lime sulphur mixture prevents spreading.

The codling moth lays eggs upon the young leaves just after the falling of the blossom. She flies from apple to apple depositing an egg each time. The worm soon hatches and eats its way into the apple. The last generation of the larvae spends the winter in the cocoon. Treatment: Spray the tree with arsenate of lead as soon as the flowers fall. Destroy orchard trash which may serve as winter home. Use Bordeaux mixture with arsenate of lead for a spray.

The plum curculio is a little creature about one fifth of an inch long. It injures peaches, plums and cherries by stinging the fruit as soon as it is formed and depositing eggs. Treatment: Burn orchard trash which may serve as winter quarters. Spraying with arsenate of lead, using two pounds of t the mixture to fifty gallons of water, is the only successful treatment for curculio.

The grape phylloxera is a serious pest, in the form of a small louse. Each gall contains a female, which soon fills the gall with eggs and so the phylloxera spreads. Sometimes the roots are attacked by the pest.

The cankerworm is the larva of a moth. These worms are such greedy eaters that in a short time they can so eat leaves of an orchard as to give it a



I. INSECTS----------(continued)

A. INSECTS AS PESTS TO FARM, GARDEN, AND ORCHARD--------(continued)

4. Orchards: apples, pear, plum, peach, grapes.------(continued)

scorched appearance. Such an attack practically destroys the crop and is a lasting injury to the tree. Prevention: By smoothing the bark and fitting close to it a band of paper, making sure that it is tight enough to prevent anything from crawling underneath. Then smear over the paper something sosticky that any moth or larva that attempts to pass will be entangled. Printers ink, dendrolene or tanglefoot may be used.

The apple-tree tent caterpillar--The mother of this caterpillar is a reddish moth. This insect passes the winter in the egg state securely fastened on twigs. Treatment: There are three principal methods-(1) Destroy the eggs. The chickadee eats great quantities of these eggs. With torches people burn the nests at dusk when all the worms are within. Regularly sprayed orchards are rarely troubled by this pest.

The twig girdler lays her eggs in the twigs of pear, pecan, apple and other trees. Since the larvae spend the winter in the dead twigs, people burn these twigs in autumn or early spring.

The peach tree borer--These borers often girdle and thereby kill a tree. The eggs are laid on peach or plum trees near the ground, as soon as the larva emerges it bores, eats the bark and remains there for months, passing through the pupa stage before it comes out to lay eggs for another generation. Treatment: If there are only a few trees in the orchard, digging the worms out with a knife is the best way of destroying. The presence of the borers is known by the exuding gum often seen on tree trunks.

I. INSECTS----------(continued)

B. INSECTS AS PESTS OF POULTRY, LIVESTOCK, MAN.

1. Poultry- Lice and mites.

Poultry raisers are all too familiar with the chicken mite (Dermanyssus gallenae L), that common red or gray mite which infests poultry houses. The attack of this blood-sucking mite is of an insidious nature which does not readily draw attention to its presence, and often the poultry man does not notice them until he sees some of the hens deserting their nests and sometimes some dead on their nests.

Chicken mites do not feed to any great extent upon other hosts when chickens are at hand. They are carried chiefly by the exchange of poultry and in crates and boxes in which fowls are shipped.
Treatment: Spray with commercial carbolineum which consists essentially of a high grade anthracene oil. Crude petroleum may be used but does not last as long.

Scaly-Leg Mite makes scales on the legs of chickens by causing an itch that makes a hard surface on their legs. It can be cured by dipping the chickens' legs in kerosene.(1)

"The seven different species of lice common on hens are spoken of as body lice, head lice, and feather lice according to the usual places in which they are found, but since the different species intermingle to a consider-

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1. Farmers' Bulletin-No. 801, Page 1-Not exact words.



I. INSECTS----------(continueD)

B. INSECTS AS PESTS OF POULTRY, LIVESTOCK, MAN.

1. Poultry- Lice and mites.

able extent, it is not possible to separate them absolutely on this basis. The writers have observed that the relative number of lice of the different species varies much in different flocks in the same neighborhood, and even in the same flock, some chickens often have one species predominating, whereas others have another. Usually three or more species are to be found on an infected fowl."(1)

"The Head Louse of Chickens:
This species (Lipeurus heterographus Netzsch) is primarily a head louse, although occasionally found on the neck and elsewhere. It is undoubtedly the most injurious species to young chickens, as many of the other forms which are serious annoyers of grown poultry do not thrive well in the down on chicks. It is a dark grayish species nearly one-tenth of an inch in length, and may be found on the top or back of the head, behind the ears, or beneath the bill. Usually it is located close to the skin with its head very close to or against the skin of the chicken, the body extending away from the skin on the down or along the feathers. The eggs are deposited singly on the down or small feathers about the head. These eggs hatch in four or five days into minute semitransparent lice which resemble the adult in shape. After molting the skin several times and in the meantime increasing in size and becoming darker in color, the lice reach the adult stage in about 17 to 20 days.

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1.Farmers' Bulletin-No. 801, Page 9.

I. INSECTS----------(continued)

B. INSECTS AS PESTS OF POULTRY, LIVESTOCK, MAN.

1. Poultry- Lice and mites.

Despite the fact that this louse confines its attack principally to the head, it passes readily from one chicken to another and from the mother to her young."(1)

"The Body Louse of Chickens:
The common name "body louse" is aptly applied to the species Somenacanthus stramineus Nitzsch and refers to its habit of remaining on the skin of the fowl rather than on the feathers. It does not always confine itself to the body, sometimes being taken on the head, neck and legs. It favors those portions of the skin which are not densely feathered.

This louse is rather large and robust, straw yellow in color, with some dark spots due to food within the digestion tract.

The body louse if probably the most injurious species on grown fowls, but it also infests young chickens, sometimes seriously."(2)

"The wing louse is the only species found commonly on the large wing feathers of chickens. It is seen at times also on the neck hackles, tail, and back feathers."(3)

Treatment: First clean everything in the chicken house, roosts and nests, thoroughly. The late summer and fall of the year are the best times to

1. Farmers' Bulletin-No. 801, Page 9.
2. " " " " " 10.
3. " " " " " 12.



I. INSECTS----------(continued)

B. INSECTS AS PESTS OF POULTRY, LIVESTOCK, MAN.

1. Poultry- Lice and mites.

start the treatment for at this time of the year weather conditions usually are favorable for dipping. Sodium fluoride is a chemical that is exceedingly poisonous to all species of chicken lice. It kills the young which emerge from the eggs present at the time of treatment.

Sodium fluoride can be obtained in two forms known as commercial and as chemically pure. Both of these are in a dry state.

2. Livestock- Insects as: blood-sucking flies, horse fly, screw worm.

Blood sucking flies and horse flies sting or bite the live stock and cause the cows to give less milk. Sometimes they cause the death of the animals. The screw worm bores into the flesh of animals and kills them. The government is doing nothing to protect the livestock from these insects, but farmers are using creso dip in dipping vats on cattle. Creso dip and chloroform are used on the wound for screw worm. Hundreds of head of cattle have been lost on account of screw worms.

3. Man- Insects as: mosquitoes carrying malaria germs, yellow fever germs, dengue fever germs(we have none), and filaria(we have none.)

The mosquitoes that carry malaria germs are the Anophales and are found around swampy and stagnant places. There is a special kind of mosquito,

I. INSECTS----------(continued)

B. INSECTS AS PESTS OF POULTRY, LIVESTOCK, MAN.

2. Man- Insects as: mosquitoes.----------(continued)

the stegomyia, that causes yellow fever but it has been destroyed so that we have no cases of yellow fever now. All of these mosquitoes can be eradicated by draining the land and pouring kerosene oil on top of water that has been left standing. Screening helps to keep out mosquitoes. Little fish and toads also eat them.

Man- Insects as: Flies: bloodsucking flies, sand flies, stable flies, fleas, lice, bed bugs.

Flies are useful as scavengers, but they are also agents in carrying germs of disease.

Fleas live on the dog, cat, rabbit, pigeon, and poultry. The fleas of the dog and the cat will also attack man.

The bedbug has accompanied man wherever he has gone. The bedbug belongs to the order Hemiptera, which includes the true bugs or piercing insects, characterized by possessing a piercing and sucking beak. The bedbug is to man what the chinch bug is to grains or the squash bug to cucurbs.

These insects may be kept out of the house by screening and spraying with some of the commercial fluids that the government puts out. There are powders for dusting fleas and lice. The bedbug has to be controlled in another way. The room or rooms may be fumigated with hydrocyanic-acid gas or the fumes of calphar will get rid of them.



C. COMMON ROADSIDE AND FIELD INSECTS

1. Hymenoptera- Insects of this type are: wasp, mud-dauber, hornets, ants, honey bees, bumble bees, yellow jacket.

These insects are all biting or sucking insects. While these insects do some harm to plants they are a great deal of good. The wasp, mud-dauber, hornets, boney bees, bumble bees and yellow jackets help to fertilize the flowers.

"Green house men, who raise melons, cucumbers, and tomatoes under glass, are obliged to keep swarms of honey bees to carry the pollen from flower to flower, but honey bees do not live long under such confinement and hence must be replaced by fresh hives perhaps once or twice a year. It might be suggested that bumble bees might do this work fully as well at little or no expense. To try the experiment it would only be necessary to catch a few queens as late in the fall as possible and confine them in the green house, supplying them with field-mice nests."(1)

Most of the hornets and wasps burrow in the ground, while the mud dauber daubs his nest on the walls, but they provide for their young, instead of pollen and honey, insects, spiders, etc., stung with such care and precision that they are paralyzed but not killed.(2)

The white-faced hornets destroy untold numbers of insects in our orchards and gardens. A Mrs. Trant said she would rather have a colony of white-faced hornets in her orchard than ever so many barrels of London Purple.(3)

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1. Nature Study and Life by Clifton F. Hodge, Ph. D., Page 243.
2. " " " " " " " " 243(not exact
3. " " " " " " " " 244, words.)
(not exact words.)

Assignment Twelve.

C. COMMON ROADSIDE AND FIELD INSECTS ----------(continued)

1. Hymenoptera- such as: wasp, mud-dauber, etc.----------(continued)

Ants.-- "This is a fascinating group of insects to study. Their social life and work, care of queens, eggs and young, their soldiers, their wars and battles, their cows, the plant lice, and the slaves that some species capture and bring home to do the menial work of their nests place them above all other insects."(1)

"The little red ant is one of the smallest and often most annoying of house hold pests. It lives upon all sorts of human provisions, especially sweets and fatty foods, and seldom is a cover tight enough to exclude its seemingly innumerable hordes. A small black ant, and a somewhat larger species, are troublesome much in the same way, but their nests being in the ground outside the house they are generally easier to find and destroy."(1)

"To rid a house of ants effectually it is only necessary xxx to find the nest-often easier said than done-and treat it with boiling soapsuds, kerosene or benzine, carbon bisulphide, or gunpowder, according to individual preference and the location of the nest."(2)

Where grapes or peaches are raised the hornets are known to gnaw holes in the fruit, and this opens the way for honey bees and may lead to great injury to the crop. It thus sometimes becomes necessary to destroy all the hornets in the neighborhood before the fruit begins to ripen, and this is a simple matter since the nests are so easily found.(3)

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1. Nature Study and Life by Clifton Hodge, Page 88.
2. " " " " " " " 83.
3. " " " " " " " 244.

Assignment Twelve.

C. COMMON ROADSIDE AND FIELD INSECTS----------(continued)

2. Dyptera- gnats stable flies
mosquitoes fruit flies
house flies

These insects belong to the insects having two wings. They are the sucking or piercing mouth kind. They attack the cattle, sometimes kill them. They may be reduced by destroying their breeding places, by screening the barns and out houses of the live stock and by spraying. Mosquitoes are bred in stagnant waters and may be destroyed by kerosene or oil poured on the breeding places.

3. Homiptera- stink bugs water bugs
squash bugs bed bugs

These are true bugs and have sucking mouths.(1) The stink bug attacks beans, and can be picked off by hand.

Water bugs may be destroyed by spraying or dusting with insect powder.

The squash bug may be picked off of the plants by hand.

"Bed bugs may be destroyed by fumigating the house with hydrocyanic-acid gas. This gas will penetrate into every crevice or room where the bed bugs conceal themselves and has an immediate effectiveness which gives it an important recommendation, especially when the infestation is considerable or of long standing."(2)

4. Orthoptera- crickets roaches
grass hoppers katy-dids
devil horse or
(mantish) walking stick

These insects have biting mouths and some of them, especially the roaches,

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1. Living Things by Arthur G. Vlemant, Page 62.
2. Farmers' Bulletin No. 754, Page 13.

C. COMMON ROADSIDE AND FIELD INSECTS----------(continued)

4. Orthoptera----------(continued)

are very harmful and troublesome.

The cricket is an insect related to the grasshopper. There are three kinds- mole crickets, true crickets, and tree crickets. The mole crickets lay their eggs in the ground. The true crickets are very abundant in the fields; they are black, sometimes with brownish wings. They usually feed on plants and lay their eggs in the ground in the autumn, the broods hatching out in the spring. To this division belong, also, the house cricket. The tree crickets are delicate, whitish green. They live on trees and shrubs, and often do damage by boring to deposit their eggs. One kind lays its eggs in stems of the raspberry. The katydid is not a cricket.(1)

"Roaches are among the commonest and most offensive of the insects which frequent habitations."(2)

"The great majority of the roaches live outdoors, and in warm countries have the reputation of living on plants and sometimes being very injurious.(2)

"The house roaches are particularly abundant in pantries and kitchens, especially in the neighborhood of fireplaces, on account of the heat. They conceal themselves during the day behind baseboards or furniture, or wherever security and partial protection from the light are afforded."(2)

"The domestic roaches feed on almost any dead animal matter, cereal products, and food materials of all sorts. They are also said to eat their own cast off skins and egg cases, and it is supposed that they will attack

1. The Student's Reference Work, Vol. I, Page 21.
2. Farmers' Bulletin No. 658, Pages 3 and 5.



C. COMMON ROADSIDE AND FIELD INSECTS----------(continued)

4. Orthoptera----------(continued)

other kinds of roaches, or are perhaps, occasionally cannibalistic. They will also eat or gnaw woolens, leather (as of shoes or furniture), and frequently are the cause of extensive damage to the cloth and leather bindings of books in libraries and publishing houses."(1)

"One of the most effective, simple means of ridding premises of roaches is dusting with commercial sodium flouride, either pure or diluted one-half with some inert substance such as powdered gypsum or flour."(1) Powdered borax, Pyrethrum, sulphur and phosphorus may be used, also.

The grasshopper destroys vegetation. Birds eat them.(2) The devil horse (praying mantiss) and walking stick belong to the same family as the grasshopper.

5. Lepidoptera- butterflies(Monarch, Mourning Cloak, [redacted], swallow tails, sulfur, etc.)

These insects belong to the sucking mouth kind. The Monarch and Mourning Cloak feed on willow, poplar and elm trees. They stay mostly around the edge of water. This is about the only species that lays its eggs in clusters and the caterpillars of which feed close together so that their depredations are conspicuous. The peacock haunts the open fields and feeds on the plantain. We do not have this one. There are several kinds of swallow tails. They are the black, blue, green and giant. They haunt the

1. Farmers' Bulletin No. 658, Pages 11 and 12.
2. Living Things by Arthur G. Clement, Page 57.

C. COMMON ROADSIDE AND FIELD INSECTS----------(continued)

5. Lepidoptera----------(continued)

fields, gardens and meadows and do some damage to the parsley and other vegetables and the sassafras trees. There are several kinds of the sulphur or sulfur butterflies. They are the orange, little orange, common sulphur, little sulphur and cloudless sulphur. Their haunts are mostly in cultivated fields and they do harm to the clover and the pea families. (1)

6. Odonata- Dragon flies damsel flies(snake doctor)

"There are several varieties of dragon flies. In the United States they are commonly called darning needles, and are said by superstitious children to be able to sting, sew up the ears, or do some other physical harm; but they have no sting and are entirely harmless to man. They are abundant about ponds and still waters, in which their eggs are laid. The larva lives inthe water, feeding on insects and very small fish which are caught by a peculiar claw. When ready to transform, the nymph crawls out of the water on the stem of a water plant, its outer case becomes split open along the back, and the perfect insect issues from it." (2)

The damsel fly is smaller than the dragon fly. It spends its time around the edges of banks where it can feed on mosquitoes and little fish.

7. Coleoptera- beetles(betsy bug) June bug
May beetle Lady bug
Lightning bug.

These are the biting bugs. These bugs live in the ground and feed on garden flowering plants such as iris, gladiolus, dahlia, rose, violet, gera-

1. Living Things by A. G. Clement, Page 62 (not exact words) and from Nature Study and Life by Hodge, Page 262 to 272 (not exact words).



C. COMMON ROADSIDE AND FIELD INSECTS----------(continued)

7. Coleoptra----------(continued)

niums, hyacinth, and privet, and also to lawns and golf courses. The larvae may feed upon the roots of plants, or the adults, during their flight period, may eat the leaves, causing defoliation. Carbon-disulphide emulsion has been recommended for their treatment. (1)

D. SPIDERS

1. Black widow crab spiders
trap-door spiders funnel web spiders
orb web spiders cob-web spiders

"Their body is separated into two parts, a combined head and thorax, and an abdomen. There are four pairs of walking legs on which distinguishes them from all insects, the latter having three pairs of legs. The head carries poison jaws and mouth parts and, usually, six or eight simple eyes. The arrangement of the eyes is an aid in classifying spiders." "There are two, three, or four pairs with numerous horny tubes opening upon them. The substance of the thread is fluid and hardens on contact with the air. It isformed within numerous glands, one of which opens in each horny tube. Fluid issues from the various tubes and is usually united into a single thread. Some spiders in place of spinning webs, send into the air a slender thread which becomes longer and longer, and finally, is sufficient to act as a float. They let go their hold and go sailing through the air often for miles, supported by this floating thread. The common garden spider with its geometrical web is well known. The large black and yellow spider is frequently seen in the fall. The common grass spider [illegible] makes its

1. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1495, Page 49.

D. SPIDERS ----------(continued)

web in the form of a funnel in the ground. Some spiders of small size build no webs, but wander about and leap upon their prey like minute tigers. The trap-door spiders inhabit tubular nests in the ground provided with a trap-door to close the entrance." There are also crab spiders measuring six or seven inches across, which prey upon the birds and other small animals."(1)

2. Ticks: wood tick
cattle tick

"Tick, a kind of mite having the mouth in the form of a sharp beak. They are very common in warm countries and are parasites on cattle. The so-called sheep ticks are insects with six legs, while all true ticks have eight legs, like the spiders. They live on plants and will attach themselves to the skin of man as well as to animals." "They bury their heads under the skin and suck blood, becoming as large as a horse bean. Herds of cattle are sometimes killed by the exhaustion produced by these parasites." "In fields and woods they get on the wood, plants, and grass and then get on to cattle or people walking by them. Wet weather is fatal to them, and infested animals are often freed from them by swimming a river."(2) The government has required the farmers to dip their cattle in a kreso-dip mixture that kills the tick, and by this means cattle are free from ticks in this county.

3. Mites: poultry mites mange
red bugs "Itch of Dogs"

Poultry mites are of several kinds. They are: the common red or gray mite which infests poultry houses, the feather mite, the scaly-leg mite and the

1. The Student's Reference Work, Vol. II, A to Z, Page 1368.
2. " " " " " " " " " 1450.



D. SPIDERS----------(continued)
3. Mites----------(continued)

depluming mite. (The last two are itch mites.)

The common poultry mite lives entirely on blood hence they feed on the poultry mostly at night. This mite causes the chickens to be droopy, quit laying and sometimes a sitting hen will leave her nest. The feather mite eats the feathers and makes the feathers look dirty and the skin scaly.

The treatment for these mites is to get rid of their hiding places and then thoroughly spray the roosts, nests, walls and floors of the chicken houses. Commercial carbolineum which consists essentially of a high-grade anthracene oil has proved very effective.

Scaly-leg mite is controlled by dipping the chicken's legs in crude petroleum, also using crude petroleum on the roosts. A less severe treatment is to soak the feet in warm soapsuds until the scales are loosened and then grease the feet and legs with sulphur and lard, or lard containing 6% crude carbolic acid.

The depluming mite causes the fowls to pull out the feathers. This may be treated by dipping the fowls in a solution containing three-fourths ounce or one heaping tablespoonful of sodium flouride may be added to each gallon of water in the foregoing mixture. Since soapy solutions thoroughly drench the fowls especial care should be taken to choose a warm day for the treatment.(1)

Mange and "Itch of Dogs" in caused by a parasite on the skin. This causes the hair to come off and from the dog constantly scratching and biting

1. Farmers' Bulletin No. 801, Pages 2 to 7.

D. SPIDERS----------(continued)

3. Mites----------(continued)

makes sores. It is usually treated by a Veterinarian but can be cured by using sulphur and lard as an ointment.

The red bugs, called chiggers, are found on the grass and get on the little chickens. The infested chickens become droopy, emaciated, soon refuse to eat and if exposure to the mites is continued a considerable mortality is likely to result. Occasional light dusting of chickens with flowers of sulphur doubtless will keep these "red bugs" off. When the chickens are hatched very early in the spring it is very likely they will escape the chiggers.(1)

4. True scorpions(not a lizard)

"These animals are united into a class with spiders. They have long slender bodies and resemble in a general way the small lobster. Scorpions are restricted to warm countries. During the day they lie concealed under stones and in holes, but they are active at night. Their food is insects, spiders, and other small animals. They are able to inflict a severe wound with their sting but it is rarely, if ever, fatal."(2)

Not all insects are harmful.. There are some beneficial insects such the honey bee, which produces honey and wax, bees, butterflies, and moths, which pollinate flowers, the Lady-bird beetle, which destroys other insect pests, plant lice, the Ichneumon fly, which destroys larval form of other insects, and the ground beetle, which destroys potato beetles, caterpillars, and cut worms.

1. Farmers' Bulletin, No. 801, Page 6
2. The Student's Reference Work, Vol. 2, M to Z.



I. ENEMIES

Natural enemies of insects aid man in controlling the spread of insect pests. Among these enemies are birds and insects such as the lady-bird beetle and a fly called the ichneumon fly. It is an interesting fact that many of the most harmful insects in this country are imported species. They are not a menace in their native lands because they are kept in check by numerous insect foes. The "Corn borer", which threatens to destroy our greatest agricultural crop, has existed for years in Europe, but has not been troublesome there because it has been the prey of other insects and its spread has thus been controlled. Not having to contend with its natural enemies in the country it has spread with great rapidity. Experience has shown that the best way to control the spread of harmful imported insects is to introduce into this country the insect enemies which kept them in check in their native lands, propagate them in large numbers and release them in sections where the harmful insects on which they prey are found."(1)

1. The above information was taken from Living Things by Arthur Clement, Pages 58, 59, and 60.

Assignment Twelve.

II. OTHER INVERTEBRATES

1. Fresh water sponges, etc.-- None

2. Coral, Jelly Fish, etc.---- None

3. Worms, (flukes, tapeworms, hook worm, pork worm).

Flukes are worms that attack sheep.

Tape worms and hook worms are worms that attack people as well as cattle. They are parasites that get in the lining of the intestine and sap all vitality out of the body. They can be treated to get rid of the worms.

Pork worms or trichina are minute worm parasites in the muscles of swine and some other animals, and very dangerous, since they can be transferred to man. The transformation comes by eating lean or imperfectly cooked pork. This worm(Trichina spiralis) was discovered in 1835 by Richard Owen. It is about one-twenty fifth of an inch long, and, when in a quiet condition, lies coiled in a capsule or cyst within the muscles of the infected animal. When infected meat is eaten by man, the capsules are dissolved within the stomach and the worms set free. An immense number of new and very minute worms are soon produced-each female being able to supply 1,500 to 2,000 eggs. The newly hatched worms bore through the walls of the intestine, and get into the blood vessels and lymph passages and are carried all over the body. It is difficult to say how the pigs become infested, but the worm is found in the rat, and as these are about slaughter houses and sometimes eaten by pigs, the infection may come in that way.(1)

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1. The Student's Reference Work-Vol. 2, M to Z, Page 1468.

Assignment Twelve.

II. OTHER INVERTEBRATES----------(continued)

4. Leeches, earthworms.

"Leech, a segmented worm usually with a flattened body having a rounded sucker at each end. Most forms live in the water and are commonly called blood-suckers. They attach themselves to cattle and swimmers, and are also parasites on fishes, crustacea, etc. There are also land leeches in the damp forests of Asia which are fearful pests. The blood-sucking leeches are provided with jaws which are located in the middle of the front sucker. They consist of flattened plates, the outer edges of which are rounded and divided into numerous sharp points like teeth of a saw. Three of them radiate from the center and the wound they inflict is three-parted. Leeches are used in medicine for letting blood. The stomach extends through the body and is sacculated; it can become greatly distended by blood. Thesense organs of the leeches are of especial interest to Zoologists. They are located on the surface in rows of small rounded papillaes. These show a graded series in which touch-spots are gradualllly modified into eyes, as we pass from the hind to the front end of the body There are in many species ten eyes."(1)

"Earthworms assist in breaking down organic matter. After passing through their bodies it becomes part of the soil. Earthworms also make the soil porous, thus allowing water and air to penetrate, both of whichare taken up by the root hairs and carried into the plant."(2)

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1. The Students Reference Work-Vol.1-A-L, Page 747.
2. Living Things, by Arthur G. Clement, Page 397.

II. OTHER INVERTEBRATES----------(continued)

4. Leeches, earthworms----------(continued)

"Earthworms are exceedingly valubble to the farmer since they help to fertilize the soil by their excretions. Darwin estimated that over 50,000 worms may be found in an acre of land, and that it was possible for ten tons of soil to pass through their bodies in a year and thus be brought to the sufface in the fwwm of worm casts."(1)

5. Star-fish---------None.
Sand-dollar-------None.
Brittle star------None.
Sea cucumber------None.

6. Mollusks: snails.

"The snail is a shelled molluck behanging to the class Gasteropoda. The land snails are widely distributed and are well known. They are air breathers, and, feeding upon vegetation, do much injury in gardens. The animal is spirally coiled so as to fit into its shell. The lower part of the body called the foot can be protruded. There are four tentacles or feelers on the head which can be shortened or extended at will. The longest pair have eyes in their tips. There are slender muscles attached to the apex of the shell and to the animal's foot by means of which the animal is drawn into its shell. In dry weather or in winter, the opening is often closed by a horny structure, called the operculum. The common garden snail has 135 rows of 105 teeth each, making 14, 175 in all."(2)

1. Living Things by Arthur G. Clement, Page 411.
2. The Student's Reference Work, Vol. 2, Page 1350.



II. OTHER INVERTEBRATES----------(continued)

7. Crustaceans: cray fish
shrimp.

"There are several orders of crustaceans. The crayfish belongs to the order called decapods, a name given because all animals included, such as cray fish, lobsters, shrimps, prawns and crabs, have each ten legs. Owing to the fact that they are used for food, these decapods are more important from an economic point of view and more interesting than other orders of crustaceans."(1)

"Crayfish live in stream and ponds in regions where there are limestone formations. Since they are not fond of sunshine, the best time to observe them in their natural habitat is toward evening on a summer day when they are moving about in search of food."(2)

In some countries they are used as food. Fishermen use them for bait. They are also useful as scavengers. They sometimes cause serious damage by digging holes in dikes and levees of rivers. These holes are gradually enlarged by the flowing power of the water, which may so loosen the dirt of the levee that it gives way, causing a serious flooding to large tracts of land. The fields along the banks of the Mississippi have suffered from this cause.(3)

Shrimp are found in large quantities in the Mississippi River.

1. Living Things by Arthur G. Clement, Page 65.
2. Living Things by Arthur G. Clement, Page 66.
3. Living Things by Arthur G. Clement, Page 69 (not exact words).

Assignment Twelve.

III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES

1. Gars, Pikes, etc. We have no pikes in Claiborne County. Gars or garpikes are primitive fish with thick skin covered with very hard scales, which look very much like Indian arrow heads. Gars are a pest to commercial fishermen and to anglers, and are both competitors and enemies of game fish. They feed on fish of apparently every available species. The short nose is by far the most abundant gar in Mississippi. Gars are seldom marketed in Mississippi, but are eaten by negroes and are sometimes used for fertilizer.

2. Lampreys and hag-fish (Marine) ------- None.

3. Sharks and sting-rees (Marine) ------- None.

4. Typical bony fish:Fresh water-trout, perch, bass, etc.

A great deal can be said of fishing as a sport and about fish as a commercial product in Claiborne County. This is due largely to the fact that the county is bordered on its western side by the Mississippi river and at different times in changing its course it has left lakes which afford delightful fishing. Many individuals own their own boats and may be seen on any spring or summer day with their boats, on their way to one of our many attractive lakes. Some leave their boats in the lakes under lock. So well known is our Carnac Lake that rarely ever a week passes without campers from a distance, generally from Hinds andb Copiah Counties. Port Gibson affords a fish dock at the present time, from which fish is sold in wholesale lots to the markets in Jackson, Vicksburg, and elsewhere.

Often the unemployed make or buy nets and camp on the river banks and manage to sell enough fish to support their families until other means of existence can be obtained.

III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

4. Typical bony fish:----------(continued)

Thus the fish industry in Claiborne County cannot be overlooked when considering how many live along the river banks and survive on the profits from their fishing. It is an interesting sight to see the huge boilers containing boiling tar and the men dipping their huge nets in the tar. This is a common sight along Claiborne County's western front.

Spoonbill or Paddle fish: Spoonbills marketed in Mississippi usually range in size from 5 to 30 pounds. They have been known to attain a size much larger. They are caught in a goodly number from the Mississippi River, and in smaller amounts from the bayous. It is not known when or where they spawn.

Catfishes- Little is known of the spawning habits of catfishes. The yellow cat spawns in submerged hollow logs and stumps while others (the polliwogs) make nests in shallow water somewhat like sunfish. Catfishes eat both animal and vegetable food. They are nodoubt competitors and enemies of game fish, but are kept in check by fishermen, so that there is little, if any, need for special control program in any part of Mississippi.

Blue cat or channel cat, ~~which is regarded as a food fish, and~~ is regarded highly as a food fish, and is considered the most important catfish in Mississippi. Its average size is so much larger than other catfish that the total catch will far outweigh that of smaller species. The average size marketed is 8 pounds, but individuals weighing from 5 to 100 pounds are reported to have been taken.

Yellow cat or Tabby cat, also called "Mud Cat", reaches a large size, and

III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

4. Typical bony fish:----------(continued)

Yellow cat----------(continued)

is almost as important as the blue cat. Market specimens average between 10 to 15 pounds.

Willow cat or Bull-head cat, does not grow large. It is important, however, because of its abundance, average market size 1½ lbs.

Fiddler, called "Channel cat", though out of its wide range, except in a few southern states, which is reported to reach a maximum weight of 25 lbs. Those marketed in Mississippi average only a few pounds. The flesh is more flaky than other catfish and is well flavored.

Buffalo fishes of three distinct species are of great commercial value in Claiborne County and throughout the state. The name "Buffalo fish" has been derived from the bull-like hump developed at the nape of the neck in the large individuals. Several hundred pounds of this particular fish is sold in Port Gibson every Saturday to local trade.

Carp- A very few carp have been found in Claiborne waters; a small number occasionally are caught from the river in nets.

Drum, or Gapergon is caught in considerable numbers in the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The Drum grows large, but as its flesh is of inferior quality at best, the young fish ranging from 1 to 4 pounds are sought. Indications are that the spawning period is April and May. It is not known where it spawns and nothing is known of the eggs or young. The Drum is the host of the larvae of several species of mussels, some of which



III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

4. Typical bony fish:----------(continued)

Drum----------(continued)

are useful in the manufacture of buttons.

A few other food and game fishes of more or less importance are found in Claiborne streams. Minnows and other small fishes which constitute the principal sources of food for the majority of the food and game fishes in Mississippi are:

True minnows: Spot-tail, Bull-head, Roach and others, collected and used as live bait by sportsmen.

Top minnows: Pot-belly or Gambusia, Star-head, Diamond-head, valuable as enemies of mosquitoes. They feed on mosquito larvae.

Pirate Perch, a family consisting of a single species. Probably valuable as a forage fish.

Silversides, a family having only one fresh water representative, called the brook "Silverside", the willow minnow and glass minnow, which is abundant in certain waters. It is used as bait, but does not stand handling well.

Individuals build concrete troughs and keep minnows for sale all through the fishing season .

Pigmy sunfish- a very small species less than an inch when grown, is used as bait by fishermen.

Sunfishes which thrive in the warm streams and lakes in Mississippi, Clai-

III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

4. Typical bony fish:----------(continued)

borne county has her share. Only those most highly prized for food and sport arelisted here. The Black Bass, the Kentucky Bass and the Crappies, which are not ordinarily referred to as sunfishes, are included because they are properly speaking, members of the sunfish family. Large month Black Bass, and the Kentucky Bass look so much alike that they are not readily distinguishable. The Kentucky Bass is a fish of the streams, whereas the large mouth prefers lakes and burrow pits. They rank as first class game fishes in the state.

Bream- often called bluebream, is a fine game fish, attains a weight of 1½ pounds, and is excellently flavored. Bream feed at different depths on plant material and on the larvae of aquatic insects.

Other sunfishes of some interest to anglers, occuring in our streams are
orange spotted sunfish
green sunfish
perch--- white perch, principally.

Two species of fresh water fishes belonging to the Sea-Bass family are somewhat valuable as food and game fish in Mississippi. These are the white bass and yellow bass.(1)

"Fishes are the lowest form of vertebrates, of which division they form nearly one-third. They include 13,000 species. (A very small per cent of the species are found in Claiborne waters).

1. The technical information concerning fishes is taken from the Biennial Report of State Game and Fish Commission.



III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

4. Typical bony fishes:----------(continued )

All species have a backbone and breathe through gills. None is adapted to land.

Fishes perform all the functions necessary for living things.

The functions of relation that are specially well developed are the sense of touch, the sense of hearing and the power of motion.

In motion the most important organ is the tail, which is well adapted for its work since it is flexible, comparatively broad, flat and controlled by strong muscles. Swimming is also made easy by the pointed shape of the head, slimy mucus on the body, backward slant of the body fins and overlapping scales."(1)

Although fish hatcheries are supported by the United States government and by several states, where fish are artificially propagated, none of this is carried on in Claiborne County. But Claiborne waters are fairly rich in fish, not necessitating artificial propagation.

Amphibians- Salamanders, toads, frogs(as tree frog, bull frog, spring frog).

Frogs of every size and kind are found in large numbers almost anywhere in the country. They are often seen in the yards and garden. But in great numbers around the ponds, lakes and marshes. They afford amusement to a

1. Living Things, an Elementary Biology, by Arthur C. Clement, Page 78.

Assignment Twelve.

III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

Amphibians- ----------(continued)

great many children and those who do not know any better destroy hundr eds of frogs. School children should have the privilege of studying the life story and work of the toad. Nothing could be better calculated to open the door of interest into comparative embryology and zoology. Then there is the sleight of hand magic of catching insects. Nothing in all the varied performances of animals brings so quickly: How did he do it? What did he do it with? Next we have a question that will prove a puzzle. How do they drink? A toad drinks by absorbing water through the skin. De-prive a toad of water for a day and weigh the specimen carefully. Next let it sit on a wet blotting paper, or pour a little water into its vivarium and after an hour, weigh the toad again. The gain will represent water absorbed.(1)

Toads- jaws toothless, skin generally warty, found in all parts of the world except Australia.

Common toad- very variable, adults warty; young almost smooth. Note a prolonged trill, uttered by the mates during the breeding season, April and May, sometimes also in July. Food: insects, spiders, millipeds, slugs, and worms. Feeding habit chiefly nocturnal. Does not eat young of its own species.

Frogs- Skin smooth; toes and fingers fully webbed; maxilary and generally

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1. Nature Study by Hodge, Page 291.

Assignment Twelve.

III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

Amphibians- ----------(xcontinued)

Frogs----------(continued)

vomerine teeth. Eggs are laid in masses of gelatinous matter.

Common frog, Leopard frog- Greenish, sometimes brassy, above, with light-edged dark spots arranged in two irregular rows along the back: beneath pearly white or yellowish.

Bull frog- " Color, greenish olive above, variously marked with dusky blotches; below white, often bright yellow under the throat. The note is a deep bass "Trwnm", or "jug o' rum", heard so often in the early summer evenings. The spawning season so far as I have beenble to observe, is late June and July. The young remain in the water as tadpoles at least two years and attain a length of five to eight inches. This is our most valuable frog, but its work in nature is probably worth more than its market price. The services of the large tadpoles, too in cleansing shallow ponds must be of considerable value. The number of eggs laid by a large frog is not known, but is probably not less than 20,000. Whatever the number, the frogs should be carefully protected- along with trout and other fishes- until after spawning is well over. The open season should not be longer than August and September. The food of the bullfrog seems to be any living thing that it can even partially swallow. They have been seen to swallow the head end of a live mud puppy fully twice the length of the frog's body."(1)

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1. Nature Study and Life by Hodge, Page 298.

III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

Amphibians----------(continued)

Wood frog- Color greenish to reddish brown, changing somewhat according to surroundings; a dark band on each side of head extending over the eye and ear to insertion of arm; legs obscurely barred, and sides speckled with black. A small frog found commonly in the woods, scarcely aquatic, can leap farther than any other of our frogs. Aside from the common notion that it feeds on insects nothing definite is known as to its food.

Tree frogs: Small arboreal: fingers and toes with tips expanded into clasping disks. Genera ten, species sixty.

Common tree frog: A common inhabitant of orchards and waysides but a good test to any child's sharp eyes to find. This is an interesting frog. It is easily domesticated, so that it may be carried about in the finger from fly to fly. If kept in a vivarium and well fed, it is said to make an interesting barometer climbing to the top of its ladder in fair weather and descending into the water before a storm. They are less numerous than otherfrogs.

Pickerings tree frog- Color above, brown or gray, readily changing. It inhabits the weeds, the tall grass, and bushes of muddy shores. No good account is given of its foods, breeding season or habits. (1)

Salamanders, smooth elongated bodies; four limbs; long tails; no external gills when adult. Sixteen genera and fifty American species. Rarely ever seen in Claiborne County.

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1 Above information about frogs taken from Nature Study and Life by Hodge, Page 300.



III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

Reptiles- Alligators, Turtles.

Alligators are occasionally seen cruising around the edges of lakes which are either surrounded or partly surrounded by swamps. The ones seen have not been of the large type reptile. They are killed when sighted if possible as they are an enemy of game fish and other animals.

Turtles are plentiful in nearly every stream. Soft shell turtles are sought for cooking. "Turtle stew" is a favorite at many tables. On approaching ponds and lakes they are seen sitting on logs and around the banks sunning. Very likely when you are excited over a fish on your line you will be disappointed to find a turtle instead.

Lizards-

Lizards commonly seen in Claiborne are very small and harmless to human beings, as to poisoning, although repulsive in appearance. Some live entirely on trees and some earth. Often they are seen when an old plank which has been lying on the ground for a long time is raised. They feed on some insects and eggs.

Our long tailed Batrachia (frogs and salamanders) are commonly called lizards. But lizards are always covered with horny scales, somewhat like the skin of a snake. This species may be seen almost anywhere in the south. The little chameleon and the horned toad, often carried north as curiosities are lizards.

Assignment Twelve.

III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

Snakes-

a. Poisonous: rattler, water moccasin, copperhead, coral snakes, water puppy.

"The rattler or rattlesnake is a deadly poisonous snake with horny rattles on the tail. The rattles are horny rings made of modified scales, so loosely constructed, that they rattle when the tail is vibrated. These snakes have grooved fangs that are erected when they strike. Their color is yellowish brown of various shades, with three rows of irregular brown blotches; the tail is black. They are naturally sluggish and do not attack unprovoked. Their food is rabbits, rats, squirrels, and other small animals."(1)

"The moccasin and the copperhead are very poisonous snakes. The moccasin belongs to the rattlesnake family, but the tail is short, and ends in a horny point, instead of a rattle. The water moccasin is the most dreaded snake of the United States. The rattle snake strikes only when disturbed and gives warning by its rattle. The moccasin strikes without warning at anything that displeases it. It is an expert swimmer. Often it lies on buches overhanging streams, watching for frogs and fish. Its closest relative is the copperhead or upland moccasin, commonly called the cotton-mouth."(2)

The coral snake is a stinging snake, lives in streams and is very uncommon in Claiborne County.(3)

The water puppy is an eel like snake, small and slippery. It lives in small stream.(3)

1. The Student's Reference Work, Vol. 2, Page 1214.
2. The Student's Reference Work, Vol. 2, Page 934.
3. Mrs. Virgil Hartley.

Assignment Twelve.

III. FISHES AND THEIR RELATIVES----------(continued)

Snakes.

b. Non-Poisonous: Spreading adder, king snake, black snake, blue racer, whip snake, garter snake, chicken snake, water snakes.

"We know, in general, that all snakes feed upon living animals, which they swallow whole, and very often alive. Garter snakes feed largely on toads and frogs. Water snakes are known to destroy numbers of fishes; and the black snake has the well-earned reputation of killing birds and robbing their nests. Whether they do enough good to offset this harm, or whether they do any good at all, remains to be discovered by patient observation and study. As far as the evidence goes at present, however, it seems that the fewer we have the better."(1)

The spreading adder is not a poisonous snake but will bite to protect itself from the enemy. The king snake helps by eating bugs and insects and other snakes. The little blue racer does no harm. It may run after you but if you turn on it then it will run away. The whip snake is just another of these little harmless snakes. The chicken snake does harm by eating little chickens and swallowing the eggs.

IV. FOWLS

1. Game birds-wood duck, mallard, puritail, and teal ducks.

Many wood ducks are killed by hunters during the fall and winter months. They inhabit the sloughs and lakes and ponds. They are not a desirable

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1. Nature Study by Hodge, Page 413.

IV. FOWLS----------(continued)

1. Game birds----------(continued)

eating duck however.

Mallard- A common wild duck inhabiting the northern hemisphere. Migrating southward in cold weather. It belongs to the group of river ducks. It is extensively hunted by the use of decoys, and its fine flavored flesh makes it a favorite for the table.

Teal- Small ducks belonging to the group of river ducks. They are abundant during migrations and one of the best ducks as food. They feed on seeds of grass, small acorns, fallen grapes, water insects, small snails, and worms.

2. Canadian goose- Among the choicest of game due to size and flavor of meat. They migrate in huge droves. All winter hunting along the Mississippi is good. However the number of geese have decreased within the past two years due to conditions in the north.

Blue goose- Unknown to Claiborne County hunters.

Snow goose- Unknown to Claiborne County hunters.

Brant goose- Not found in large quantities, but quite a few are killed every hunting season.

Very often the above mentioned game is found on the lakes, creeks, and ponds. But those wishing to bag all the law allows usually pitch their tents near the river.



IV. FOWLS----------(continued)

3. Song birds as: mocking bird, warblers, etc.

Mocking bird- A singing bird of the thrush familyclosely related to the cat bird. It is about the size of a song thrush, with the upper parts dark brownish ash in color, the wings and tail nearly black, and underparts nearly black. It is a fine singer and during moonlight nights while nesting, will sing all night. Its natural song contains many notes similar to those of other birds, though its powers as an imitator have been exaggerated. Besides imitating the sweet tones of the wood thrush, it whistles, makes sounds like a creaking wheelbarrow, the barking of a dog, the squeak of a hurt chicken, etc.

Those who are sufficiently interested in birds, to supply homes, nesting places and materials for nests are sure to reap a great deal of pleasure. These houses attract wrens, bluebirds, chickadees, tree swallows, and purple martins.

Wren- Besides being a cheery songster and a most sprightly and fascinating fellow, the wren depends for practically his whole food supply upon the insects of our grounds and gardens.

Chickadees- "All summer they feed on insects and all winter on the eggs which they lay on the twigs and bark and around the buds of trees. They are also among our cheeriest and tamest birds and we could not have too many of them about our homes."(1)

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1. Nature Study and Life by Hodge, Page 554.

Assignment Twelve.

IV. FOWLS----------(continued)

3. Song birds:----------(continued)

Swallows- The Greeks celebrated the swallows in poetry and song as early as the dawn of authentic history. We cannot afford to let these deep lines of sentiment and human good fail from our lives. It is indeed a pathetic thing to see swallows in colonies flying around a building, examining every knot for an entrance. Farmers should realize the hot days of suffering and annoyance from flies, gnats, and mosquitoes which a beautiful colony of swallows would save. (1)

Martins- Beautiful little birds adding life and cheer to any place. It is often stated that purple martins are becoming rare, sparrows being given as the cause. Even the Indians used to hang gourds to their wigwam poles for the martins.

Robins- are necessaries of life. No summer is complete without a pair of these rollicking birds nesting about the house. They awaken you at morning and cheer you at evening by their songs. If every bird has his vocation, as a poetical French writer suggest, that of the American robin must be to inspire cheerfulness and contentment in men. His joyous Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheery! Be cheery! poured out in the early morning from the top branch of the highest tree in the neighborhood, is one of the most stimulating sounds of spring. Besides admonishing others to cheerfulness the robin sets the example.

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1. Nature Study and Life by Hodge. Page 387- (Not exact words.)

Assignment Twelve.

IV. BIRDS----------(continued)

3. Song birds----------(continued)

Chimney swift and night hawk- "The little chimney swifts and the night hawk are birds of wonderful power and usefulness in sweeping the air clear of insect pests. The night hawks nest on the flat roofs of buildings, and the swifts in unused chimneys. The swifts nest in colonies in the same chimneys and are often killed in great numbers by fires that are built during cold weather in early summer. Great care should be exercised to avoid this whenever possible."(1)

Orioles, blue birds, and a host of others are helpful to mankind and pretty also. They are worthy of protection. Orioles are particularly valuable in destroying boll weevils. These words of President Roosevelt's well express the general feeling toward birds. "We should have birds about our homes just as we have trees and flowers. Bird life, in fact, is the natural complement of plant life, both useful and beautiful."

Warblers- "There are about one hundred species, all American. They show great variations in color and are difficult to identify. They perch mostly in tree tops and must be especially looked for. They are all insect eating and migratory birds."(2)

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1. Nature Study and Life by Hodge, Page 338.
2. The Student's Reference Work, Vol. 2, Page 1534.

IV. BIRDS----------(continued)

4. Birds of prey as: hawks, owls.

Some hawks and owls aid the farmer by preying upon mice and rats that destroy grain and upon rabbits that girdle trees. Hawks are abundant in Claiborne County. They nest in lofty trees. Among the larger species are the so-called hen hawks. This species is an enemy to chickens. Coopers hawk is a well known variety.

For the most part they are birds of night and pass the day in secluded and dark places. The common owls feed, for the most part on smaller birds and field mice. The screech owl is one of the commonest. The barred owls are next in abundance.

Crow- a bird of black plumage, belonging to the crow family. The crows are usually considered to be destructive birds, but they do more good than harm. They injure cornfields to a considerable degree, but they also destroy many cut worms, beetles, grasshoppers, and other injurious insects, and thereby compensate for their own misdeeds.(1)

5. Aquatic birds as: heron--------None.
bitterns-----None.
pelicans-----None.

State laws for the protection of wild life are steadily being improved. The American Game Protective Association, the Wild Flower Preservation Society and many other organizations are banded together and in cooperation with Fed'l and State govts. are making earnest efforts to conserve wild life,

1. The Student's Reference Work, Vol. 1, Page 315--(Not exact words.)



V. MAMMALS

1. Opossum, moles, shrews(none), bats.

Opossums, pouched animals, live on trees and are active at night. They feed on insects, small reptiles, eggs and young fowls. They are highly esteemed as food by colored people. These animals are protected by the state game laws.

Moles are burrowing animals. They disfigure lawns and gardens by the ridges and furrows they make hunting after food, but as it feeds on injurious larvae and insects it compensates for the damage. They feed on earth worms, insects, larvae, and field mice.

Bats found in this county hang head downward during the day, in sheltered places and deserted buildings. They feed on insects.

2. Bear(none), dog, wolf, fox, raccoon, weasle(none) mink, skunk, cats, lynx(none), panthers(none), coyote(none).

The dog, wolf, fox, raccoon, mink, skunk, car are mammals of prey. "These are flesh eating animals. They are well adapted for securing this kind of diet by the possession of very strong pointed claws and sharp teeth."(1) All members of this family are characterized by the possession of claws and by pads on the feet.

3. Rodents as: mice, rats, muskrats, gophers, rabbits, porcupine, squirrells.

1. Living Things, An Elementary Biology, by Arthur G. Clement, Page 118.

Claiborne County

2nd copy

COMPILATION
Enid Richmond

Chapter VI

INDIANS

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Tribes

The Natchez and Choctaws were the two major tribes to settle in Claiborne County." When Mississippi was entered by European explorers, the Indians found here were grouped into several tribal divisions, which differed greatly in number and in power. Although some of these tribes were related, each of them had manners, customs, and traditions peculiar to itself.

"The Natchez Indians lived along the east bank of the Mississippi south of the Big Black River. At one time they had sixty villages and eight hundred princes." (1)

Customs and Characteristics

"The Natchez were of a light mahogany complexion, with jet black hair and eyes. Their features were extremely regular and their expression was intelligent, open and noble. They were tall, very few being under six feet, and the summetry of their well proportioned limbs was remarkable. Their whole frame presented a beautiful development of the muscles. The women were not as good looking as the men, and were generally of medium size."

"Their government", says Gayeree, "was a perfect Asiatic despotism. Their sovereign was styled the Great Sun, and at his death it was customary to immolate in his honor a considerable number

(1) Mississippi History Riley, F. L. Page 12

of his subjects. The subordinate chiefs of the royal blood were called Little Suns, and when they also paid the inevitable tribute due to nature, there was, according to their dignity and the estimation in which they were held, a proportionate and voluntary sacrifice of lives. The poor, ignorant barbarians, who thus died for their princes, did it cheerfully, because they were persuaded that by escorting them to the world of spirits, they would, in recompense for their devotion, be entitled to live in eternal youth and bliss; suffering neither from cold, heat, hunger, thirst, nor disease, and rioting in the full gratification of all their tastes, desires and passions. The frequent hecatombs of human beings were one of the causes, it is said, which contributed to the diminution of that race.

"The Natchez were quite expert in supplying their few and simple wants. Mr. Gayaree, referring to their inventive faculty in making implements to meet their requirements, has this to say; "To cut down timber, they had flint axes, ingeniously contrived, and to r sever flesh, either raw or cooked, they had knives made of a peculiar kind of keen-edged reed, called conchac. They used for their bows the acacia wood, and their bow-strings were made either of the bark of trees or skins of animals. Their arrows, made of reed, were winged with the feathers of birds, and when designed to kill buffaloes or deer, their arrows were points with sharp pieces of bone, particularly fish bones.

"The Natchez understood the art of dressing or preparing buffalo, deer, beaver, and skins of other animals, so as to provide themselves with comfortable clothing for the winter; they used for the sewing, awls made of small, thin bones, which they took from the

leg of herons. Their huts were made of rude materials, such as rough timber and a combination of mud, sand and Spanish moss, worked together in a solid sort of morter, forming their walls, to which they gave a thickness of four inches. The roofs were intermingled grass and reeds, so skillfully put together that they would last for twenty years without leaking. The huts were square and usually measured fifteen by fifteen feet; however, those of the chiefs, were thirty feet square, and even more.

"Their agriculture, before they became acquainted with the French, who taught them the use of wheat and flour, was limited to the cultivation of corn, which they knew how to grind with a wooden apparatus. Their women had arrived at considerable proficency in the manufacturing of earthenware, and they made all sorts of pots, pitchers, bottles, bowls, dishes and plates bearing designs, among which it is pretended that Grecian letters and Hebrew characters are plainly to be discovered. Their crockery was generally of reddish color. They also excelled in making sieves and winnowing fans. With the bark of the linden or lime tree, they made very beaufiful nets to catch birds or fish. They knew how to dye skind in several colors; those of which they liked best were the white, the yellow, the red and the black, and their taste was to use them in alternate stripes. The skins thus dyed, particularly that of the porcupine, they emboidered with considerable art, and the drawings were somewhat of a gothic character. They also made bed coverings and cloaks with the bark of mulberry tree, and with the feathers of turkeys, ducks and geese.

"During the summer, men and women were always half naked and bare-footed, except when traveling. Then they would wear shoes, (mocasins), made of the skin of deer. For ornaments they wore rings or painted bones through their ears and noses, and in the shape of bracelets around thdir arms and legs. They were also fond of painted glass beads, which they interwove with their hair, or carried around their necks in the shape of collars, to which they added the teeth of alligators, or the claws of wild beasts. Thses same painted glass beads they also used in ornamenting their leather garments, and they composed with them fanciful embroideries. The vermillion with which they painted their bodies was one of their favorite embellishments, together with the hieroglyphic figures, or crude heraldic devices, with which they used to impregnate their skins from head to foot.

#The Natchez had two languages, one for the use of the nobility, the other for the sole use of the common people. The tribe was d divided into three separate classes. First came the Sovereign, the Great Sun, with His family, the Little Sons, who comprised what was called the nobility." (1)

"The principal object of their worship was the sun. Their chief was therfore , called the 'Great Sun', and the members of the nobility were called 'Little Suns.'"(2)

Very little is known about the origin of the Choctaw, although some writers contend that they came from the province of Kamtschatka. It is said that they suddenly made their appearance, and rapidly overran the whole country. That their appearance was so spontaneous that it seemed as if they had sprung up from the earth like mushrooms.

"Chacta, Chatka, or Choctaw, spelling it according to the various pronundiation, means charming voice in the Indian dialect.

(1) History of Mississippi — Lowry & McCardle-pp-248-249
(2) History of Mississippi — Riley, F. L. - Page 13

It appears that the Choctaws had a great aptitude for music and singing, hence the name that was given them. With regard to their manners, their customs and their degree of civilization, they had many characteristic traits in common with other Indian nations. However, they were much inferior to the Natchez in many respects. They had more imperfect notions of the divinity and were much more superstitious. They were proverbially filthy and stupid in the estimation of all who knew them, and were exceedingly boastful, although notoriously less brave than any other red tribes.

The Choctows were most conspicuous for their hatred of falsehood, and their love of truth." (1)

They were always the friends of the French, but when the Americans took possession of the territory, the Choctaws transferred their friendship to them.

Legends, Romances

When the proud tribe of the Natchez was routed by the warlike Muscogees, Chactas, son of their chief, escaped to St. Augustine, and remained there for some time before attempting to return to his people. On his way thither he was captured by the Muscogees, who intended taking him to their great village of tarture. On the march, Atala, daughterbof the chief, a Christian through the teachings of her mother, fell in love with him. Braving her father's wrath, she arranged his escape and fled with him into the wilderness. Passed danger of pursuit, they began the long journey to Chactas Mississippi home. The grave, strong maiden soon began to blanch and grow weak. Finally overcome she was rescued, with her lover, from the howling tempest by the pious hermit, Father Aubrey. The next morning Chactas walked out with the father. At sight of his good works among the neighboring Indians, Chactas was ready

(1) History of Mississippi Lowery & McCardle. P.P. 250.251

to embrace Christianity and be united to Atala in her faith; on returning, they found her in mortal illness. Her mother, Atala explained, had made her take an oath to dedicate her life to the queen of the virgins. Never, before seeing Chactas, had she felt the power of love. But once fled with him, she was torn between the desire of her heart and filial love, between passion and a solemn oath. This had caused her weakness and decline. Comfort, however came from the good Father Aubrey, who explained, that true Christianity could not cause such a tragedy, that she could be released from her unwise vow. Atala told the father and her anguished lover how, in the storm, fearful that she was breaking the oath, she had taken poison. After the last rites over the body of the Christian maiden, Chactas returned in sadness to his own people. In the story are many passages of lyric beauty, and "Atala's Song" is quoted in full:

"Happy are thase that never beheld the smoke of stangers' feasts, and only sat down at their fathers' banquets.

"Was the blue jay of the Meschacebe to ask the Florida nonpareil, why sadly complain? Have you not here, as in your forests, fine shades, limpid streams and delicious fruits? Yes, would answer the nonpareil, but my nest I have left in the jessamins. Who will fetch it to me? Have you the bright sun that blazed on my savanna?

"After a toilsome march, the exhausted traveler mournfully seats himself down, and looks around at the smoking tops of huts; he has no place to rest himself. He knocks at the door, hangs his bow behind it, claiming hospitality. The owner makes a dismal sign with a refusing hand; the traveler takes back his bow, and bends his wearied steps toward the wilderness.

"Happy are those that never beheld the smoke of stangers' feasts, and only sat down at their fathers' banquets.

"Marvelous stories, told around the parental hearth, sweet flowings of the soul, tender bliss of mutal love, you charm the days of those that never forsook their own country. Bathed at eve by the religious tears of friendship, their tombs arise in their native land.

"Happy are those that never beheld the smoke of stangers' feasts, and only sat down at their fathers' banquets."

An Indian, guiding Colonel Anthony Hutchins, the grandfather of J. F. H. Claiborne, to a "sacred place, guarded by good spirits, where the water was always sweet", told him the tale concerning a romance which led to a determined effort on the part of Stel-o-na, daughter of White Apple, the Grand Sun of the Natchez nation, to save the French from the Natchez. The Indians had fixed a day for a general massacre of the garrison at the fort and of all cononists. Because this Indian was the friend of Colonel Hutchins, he advised him to give up a settlement he had made on St. Catherine Creek. The story has been handed down in some historical notes found after Colonel Hutchins' death in his papers:

"When the French first came", said the guide, "they were welcomed; and the white and red men were brothers. But after awhile the French, not content with the use of the land, they desired a liberal share of the crops, and even coveted the feilds where these crops were grown. They ordered the chiefs to abandon their villages and fields, that the white people and their slaves might occupy them. Dreading the power of the French, and frightendd by their menaces, our chiefs consented to go, but begged for time to harvest their crops, then not matured. The commanding French officer granted only one month.

Finding that they were to be starved as well as exiled, my fathers resolved on resistance. They dispatched runners to the Chickasaws and Choctaws, to invite their co-operation against a common enemy. Twenty days were to transpire before the three tribes, having united, were to make a simultaneous attact. That no mistake might be made, a quiver of twenty arrows was sent to each tribe. One was to be withdrawn and broken every morning before they resumed their march. At daybreak on the morning when the last of the twenty arrows should be broken, the three tribes would commence the attact, and equally share the spoils.

"The qyiver of the Natchez was deposited in the Temple of the Sun, and it was the duty of the guardian to withdraw an arrow every morning and consume it in the sacred fire. Only the great chiefs and the princeses of the blood royal had the privilege of entering this consecrated edifice. One of these princeses, Stel-o-na, the beautiful daughter of White Apple, loved the Sieur de Mace, a lieutenant of the French, and, hoping to save his life, not dreaming of the destruction she was bringing uppn her people, she disclosed to him the fatal secret. He communicated it to the commandant, who rejected the story, and put deMace under arrest. The Princess then entered the temple, and clandestinely abstracted two arrows from the quiver. This precipitated the attact before the Choctaws, who were on the march, could arrive at the point of rendezvoud. A general massacre of the French ensued. The Natchez monopolized all the rich spiols themselves. This disgusted the Choctaws and they united with with the French to exterminate the Natchez."

Mounds

The Natchez were claimed to be the fitst of the mound builders, and from the fact that they were the first to possess and cultivate the fertile country east of the Mississippi, and abandon the ways of nomade, they became a settled and flourishing Indian

nation, when the Choctaws and the Chickasaws were still rovers throughout the land. (1)

There are three Indian mounds on the Windsor plantation near Westside; one of these is used by the Daniels family as a burial ground. They selected this high point to protect their graves from the spring overflow of the Mississippi. In order to level this mound so they could have a suitable burial place, they cut off its top; They found numbers of relics in the ground, showing that this mound had at one time been a burying place for the Indians. The two other mounds are still there, and have been dug into for Indian relics, but at present they are not well cared for. (2)

There is a large mound at Ingleside, near the home of the Moreheads, which is practically in the same condition as in Indian days. Indian relics have been found whenever anyone dug in this knoll.

From an article published in the Southern Reveille, January 16, 1858:

"There is a small mound on Woodlawn plantation, ten miles from Port Gibson, on J. E. Calhoun's place. There were found here eleven skull bones or heads; in another place ten, as close as possible, with bodies severally radiating. Many of thebbodies were intact. There were also found pipes, cups and pots." (3)

Sixty years ago a Mr. Parks found, near an Ibdian mound, where his negroes were plawing, a hugh image of a bullfrog, cut from white stone, which was a fine piece of sculpture, being an exact duplication of a frog; it was about twelve inches from head to foot and stood

(1) Heart of the South — Rowland, Dunbar-Vol.1-Page 74
(2) Mrs. Kate Daniels Magruder, — Port Gibson, Mississippi
(3) Southern Reveille, Jan.16, 1858 — Port Gibson, Mississippi

about eight inches high. At first, Mr. Parks thought it was an idol, but, washing the dirt from it, discovered that it was a pipe, the bowl and stem being on the top, and from the rear. It was large enough to hold two ounces of fine-cut tobacco, and was taken to Parks' house and used for over fifty years as a weight to hold open a door; Daniel Smith, of Port Gibson, now has this relic on exhibition.(1)

There were no prominent Indian men and women in Claiborne County, and there are no Indians living here now.

(1) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi — Goodspeed- Vol. 1. Page 178

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CLAIBORNE COUNTY

State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Assignment Nine

1. Early Inhabitants

(a) Major and Minor Tribes.

The Natchez and Choctaws were the two major tribes in Claiborne County. They were the only tribes to settle in this county.

(b) Customs and characteristics.

"The Natchez were of a light mahogany complexion, with jet black hair and eyes. Their features were extremely regular and their expression was intelligent, open and noble. They were tall in stature, very few being under six feet, and the symmetry of their well proportioned limbs was remarkable. Their whole frame presented a beautiful development of the muscles. The women were not as good looking as the men and were generally of the middle size." (1)

" "Their government," says Gayarre, "was a perfect Asiatic despotism. Their sovereign was styled the Great Sun, and on his death it was customary to immolate in his honor a considerable number of his subjects. The subordinate chiefs of the royal blood were called Little Suns, and when they also paid the inevitable tribute due to nature, there was, according to their dignity and the estimation they were held in, a proportionate and voluntary sacrifice of lives. The poor ignorant barbarians, who thus died for their princes, did it cheerfully because they were persuaded that by escorting them to the world

1. History of Mississippi by Lowry and McCardle-Page 247.



1. Early Inhabitants(continued)

(b) Customs and characteristics.(continued)

of spirits, they would, in recompense for their devotion, be entitled to live in eternal youth and bliss, suffering neither from cold, nor from heat, hunger, thirst, or disease, and rioting in the full gratification of all their tastes, desires and passions. These frequent hecatombs of human beingswere one of the causes, it issaid, which contributed to the diminution of that race." " (1)

"The Natchez were quite expert in supplying their few and simple wants. Mr. Gayarre, referring to their inventive faculty, in making implements to meet their requirements, has this to say:

"Tocut down timber, they had flint axes, ingeniously contrived, and to sever flesh, either raw or cooked, they had knives made of a peculiar kind of keen-edged reed, called conchac. They used for their bows the acacia wood, and their bow-strings were made either of the bark trees, or the skins of animals. Their arrows, made of reed, were winged with the feathers of birds, and when destined to kill buffaloes or deer their points were armed with sharp pieces of bone, and particularly of fish bone."

"The Natchez understood the art of dressing or preparing buffalo, deer and beaver skins, and those of other animals, so as to provide themselves with very comfortable clothing for the winter, and they used as awls for sewing, small, thin bones, which they took from the legs of herons. Their huts were made of rude materials,

1. History of Mississippi by Lowry and McCardle, Page 247.

1. Early Inhabitants(continued)

(b) Customs and characteristics. (continued)

such as rough timber and a combination of mud, sand and Spanish moss, worked together in a solid sort of mortat and forming their walls,to which they gave a thickness of four inches. The roofs were or intermingled grass and reeds, so skillfully put together that these roofs would last for twenty years without leaking. The huts were square and usually measured fifteen feet by fifteen; some, however, such as those of the chiefs, were thirty feet square, and even more."(1) They

The women did the work. They made pots, bowls, pitchers, etc. They made nets to catch birds, they made bed covering and cloaks from the bark of trees. During the summer, men and women went half naked and barefooted except when traveling.
They had two languages, one for the use of the nobility, the other for the sole purpose of the common people. (2)

"Chacta, Chatka, or Choctaw, spelling it 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 that was given to them.--------With regard to their manners, their customs and their degree of civilization, it is sufficient to say that they had many characteristic traits in common with other INdian nations. However, they were much inferior to the Natchez in many respects. They had more imperfect notions of the divinity, and were much more superstitious. They were proverbially filthy and stu-

1. History of Mississippi by Lowry and McCardle, Page 248
2. " " " " " " " " 249.



1. Early Inhabitants(continued)

(b) Customs and characteristics. (continued)

pid in the estimation of all who knew them, and they were exceedingly boastful, although notoriously less brave than any of the other red tribes.

What the Choctaws were most conspicious for was their hatred of falsehood and their love of truth."(1)

They were always the friends of the French. When the Americans took possession of the territory the Choctaws transferred their friendship to them.(2)

(c) Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances.

"The Natchez Indians were devout worshippers of the sun. Their traditions traced their origin to a land near the great luminary of the world. They had been in Mexico for centuries, were there at the landing of Cortez, and were said to have aided that bold and ambitious leader in the conquest of the countyy and the overthrow of Montezuma."(3)

The Choctaws-"Very little is known about their origin, although some writers pretend that they came from the province of Kamtschatka. 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."(4)

1. History of Mississippi by Lowry and McCardle, Page 250.
2. " " " " " " " " 251.
3. " " " " " " " " 246.
4. " " " " " " " " 250.

1. Early Inhabitants(continued)

(c) Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances. (continued)

Legends-------none.

Myths---------none.

Romances------none.

(d) Mounds, location, present condition.

"The Natchez are claimed to be the first of the mound builders, and from the fact that they were the pioneers to posses and cultivate their fertile country east of the Mississippi, and abandon the ways of nomads, they became a settled and flourishing Indian nation when the Choctaws and Chickasaws were still rovers, throughout the land." (1)

There are three Indian mounds near the Windsor estate. One of these mounds is used by the Daniels family as a burial ground. They seleated this high point to protect their graves from the spring freshets from the Mississippi. In order to level this mound sothey could have a suitable place for the graves, they had to cut off the top of the mound. They found numbers of relics in the ground showing that this mound had at one time been a burying ground of the Indians. The other two mounds are still there and they have been dug into to find relics left there by the Indians. At present they are not well cared for. (2)

There is another mound at Ingleside near the home of the Mooreheads. It is a very large mound and is in the same state of condition as it was in Indian days. Indian relics have been found whenever anyone digs in the mound. (3)

1. Heart of the South by Dunbar Rowland, Page 74.
2. Mrs. Kate Daniell Magruder
3. Mrs. SESSIONS Moorehead



1. Early Inhabitants(continued)

(d) Mounds, location, present condition. (continued)

Sixty years ago a Mr. Parks found near an Indian mound, where his negroes were plowing, a huge image of a bullfrog, which was cut from white limestone, and was a fine piece of sculpture, being an exact representation of a frog. It was about twelve inches from head to foot and stood about eight inches high. He at first thought it was an idol or something of that kind, but washing the dirt from it, he discovered that it was a pipe, the bowl and stem being from the top and rear, and was large enough to hold two ounces of fine-cut tobacco. It was taken to his house and was used as a weight to hold open the house door, which duty it has performed for over fifty years. Mr. Daniel Smith, of Port Gibson, Miss., has this ancient relic on exhibition. (1)

(e) Prominent Indian Men and Women.

There were no prominent Indian men and women in Claiborne County.

2. Now Living in Your County----------none.

(a) Tribe, Number, Name.-- ----------none.

(b) Education.----------none.

(c) Contributions.----------none.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor

1. Biog. and Hist. Memoirs of Miss.-The Goodspeed Publish. Co. P. 178.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Supplement to Assignment Nine

Canvassers:

Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

5

1. Early Inhabitants

(c) Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances.

The Legend of Atala

When the proud tribe of the Natchez were routed by the warlike Muscogees, Chactas, son of their chief, escaped to St. Augustine and remained there for some time before attempting to return to his people. On his way thither he was captured by the Muscogees who intended taking him to their great village for torture. On the march Atala, daughter of the chief and a Christian through the teachings of her mother, fell in love with him. Braving her father's wrath, she arranged his escape and fled with him into the wilderness. Past danger of pursuit, they began the long journey to Chactas's Mississippi home. The brave, strong maiden soon began to blench and grow weak. Finally overcome, she was rescued with her lover from a howling tempest by the pious hermit Father Aubrey. The next morning Chactas walked out with the father, and at the sight of his good works among the neighboring Indians was ready to embrace Christianity and be united to Atala in her faith; on returning, they found her in mortal illness. Her mother, Atala explained, had made her take an oath to dedicate her life to the queen of the virgins. Never, before seeing Chactas, had she felt the power of love. But once fled with him, she was torn between the desire of her heart and filial love, between passion and a solemn oath. This it was that had caused her weakness and decline. Comfort, however, came from the good Father Aubry, who explained that true Christianity could not cause such a tragedy, that she could be



Supplement to Assignment Nine

1. EARLY Inhabitants---------- ----------(continued)

(c) Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances.--------(contin ued)

The Legend of Atala---------- ----------(continued)

released from her unwise vow. Too late, too late it came. Torn by pain and remorse, Atala told the father and her anguished lover how in the storm, fearful that she was near breaking the oath, she had taken poison. After the last sad rites over the body of the Christian maiden, Chactas returned in sadness to his own people. In the story are many passages of lyric beauty, and "Atala's song" is quoted in full:

"Happy are those that never beheld the smoke of strangers' feasts, and only sat down at their fathers's banquets.

"Was the blue jay of the Meschacebe to ask the Florida nonpareille, why sadly complain? Have you not here, as in your forests, fine shades, limpid streams, and delicious fruits? Yes, would answer the nonpareille, but my nest I left in the jessamins, who will fetch it to me? Have you the bright sun that blazed on my savanna?

"Happy are those that never beheld the smoke of the strangers' feasts, and only sat down at their fathers' banquets.

"After a toilsome march, the exhausted traveller mournfully seats himself down. He looks around at the smoking tops of huts; the traveller has no place to rest himself.--He knocks at the door, hangs his bow behind it, claiming hospitality.--The owner makes a dismal sign with a refusing hand; the traveller takes back his bow, and bends his wearied steps towards the wilderness.

1. Early Inhabitants----------(continued

(c) Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances.----------(continued)

The Legend of Atala----------(continued)

"Happy are those that never beheld the smoke of strangers' feasts, and only sat down at their fathers' banquets.

"Marvellous stories, told around the parental hearth, sweet flowings of the soul, tender bliss of mutual love, you charm the days of those that never forsook their own country. Bathed at eve by the religious tears of friendship, their tombs arise in their native land.

"Happy are those that never beheld the smoke of strangers' feasts, and only sat down at their fathers' banquets." (1)

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1. Mississippi, the Heart of the South, by Dunbar Rowland, Vol. I, P.88



1. Early Inhabitants----------(continued)

(c) Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances.----------(continued)

The Romance of Stel-O-Na and the Sieur De Mace

An Indian, guiding Colonel Anthony Hutchins, the grandfather of J.F.H. Claiborne to a "sacred place, guarded by good spirits, where the water was always sweet", told him the tale which concerned the romance which led to a determined effort on the part of StelOo-na, daughter of White Apple, the Great Sun of the Natchez nation, to save the French from the Natchez, who had fixed a day for a general massacre of the garrison at the fort and of all colonists. Because this Indian was the friend of Colonel Hutchins, he advised him to give up a settlement he had made on St. Catherine Creek, The story has been handed down in some historical notes found after Col. Hutchins's death in his papers:

"When the French first came," said the guide, "they were welcomed; and the white and r ed men were brothers. But after a while the French, not content with the ust of what land they desired and a liberal share of the crops, coveted even the fields where these crops were grown. They ordered the chiefs to abandon their villages and fields, that the white people and their slaves might occupy them. Dreading the power of the French and frigh tened by their menaces, our chiefs consented to go, but begged for time to harvest their crops, then not matured. The commanding officer granted only a month. Finding that they were to be starved as well as exiled, my fathers resolved on resistance. They dispatched runners to the Chickasaws and Choctaws, to invite their cooperation against a common enemy. Twenty days were to transpire before the three tribes, having united, were to make a simultaneous attack. That no mistake might be made a quiver of twenty

Supplement to Assignment Nine

1. Early Inhabitants----------(continued)

(c) Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances.---------(continued)

The Romance of Stel-O-Na and the Sieur De Mace----------(continued)

arrows was sent to each tribe. One was to be withdrawn and broken every morning before they resumed their march. At daybreak on the morning when the last of the twenty arrows should be broken, the three tribes would commence the attack, and equally share the spoils.

The quiver of the Natchez was deposited in the Temple of the Sun, and it was the duty of the guardian to withdraw an arrow every morning and consume it in the sacred fire. Only the great chiefs and the princesses of the blood royal had the privilege to enter this consecrated edifice. One of these princesses, Stel-o-na, the beautiful daughter of White Apple, loved the Sieur de Mace, a lieutenant of the French, and hoping to save his life and not dreaming of the destruction she was bringing upon her people, she disclosed to him the fatal secret. He communicated it to the commandant, who rejected the story, and put de Mace under arrest. The Princess then entered the temple, and clandestinely abstracted two arrows from the quiver. This precipitated the attack before the Choctaws, who were on the march, could arrive at the point of rendezvous. A general massacre of the French ensued.

Supplement to Assignment Nine

1. Early Inhabitants----------(continued)

(c) Traditions, Legends, Myths, and Romances.-----(continued)

The Romance of Stel-Ø-Na and the Sieur De Mace---------(continued)

The Natchez monopolized all the rich spoils themselves. This disgusted the Choctaws and they united with the French to exterminate the Natchez."(1)

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor,

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1. Mississippi, the Heart of the South, by Dunbar Rowland, Vol.I, P.82.

State-wide Historical Research

Claiborne County

Subject: Early troubles with the Indians(1)

The successful attack by the Indians on Fort Mims on August 13, 1813 "spread consternation through the Territory. No one knew where the next blow would fall, and a coalition of the Creek andChoctaws was generally apprehended. The citizens on Chickasahay and Pearl rivers erected stockades. The alarm penetrated to Baton Rouge, St. Francisville, Natchez, Port Gibson" and strong committees of vigilance and safety were organized at these and other places.(2)

The following is the account of what took place in Claiborne County.(3)

"Port Gibson, Miss.,Sept.18,1813"

"At a meeting held at Port Gibson in Claiborne County for the purpose of taking measures for the public safety of said county, Colonel Daniel Burnett was called to the chair, and Jefferson H. Moore appointed secretary."

"On motion of H. Blennerhassett, Resolved that a committee to consist of seven persons be appointed to enquire into the foundation of the late alarm; and also to recommend and report such means as they think best calculated for our defence."

"The following gentlemen were appointed members of said Committee, viz: Major Clarke, H. Blennerhassett, H. Harmon, Colonel Hegan,

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1. We felt this should go somewhere in the early history of the county but shall have to let you find the place for it.

2."Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State",p.325-326--Claiborne

3. " " " " " ,p."26------ "



Subject: Early Troubles with Indians (cont.)

Captain P. Briscoe, R. Briscoe, and Thomas Barnes, who made to the meeting the following

REPORT

"That, from the best information they can obtain, the late alarm of invasion on the frontiers of this county by a savage enemy has been groundless and unfounded. But a crisis is at present arrived,at which it is no longer doubtful that such a calamity ought to be expected and provided against by a system of defence the most speedy in its creation, and effective in itself."

"That, for this purpose, the Committee recommend the erection of three stockade forts at three points to be viewed and determined upon by a committee on the frontier; also one strong fort to be erected in such central part of the county as shall be fixed upon by a committee. The Committee think that other dangers to which the county is exposed, from a local source, as well as from savage invasion, should cause the erection of all the forts at one and the same time."

"Your Committee further recommend to such planters as can conveniently, by their own force and that of neighbors within convenient distance, the erection of local block houses on their plantations."

"They invite and recommend every voluntary aid their fellow citizens can lend to the militia duty, of keeping up a regular and constant party of rangers and spies on the frontiers."

Daniel Burnett, Chairman

"Jeff H. Moore, Secretary

Frontier Committee: Major Clarke, Captain Johnson, Captain Briscoe, David M'Caleb, John Booth, Gibson Clarke, and Moses Shelby."

"Central Committee: Thomas Barnes, William Tabor, Samuel Gibson, William Briscoe, H. Blennerhassett, Col. R. Hegan, James Watson, Dan'l Burnett, Thomas Farar, Judge Locke, and Robt. Cochran."

Enid Richmond

OLD HOMES

The Maury House.

Among Port Gibson's interesting old homes we find the old Maury house built in 1827 by James H. Maury who was at that time a prominent lawyer and leader in financial, political, and social affairs of the state. His closest friend and neighbor was the Hon. Judge Henry T. Ellett. The building occupies a picturesque setting beneath giantoaks ( the age of which no one knows ) on a corner lot of Jackson Street, diagonally across from the Episcopal Church with which members of this family have closely affiliated for a century. Eleven rooms complete this attractive this attractive colonial structure. The entrance is considered remarkable for the exquisite colonial doorway (a copy of the doorway to Judge Maury's Virginia home) and solid walnut double doors on which is seen a solid silver door knocker with Maury inscribed plate. On either side of the entrance hall you enter bed rooms, handsomely furnished, one in very early Victorian and the other in American Empire. From the bed rooms on the left you enter a third bedroom equally as handsomely furnished. This room has an individual porch with miniature colonial columns the same as those extending the length of the main front porch. A most attractive feature to many is the old parlor, twenty seven feet long and seventeen feet wide, low ceiling and wide plank floor of uneved widths. It is furnished with rare old rosewood sofas, graceful chairs, tables, a secretary, and other pieces unsurpassed in beauty. The wall paper recently put on by the present owner is a copy of the paper at Monticello. On the walls hang valuable prints, also old line engravings of



OLD HOMES

The Maury House.----------(continued)

Daniel Webster, Calhoun,and others., all of which are featured at the art exhibit held annually. To enter this parlor one must pass the full length of the hall and step down a step through a door to the left. So great has been the sentiment attached to this step that no method other than water has been used to freshen it up. The dining room joins the parlor. Here you see a genuine Hepplewhite table set with handsome silver and china on the purest of linens, also a complete set of Signoret dining room chairs. The lovely old sideboard holds many heirlooms handed down for generations.

The entire floor plan is well arranged. A compact relationship makes it both roomy and convenient and, although all pieces of furniture are not of the same period, perfect harmony exists.

James H. Maury was of French Huguenot descent. From Virginia he came to Tennessee, thence to Claiborne County, not as an ordinary pioneer, but highly educated, having already perfected his law profession, and immediately began practicing. His wife, the former Lucinda Smith of Virginia, and two children came with him. Two more children were born in Claiborne County. All four children lived to maturity.and married. Miss Mildred Hickman Maury, his eldest daughter, married Gov. B. G. Humphreys in 1839 and reared a large family. Elizabeth Maury, another daughter, married James Harding. Buying the interest of the remaining heirs she became the second owner of the Maury House. Mrs. Elizabeth Wilkinson, daughter of Mrs. James Harding, also bought out other interests and became the third owner. Mrs. Mildred O'Connor Morehead, the

OLD HOMES

The Maury Houge. ----------(continued)

present owner, purchased the property from Mrs. Elizabeth Wilkinson, and Mary Sessions Morehead, daughter of Mrs. Morehead, makes the sixth generation living there.

While the majority of the Maury descendants married and moved away to distant places nearly all at one time or other returned to the old home and there lived at intervals. A hospitality and friendliness characteristic of the old south has been extended to visitors(who on many occasions were celebrities) by all hosts and hostesses whose pleasure it has been to live in this extremely dignified old home.

The present mistress has installed modern conveniences, including steam heat and three bath rooms. She is a lady of exceptional culture and refinement having received her education in the colleges of both the United States and Europe.



OLD HOMES

Collina

This handsome old antebellum home erected in 1833 by Mrs. Volney Stamps is fittingly called "Collina" for it stands on the top of a little hill or colline at the edge of Port Gibson. The road leading to Collina winds through a beautiful natural parkway to a flight of brick steps, which are the entrance to the yard. This yard is elevated above the roadway. From these steps there is a brick walk leading to the steps of the long veranda which extends across the front of the house. The original plan for the house was the usual one of that time consisting mainly of a large hall through the center with two rooms on each side, the two on the right being a large double parlor connected by folding doors. Two rooms have been added to the house in the back, a kitchen and dining room. Behind the house one finds the old fashioned brick court with a beautiful rose garden at one side. The house is a very imposing structure. Looking up from the foot of the hill it has the appearance of a gray stone mansion.

In 1860 Mr. A. K. Jones purchased this property, however, it had changed hands several times prior to this. At one time Col. Henry Hughes lived here. During his residence here he wrote "The First Treatise On Sociology." This book was the first of its kind in America and Europe.

Captain A. K. Jones was born at White Hall Plantation, Claiborne County, June 3, 1839. In his boyhood he attended the neighbor schools and in 1856 entered the University of Mississippi. He graduated in 1860 ranking eighth in a class of thirty nine. Having decided to follow the profession of civil engineer, he entered Glenmore School of Engineers near Troy, N. Y. in the fall of 1860 and there remained till the fall of Fort Sumter in 1861.

OLD HOMES

Collina ----------(continued)

He enlisted as a private in Co. H., 12th Miss. Infantry. This regiment was soon sent to Virginia and upon the regimental reorganization at Yorktown (Dec. 1861) Private Jones was elected First Lieutenant of his company which was henceforth known as Co. K. and when Captain W. H. Hastings fell at Seven Pines, the Twelfth's first pitched battle, he was promoted to the vacancy. Captain Jones was wounded three times and was in the old Capitol prison at Washington the night President Lincoln was assassinated. During the period of stress immediately after President Lincoln's death the prisoners were in great danger of mob violence. He was sent thence to Johnson's Island (Lake Erie).and was released June 18th reaching home July 4, 1865. During the latter part of his life he held many county offices, among them President of the Board of Supervisors and Clerk of the Chancery Court.(1) His heirs are the present owners and residents of Collina.

1. Information concerning the life of A. K. Jones found in Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I, Pages 1048, 1049.



OLD HOMES

Lucknow

Lucknow was destroyed by the demon fire that has wrecked so many old homes of Claiborne County. The date of erection and builder are unknown, however it is worthy of mention along with the other old homes. On Jan. 27, 1869 Lucknow was sold to Mrs. Juliet C. Stowers by J. H. Maury and Benj. G. Humphreys (the governor).(1) On Feb. 7, 1876, Mrs. Juliet C. Stowers sold this property to George P. A. Healy of Chicago, Ill.who gave this home to his brother, Thomas Healy. This Mr. G. P. A. Healy was the noted portrait painter. He never lived in this home, however he visited here once.

Mr. Tom C. Healy married Miss Charlotte Roberts in 1870. Like his brother Tom Healy was a portrait painter. Almost every home in Port Gibson contains some of his paintings. The "Crucifixion" hanging over the altar in the Catholic Church in Port Gibson was painted by Thomas C. Healy. Mr. Healy and family were living at Lucknow during the yellow fever epidemic of 1878. Several members of the family contracted this dreaded disease and died during the epidemic. Mr. Thos. C. Healy died in December, 1889 and is buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Port Gibson.

1. Deed from J.H.Maury and Benj. H. Humphreys to Mrs. Juliet C. Stowers is found in Deed Book GG, Page 500.

OLD HOMES

Vaucluse

Four miles east of Port Gibson and one third mile off the Pattison road stands "Vaucluse" in the midst of a beautiful grove. Although forlorn and dilapidated it is by no means beyond restoration for it was reared when men built not for a day, nor for a year, but for posterity. It is still beautiful with its tall Corinthian columns and broad gallery extending across the entire front. Its spacious entrance, high ceilings, graceful stairway, huge fireplaces and silver door knobs all speak for theextensive taste of the builder. The first floor consists of seven rooms, four of which are twenty by twenty and separated by an enormous hall which most likely has been the scene of many joyous balls. The second floor has four spacious rooms and a hall as wide as the one of the first floor. The ceilings on the second floor are not over ten feet high.

"Vaucluse" is a building of great antiquity, having been built by Mr. William Downington shortly after the battle of New Orleans. The house was designed and cut out in St. Louis, Mo., where the various sections were placed on a flat boat and floated down the Mississippi, then up the Bayou Pierre to Port Gibson. From Port Gibson these sections were hauled to the present location and built into the present structure. At that time the plantation was known as "Downington". Some time after the home was built Mr. Downington sold the property to Mr. William Prince. The plantation was then called "Princeton". This owner lived there for several years, finally selling the property to Governor Benjamin G. Humphreys. After the governor took possession of the plantation he called it "Vaucluse". The governor was a great admirer of Plutarch, the Greek philosopher and biographer, and the word "Vaucluse" was the name of the home of Plutarch's wife, Timoxena. At a later date Governor Humphreys sold Vaucluse to his brother, David George Humphreys, who operated the plantation for a number of years. In 1848 "Vaucluse" was given to Benjamin G. Humphreys as a wedding present by his father, David George Humphreys.



OLD HOMES

Vaucluse----------(continued)

Mrs. Mollie H. Briscoe, a daughter of Benjamin G. Humphreys, now resides with her son, Benjamin H. Briscoe, of Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Briscoe frequently visits Port Gibson and always makes a pilgrimage to "Vaucluse" which was her girlhood home. She says "I can remember when a large formal garden surrounded by rows of hedges was one of the great attractions of this home. Also a rose garden that covered several acres, and the remnants of the rose garden was in existence up to a few years ago." She remembers the floors as being carpeted with soft velvets, and all the furnishing as being especially lovely, many pieces gracing different homes of today.

Some years ago the daughters of Benjamin Humphreys deeded the place to one sister, Mrs. Whitfield, and in recent years it was purchased from Mrs. Whitfield by Mr. Samuel Weil, a prosperous merchant and cotton buyer of Port Gibson.(1)

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1. This information was obtained from Mrs. Mollie Humphreys Briscoe.

OLD HOMES

The Shreve House

A departure from the usual type of colonial home but one that is all the more interesting because of its quaint simplicity and age is the home of Mrs. Margaret Shreve McDougall situated near the north end of Church Street in Port Gibson. This home is more than a cantury old having been built long before the Civil War but it carries its years lightly and today it contains most of the original furnishings. Four generations of the Shreve family have occupied the old home.

The first, Charles Shreve, came to Port Gibson in 1835 and was working in the drug store of Sam P. Bernard. In 1836 he started his own drug business in Grand Gulf. In 1852 he returned to Port Gibson and had one of the finest establishments for a pharmacist at that time. He died of yellow fever in 1878. The business passed to his son, John A. Shreve, and thence to the present John Shreve who now operates the drug store.(1) It is one of the oldest established businesses in town.

1. Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. II, Page 765.



OLD HOMES

"McGregor"

Among the early colonial homes in good repair, just out from Port Gibson a short distance east of Chamberlain Hunt Academy, stands "McGregor" built many years ago for Emilie Van Dorn, daughter of Peter Van Dorn, and sister of Earl Van Dorn. This home was acquired some fifty years ago by the Magruder family, pioneers, and land owners of prominence for generations.

Considerable acreage surrounds the home and Mr. Benjamin Hughes Magruder planted this in pecans, making a beautiful setting for this home besides yielding a handwome income. The giant oaks inclosing the front yard are unsurpassed in beauty and all who view them raise their eyes in admiration.

The extensive porch, square columns, and pattern of the windows inclosed by very substantial blinds, all make for an attractive exterior. The house consists of twelve spacious rooms housing an unlimited amount of treasures. The large folding doors leading to the salon seem to be from a Florentine villa or perhaps a replica of the doors of a former estate. On the walls are seen many portraits, including the mother and father of Claiborne's honored son, Col. Henry Hughes, and beautiful Amanda Louise Magruder, better known among her countless admirers as "Teenie". She was both an artist and musician. A perfect copy of one of Rembrandt's paintings done by her and hanging in this home has often been praised by connoisseurs. Twelve very fine steel engravings grace the walls of different rooms in this home.

Strikingly handsome is t he matching set, sofa and chairs, of carved

OLD HOMES

"McGregor"----------(continued)

rosewood upholstered in red velvet, also a very rare whatnot and cabinet combined, with carved doors. The latter is known to be far over a century old. Not one but two genuine antique sideboards hold silver service sets of cut glass purchased long before the Civil War with never a piece having been broken.

Mrs. Elizabeth Magruder Disharoon, the present hostess of this home, is the proud possessor of many heirlooms (which are one hundred years old or nearing that mark), the following being only a part of her interesting collection: a very rare set of pearls, pin, and ear rings, solid gold link bracelet, a splendid miniature portrait 125 years old painted on ivory of Mrs. Sylvia Disharoon's mother, a cameo set consisting of bracelet, pin and ear rings, each piece of which is surrounded with genuine pearls, three imported, embroidered shawls as large as a bed spread.

The story of this old home would not be complete without the mention of Benj. Hughes Magruder, the manager of the Magruder estate at the time of the purchase of this home. In diving into the files of the Revoille we are interested to note he hid a philosophy all his own in wonderfully unique poems and modestly disclaiming the credit therefor, he signed himself "Uncle Claib". Matriculating at Oxford University, Miss. he afterwards was graduated from Centre College, Darnell, Kentucky. For several years a professor at Chamberlain Hunt Academy he also taught school in Pecos, City, Texas. He was educated for law, but did not like that profession, though a fine student well versed in Greek, Latin, and

OLD HOMES

"McGregor"----------(continued)

the higher branches. For thirty years he was director and cashier of the Port Gibson Bank, until failing health forced him to resign. Many men have said of him "He is the full measure of a man."

Old Homes

Oak Square (1)

Shadowed by great oaks over a hundred years old in square 13 of the Suburb St. Mary, in the town of Port Gibson, is Oak Square, one of the representative homes of Port Gibson and the South-(trees and flowers, morning light and dusk and stars, set in quietness and peace.)

It has always been a gentleman's home. In the early days of the 19th century Dr. _____Sullivan planted the great oaks and made his home. Later about the 1850's the property came into the possession of the Abner Green family. Charming daughters graced the home, and Southern hospitality prevailed.

In the early 1870's the property was bought by James J. Person for his son James Wells Person. The house was remodeled and the tradition of this old home carried on throughout the years.

James Wells Person had the "epic will" of the Confederate soldier who came back home to the resumption of old responsibilities and the assumption of the news He inherited the land-holding plantation attitude of his family with its innate code of obligation. This deep note of responsibility sounds throughout his life and home, that spirit of noblesse oblige which has so largely dominated the finest development of the South. This sense of responsibility was largely of the slave-holding class, the representatives of the aristocracy.

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1. Written by Miss Harriette Person



Old Homes

Oak Square (cont.)

The Person home at Oak Square has maintained the old reverence and old assumption of social usage, the dignities and fidelities of temper to its ideals, enghistoric faith in the land and its people and an instructive love of order and culture and beauty.

A courtly gentleman and gracious lady ruled by love, and seven daughters and two younger sons made life gay and sweet and lovely. Home life was one of its most precious possessions. The "fine art of living"prevailed.

In the background are family portraits, rosewood and mahogany, old silver and china, porcelain and pottery, old Sheffield plate, Mrs. Person's beautiful wedding pearls, grandparents, old books and new that mark the taste and culture of the generations.

Distinguished guests, parties, family dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Christmas Tree,that grew each year for the children, and Christmas candles and Christmas greens, a large circle of friends at the North as well as in the South, mark the charm of social intercourse, are a part of the family tradition, and are held in memory by many friends.

The house was burned in 1906, but was rebuilt with the ground floor intact but with changes that had long been contemplated.

The family tradition of noblesse oblige is carried out today by sons and daughters and grand children. They have given social, civic, and intellectual leadership in the community, and Oak Square is the setting today of many beautiful functions.

Claiborne County

Assignment Fifteen

Canvassers
Miss Mary Hanson
Mrs. A.T. Hamilton

Old Homes

Oak Square (cont.)

Possessing with others of the old families of Port Gibson much of this fine genius of the old aristocracy, they have kept the temper of confidence to achieve the victories of patience, the civic helpfulness, which in a changing world must yield a-gain an ordered and happy life for the South.

The value of tradition is unquestioned but to hold a tradition it must be carried on to live.

"What have we left, his glorious inspiration
His prayers in council met;
Living he laid the first stones of the nation
And dead, he builds it yet."

Home of C.A. Gordon (1)

Among the more picturesque homes in Port Gibson's residential district is that of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Gordon on Church Street. Mr. Gordon inherited the property from his father, Mr. John H. Gordon. Old records show Mr. John Murdoch's will bequeathing this property to his mother in 1827(2). His mother in turn willed it to her granddaughters Ellen, Jane and Ester, who sold it to Mr. John H. Gordon in 1873.(3)

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1. Information furnished by Mrs. C.A. Gordon
2. Will Book A, page 178, Chancery Court Records Claiborne Co.
3. Deed " K K " 219, " " " " "

Claiborne County

Assignment Fifteen

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Old Homes (cont.)

Home of C. A. Gordon (cont.)

The architecture of this building and the iron and stone fence surrounding it suggest the old Latin and French quarter of New Orleans. Many years ago a French landscape gardener of note designed the general arrangement of the planting. Courts and winding paths leading through shrubbery are reminiscent of foreign lands. Extensive boxwood hedges, numerous sweet olive,and japonica bushes with their blossoms of varied hues are a delight to all who pass. Over the whole age old oaks spread their boughs.

The home is richly stored with rosewood and mahogany furniture, the majority having been acquired through many generations of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon's family. In fact, in this home one is startled by the collection of treasures so varied that one has the feeling of having visited a museum. In the Colonial double parlors, with their velvet carpets, you see not one or two but a number or rosewood tables, some richly carved, with Italian marble tops, others overhung by handsome mirrors, a grandfather clock brought from England by an ancestor of Mr. Gordon, several secretaries and etageres that would thrill any connoisseur of antiques. On tables and mantles are magnificent sets of candelabra.

In the dining room is seen a large collection of silver, china, Bohemian and colonial cut glass. Two complete silver services lend beauty to the hundred-year-old side board. Each bedroom is furnished in genuine antiques with handsome four-post beds.

Mrs. Gordon has a rare collection of paintings, those most

Claiborne County

Assignment Fifteen

Canvassers
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Old Homes (cont.)

Home of C. A. Gordon (cont.)

treasured being Timothy Cole's series, "The Voyage of Life" (youth, manhood, middle age, and age), four handsome pictures three and a half inches by four feet in massive eight inch brass frames. An extensive library and a spinet piano lend further cultural notes to the lovely rooms.

Entertainment has always been of a delightful character in this home, and local people and scores from distant places recall with loving memory many a festive occasion when joy and happiness reigned supreme in the hospitable home of this mrlobrf vouplr.

Mrs. Gordon is the daughter of Mr. Joseph Ferriday and Annie Hyde Pendleton. She has for years been a social favorite among both the young and old in Port Gibson, Natchez, and elsewhere, and as a girl was a belle throughout the state. Mr. Gordon's ancestors were well known pioneers of Claiborne County, his father having been a large landowner.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Supervisor

County Historical Research Project

Assignment Fifteen.

OLD HOMES

Glensade

Perhaps one of the best known spots in Claiborne County is Glensade located about two miles beyond the city limits and described in an abstract as first being a British grant known as the Hartly Mandamus (no date) Valentine C. Roy and his wife, Martha W. to Benj. Hughes, dated Dec. 5th, 1833, amt. $10,000 - Benj. Hughes and wife, Nancy, to Joseph McVoy, Nov. 3, 1834, amt. $12,000 cash - next W. H. Bayley, guardian of Jos. McVoy and Mary, wife of Jos. McVoy to Geo. B. Watson, the place being known as Egypt plantation.

Geo. B. Watson to J. B. Thrasher and J. D. Vertner, trustee in consideration of debt of $16,789.70 to Robt. Bayley, guardian of Jos. McVoy.

J. B. Thrasher to Jos. McVoy, March 4, 1842 in consideration of $10,000 cash.

Joseph McVoy and Mary his wife to D. Geo. Humphheys, Jan. 1st, 1845, $9,000.00 cash.

D. Geo. Humphreys to John C. Humphreys consideration, love and affection This is the first deed in which this place is called Glensade, the name by which it is now known. John C. Humphreys was the builder of the commodious home which was destroyed by fire in 1936.

John C. Humphreys by H. C. Hopkins, sheriff, to D. Geo. Humphreys, Nov.2 1868 consideration $660.00 cash.

D. Geo. Humphreys to Jno. C., G. W., B., and D. D. Humphreys and Mary Balfour, children, and Mary C. Humphreys, widow. Will book B.,406.

Will May 2, 1861

This will was probated in common form June 18, 1874 and estate duly closed.

Assignment Fifteen.

OLD HOMES

Glensade----------(continued)

Mary C. Balfour to Jno. C. Humphreys-Quit claim deed, June 18, 1874. Glensade less the 240 acres exemption of John C. Humphreys.

C. W. Humphreys, B. Humphreys and Dan. B. to Jno. C. Humphreys, Oct. 3, 1874.

Jno. C. Humphreys to D. Geo. Humphreys.

In a codicil he wills the entire Glensade place to his son D. Geo. Humphreys upon condition that he shall pay $1000 cash to Jno. H. and Ruth C Butler and $500 to his son Leon so long as he shall live. Petition for probate filed June 24, 1876 and letters testamentary issued to D. Geo. and M. S. Humphreys, July 21st, 1876. Estate closed and executors discharged, Jan. 1, 1881.

John H. and Ruth Butler to D. Geo. Humphreys, Nov. 22, 1894.

D. Geo. Humphreys mortgage to M. H. Briscoe consideration $2500 due cancelled by Nov. 29, 1899 - 10% int.

Mrs. M. H. 4-20-1894

D. Geo. Humphreys Mortgage

to John H. Butler Jan. 17-98

consideration $1,000 due year after date

D. Geo. Humphreys and R. C. Butler

To

W. C. Guthrie, trustee, Mortgage.

Many owners have come, lingered and passed on, leaving memories of love beauty for this home was second to none in the county when it came to elaborate entertaining and merriment.

Assignment Fifteen.

OLD HOMES

Glensade----------(continued)

The magnificent old home was built from timbers cut with broad ax, and hand made nails. The brick used were kilned on the place. It was a beautiful and stately specimen of architecture. The extreme width and length of the hospitable hallway as wellas the spacious drawing rooms and bedrooms with frescoeing and marble mantels were fine expressions of perfect decorative taste and skill. A porch extended across the entire front, also columns of Corinthian type. The steps to the front porch were twenty five feet long, though not very steep as the house did not necessitate same. A huge underground basement was a comfort to the many housewives whose pleasure it was to dwell in the splendor of Glensade.

The furnishings were in perfect keeping with the structure with rosewood and mahogany furniture in abundance. Handsome portraits decorated the walls and velvet carpets covered the floors. Although we have no authenticity as to the landscaping by an artist it is believed that the arrangement of the stately trees and many flowering shrubs which entice every passerby with their sheer beauty and fragrance could not be the work of any less person than an artist.

Today Mrs. Kate Herlitz Guthrie, great grand daughter of John C. Humphreys, tells of hearing her grandmother relate many interesting stories connected with Glensade. Mrs. Guthrie has on her walls a number of portraits from Glensade, also many handsome pieces of the original furnishings.

In recent years a new comer to Claiborne County from Michigan,

OLD HOMES

Glensade----------(continued)

Mr. F. S. Wolcott, purchased the place and took great delight in displaying his home to visitors from different states always adding that it was a lifetime dream realized, and the destruction by fire early in 1936 came as a great shock to him.

Prior to Mr. Wolcott's ownership the property was owned by Mrs. Sadie Butler Herlitz, grand daughter of John Coburn Humphreys, a still earlier owner. Mrs. Herlitz is a descendant of Lord Butler, son of Col. Zebulon Butler, a noted Revolutionary commander of the American troops at Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. The pictures of Lord Butler and Mary, his wife, are the most unusual photographs found in the pilgrimages made to the homes. Very dim, quaint hand writing on the back of those pictures gives a feeling of delving into the past. Zebulon Butler, the founder and for thirty three (33) years the pastor of the Port Gibson Presbyterian Church, is of this same family.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E.Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, Antiques, Relics

I. Introduction

Since the interesting thing about a locality is its background, let us step into the past and view the customs and homes of ante-bellum days through the vista of all the intervening years and thus glimpse things as they were as nearly as is possible.

Port Gibson and Claiborne County lie in a section rich in history and tradition. Authentic history goes back to the middle years of the eighteenth century, and tradition of course extends still farther.

This county has a greater extent of the old Indian Trail, the Natchez Trace, in use during the English and Spanish rule of this section, than any other county of the state. Along this road in the old days outlaws plied their trade, stopping, according to tradition, at the "Red House" (no longer in existence) at Rocky Springs in the northern section of the county. Later as the settlements of Port Gibson, Grand Gulf, Rocky Springs and others were established and prospered, life became richer; handsome homes were erected, many of them having to be shipped down the river to Grand Gulf in the shape of flat boats and there knocked to pieces and sent to their destinations up Bayou Pierre and across country.

Writers of fiction and history have found in Claiborne County a rich storehouse from which to draw. The activities of the land pirates of the Natchez Trace; the story of Blennerhassett's life in the county; the part played by the county in the War Between the States and in the days of reconstruction; the happy slave and plantation life.

Due to the wealth from cotton and slaves, the delightful life of the plantation period was in its glory in the years prior to the

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

I. Introduction (continued)

Civil War. There was time for the leisurely living conducive to culture. Educational institutions like Oakland College were built, churches were established. Handsome homes like "Windsor", "The Retreat", "Oak Hill", "Anchuka", and others were built.

Without resorting to the imagination, the ghosts of the past can be brought to life by means of the memories of those still living and by the actual records of those that have lived. The plantation home, white columned, large proportioned, built for generous living. Slave quarters somewhat removed from "the big house" with pickaninnies playing happily about the doors. The mistress of the mansion busily supervising the manifold activities of the house while the master rides forth on his horse to direct the work of the slaves over a vast estate. Week end parties. Balls by candlelight. Crinolines, tucking combs, hoop-skirts.

On our Pilgrimages to the old homes of Claiborne County, which have been a genuine pleasure, we have found many charming people who have retained their wonderful grace of manner, ease, and poise that denote the true aristocrat. In the following story of the Old Homes of the county, we shall endeavor to give the true story of the builders and founders of homes that make Claiborne County one of the most fascinating in the state.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-Bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

Almont

After finishing at Yale and teaching a year in Georgia, Horatio Nelson Spencer of Hadlyne, Connecticut, came to Port Gibson in 1827 and established a lucrative law practice. After living in Port Gibson for about seven years, in May of 1834 he bought a tract containing 81 acres, lying about one mile south of the town on the west side of the Natchez Trace, adding to this land gradually, until at his death the acreage comprised about two hundred and fifty acres of well watered, beautifully rolling land. Because of one rather high hill, which sloped a hundred or more yards to the road, he named the place Almont, a variation of the Spanish El Monte (the mountain, or hill).

Upon this hill, he built a comfortable home with a front yard of many acres, with a horse shoe, or semi circular driveway with entrance at either end. The house of a type of architecture eminently suited to our southern climate, with a deep square pillared porch, wide hall, and high ceilinged rooms 22 feet square, was beautifully furnished with mahogany and rosewood. Ells with intervening galleries containing storerooms, kitchen, wash and ironing rooms, cisterns(two in the building itself), and dairy--all helped to make a comfortable home. Here Mr. Spencer lived until his death in 1876.

Throughout his life, he took great interest in the town of his adoption and was closely associated with its growth. He was one of the organizers and the first president of the Port Gibson Bank and supervised the building of the Bank. He was one of the organizers of the Port Gibson-Grand Gulf Railway and its president. When the Presbyterian Church burned, of which he was an elder, he became the leader in

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Almont (continued)

rebuilding, gave generously both in time and money, ordered all materials, and supervised a second building. Thus he identified himself with the early life of the town and county.

So well did he think of the county, that he persuaded a brother, Israel Spencer, to come and settle near him and brought his father and mother and sister from Connecticut to make their home with him. At his death one of his four living sons, James Grafton Spencer, inherited the home.

In spite of the poverty and crippled condition of the country after the war between the states, the house was kept in good condition until 1912, when it burned. But few pieces of the beautiful furniture could be saved. The dining and sewing tables and six chairs, the silver service, two beautiful dressing tables, the desk with the old diaries, and a few odd pieces* are all that were saved from a fourteen room house. All of the portraits, a valuable library accumulated through three generations, were an incalculable loss.

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*notably an army pistol and a sword carried in the war of 1812 by Mr. James Grafton, who married a sister of H. N. Spencer and lived at Almont until his death in the 1850's.

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Information on the above furnished by Miss Elizabeth Spencer, granddaughter of H. N. Spencer. Miss Spencer lives in Port Gibson.

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~~III. Antiques and Relics (not listed with homes)~~

II. The Old Home

Greenwood( District 5) (1)

This plantation home lying five miles south of Hermanville is a one story frame house with fan shaped transom over entrance and wide hall through the center. In 1845 Evan Shelby Jefferies bought this place from Gilford Torrey. Mr. Jefferies added six rooms in wings with a cross hall, having in mind the fire hazard to which country homes are subject. Mrs. Jefferies was Sarah Ker Terry, a granddaughter of David Ker, appointed a judge of Mississippi territory by President Thomas Jefferson. At present the house is closed, the owner, a daughter of Evan Jefferies, making her home in Washington County.

There was a close friendship between the Russell and Jefferies families. One of Dr. Russell's daughters was named for Mrs. Jefferies; and Irwin, his son, was a frequent visitor at Greenwood. It was at a week end party here that"Christmas Night in the Quarters" was written as the following letter (2) witnesses:

"Listen! Something over half a century ago, Irwin Russell and others, myself included, attended a Christmas celebration at Greenwood, the delightfully pleasant home of Mr. Evan Jefferies, made doubly so by the bright smiles and ever cheerful words of old Greenwood's most charming inmates.

"On this never forgetable occasion Irwin Russell visited the negro quarters with several friends to witness a negro dance which was in progress, and there it was the thought entered his brain to put in-

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1. Facts from Mrs. Sarah Jefferies Mann of Port Gibson
2. Letter written by Mr. A.T. Montgomery found in Feb. 5, 1925 issue of Port Gibson Reveille. in an article by Mrs. Maggie Musgrave.

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II. The Old Home

Greenwood (continued)

to verse his negro dialect poem "Christmas Night In The Quarters".

"During the wee small hours, when all had closed their eyes to dream of the pleasant Christmas just past and those to come in the future, the talented author, genius, and poet, Irwin Russell. sat all alone writing that immortal poem "Christmas Night in the Quarters". About dawn he rushed into our room where several of us were trying to get an hour's rest, with his usual pleasant smile, saying as he unfolded several scraps of paper, 'Boys, I want to read you something.' 'Hold a moment', one of the boys interrupted, 'Have a toddy or an eggnog first.' Having quaffed the foaming glass, he wished us all the return of many more such happy Christmases, and then read the poem in question, "Christmas Night in the Quarters". We were pleased as well as amused and advised that he put the poem in shape for publication, which he later did."

While speaking of Irwin Russell's intimacy at Greenwood and his frequent visits there, the following amusing incident should be told:(1)

"RHe was on friendly terms with all the negroes on the place. Aunt Cassy- she of the 'gruesome tale of conjurors, and ghosts, and devils'(2) was a special favorite, as was 'old fiddling Josey'(2), if he and old Daddy Joe, the husband of Aunt Cassy, were one and the same, as it was thought by some they were" xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"Mr. Jefferies, like many of the rich planters in thissection,

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1. Article signed Mrs. Maggie Musgrove in Port Gibson Reveille of August 1, 1929
2. Quotation from Christmas Night in the Quarters by Irwin Russell

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Greenwood(continued)

imported a number of his negroes direct from Africa. Daddy Joe was one of these, and ~~he~~ claimed to have been a member of one of the royal families there, and not once in his long life seems even for an instant to have lost sight of the fact. xxxxxxx He demanded and received all due deference and honor from those of his color around him. Even his master, entering into the spirit of it, never required of him the usual work and service. So he lived on his pedestal, with only his faithful old wife as a companion."

"When Aunt Cassy died, it was thought he would be crushed, but he met his loss calmly, even cheerfully. So mystified were all that his old'Mistis' went to see him to find the cause. Condoling with him, she asked,'Don't you miss Aunt Cassy, Daddy Joe?' To which he replied, 'No, Mistis. She ain' nebber gone away. She comes and sets wid me ebry day.' Can it be that there are mysteries veiled from the lofty and learned that are revealed to the lowly and trusting?"

"With Aunt Cassy's passing, it behooved Daddy Joe to prepare for his own and to assure himself a funeral commensurate with his dignity and standing. With the help of his master, a coffin was procured,xxx xxxxxxand installed safely under his bed. In it he placed his jug of whiskey- secure from all intruders."

"It happened one day when Daddy Joe was away that Irwin Russell strolled in for a chat. When the old man returned, it was plain that, during his absence, all Aunt Cassy's'conjurors and ghosts and devils' had been at work, for he found his jug displaced, its contents gone, and Irwin Russell resting serenly and comfortably in the coffin."

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II. The Old Home:

Windsor (1) For full account see Assignment 15 - Old Homes.

In the rich Westside neighborhood of the county, east of the Mississippi River and within a ~~few~~ radius of a few miles/ there were built ante-bellum homes some of which may be well termed mansions. Notable among these was "Windsor", the home of the Daniell family. This magnificent structure was destroyed by fire in 1890. It narrowly escaped being burned by the Union soldiers during the War Between the States. ~~The~~ story is that Windsor, being used by Grant for headquarters, was surrounded by a federal guard, one of whom was shot by a renegade southener. In reprisal came the decision to burn the house, but Mrs. Daniell mounted a chair in the hall and in an impassioned speech to the Union men persuaded them against their plan.(2)

Complete with furnishings the cost of Windsor was $175,000. Of such unique beauty and lavish proportions was it that Washington authorities sent down architects to study it.(2) Notable among other homes in this neighborhood and "Grove's Valley" were "The Retreat", "Oak Hill", "Mont Gomer", and "Cane Mount", the last the only ones still standing.

The Retreat

Built in 1830 by Thomas Freeland, it was burned in 1926 when unoccupied. Here was born John M. Parker, once governor of Louisiana. The home of Dr. W.N. Jenkins in Port Gibson was modeled after "The Retreat" with certain variations, ~~such as wide halls upstairs and down.~~ and verandas (2)

Oak Hill

No longer standing. Build probably around 1830 by Augustine Freeland, brother of Thomas who built "The Retreat". A two story struc-

1. The complete story of Windsor is found in Assignment #15 mailed in previously.
2. Information from Smith C. Daniell of Port Gibson, grandson of the builder of Windsor

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II. The Old Home (continued)

Oak Hill (continued)

ture with rooms and halls of unusually large proportions, the rooms being twenty-eight by thirty.(1)

Mont Gomer

This plantation was an original grant to the Montgomery family from the Spanish government. Its name is made from the family name with the y omitted. The Cranes also lived here, some of them being buried in the family burial ground. The original house is gone and on its sight has been built a modern structure by Mr. Chauncey French, who now owns the place.(1)

Cane Mount

Perhaps the best preserved century old home in Claiborne County is situated three miles east of Alcorn College on what was formerly called "Cochrandale Plantation", known today as "Cane Mount", now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Rice.

The architecture of this two story "glorified cottage"(2) indicates the builder to have been far ahead of the period in which he built. Erected on a knoll which drains four ways, the knoll believed to have been built up,(2) and surrounded by live oaks and cedars, this house has been restored to all its former beauty- it has never known a state of dilapidation.

The exterior is most attractive and unusual. Wide porches with square columns extending the four sides of the main building, making the four sides equal. Brick walls fourteen inches thick enclose an interior planned for luxurious living. The diningroom, together with

1. S. C. Daniell of Port Gibson
2. Mrs. J. L. Rice, owner of the house, so describes it.

II. The Old Home (continued)

Cane Mount (continued)

a pantry, which once had cypress bins to hold barrels of produce, takes up all floor space to the left of the moderately wide hall. To the right of the hall are the parlor and library. The walls are finished in plaster with a medallion in every ceiling. Wherever there is a fireplace, there is a marble mantel, five in all. Near the center hall, to the left, a stairway with pure black walnut railing rises to the second story which consists of hall, three bedrooms and bath. Over the back hall door five call bells still remain from slave days, together with others throughout the house. Each bell had its distinctive tone and each servant knew his call. (1)

Two wings to the rear of the main house enclose a court which is planted in japonica trees and other shrubbery. The wing to the right has two guest rooms and bath, that to the left houses the kitchen and laundry. An ancient brick servant house has been modernized into quarters for the chauffeur and maids of visitors.

Dating back to the very first of the 19th century, this property was owned by the Cochran family, Mr. John Murdoch receiving it as a gift from his uncle, Robert Cochran to whom, while he was still a subject of the Kingdom of Ireland, Cochrandale came as a Spanish grant. The first record available of this family reads: (2)

"Articles of agreement made on the 4th day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Three, between Robert Cochran of the city of New Orleans in the Province of Louisiana of the one part, and George Cochran of the Territory of the Mississippi of the other part. Whereas by a certain agreement bearing date the sixteenth day of June Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and ninety-

1. Mrs. J. L. Rice
2. Deed Record B., Page 20

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II. The Old Home

Cane Mount (continued)

two, it was stipulated between the said Robert and George that they should enter into a partnership in trade on their joint account and equal benefit to be carried on under the firm of Robert and George Cochran, which partnership hath been so carried on doth still continue."

Township books recording early grants carry records of a number of patents granted to George and Robert Cochran: one to George containing 640 acres in the year 1805; one 306 acres in 1816; one to Robert of 477 acres in 1815; another in 1815. On Township Maps of Claiborne County furnished by the U.S. Government, the names of George and Robert Cochran appear all along the western border of the county.

Robert Cochran sold 250 acres to the trustees of Oakland College for a building site for that historic institution. And in his will one of the bequests was for $4000.00 to each of the children of Zebulun Butler, founder of the Presbyterian Church in Port Gibson, who had married Mary A. Murdoch, daughter of his nephew John Murdoch. (1)

In Deed Book B, Page 247, we find an article of agreement made February 22, 1808 between Robert Cochran and his nephew John Murdoch, who came to this county from Baltimore, Maryland, whereby Mr. Murdock takes complete charge of plantation stock, slaves, gins, etc. for a period of five years. On page 189 of the same deed book, Robert Cochran "for and in consideration of the love and affection he bears his nephew, the said John Murdock and the sum of one dollar to him in hand paid" deeds to him "Cochrandale," this will bearing date March 1, 1820. (2)

Mr. John Murdoch it was, who about 1825 built the home described at the beginning of this article. He accumulated a fortune ~~and in~~

1. ~~Deed Book B Page 247~~ Will Book A, p. 308
2. S. C. Daniell of an early pioneer family, Port Gibson.

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II. The Old Home

Cane Mount (continued)

In his will written in Dec. 13, 1826 (1) he refers to his home as his "mansion house", which together with so many acres of land and $10,000 cash he bequeathed to Ester, his wife. His five daughters Mary Ann, Sarah, Anna Jane, Ellen and Ester, each to receive $5000.00 when they reach 18 years of age; also $2000.00 on the date of their marriage, provided their choice in the gentleman be satisfactory to their mother. If not so, the $2000.00 to be by no means paid to them. To his only son John, he bequeathed all the plantation, excepting his mother's part; also an ample allowance for his education and board until he became twenty-one years old, at which time he would receive his cash inheritance of $5000.00.and other interests.

The seventh partition reads: " To my ever respected Uncle Robert Cochran, I leave as a token of remembrance my other walking cane, which he will please make use of and sometimes think of me." "To his goodness and liberality am I indebted in the first instance for the beginning of my fortune of which he knows I ever retained a grateful sense and would wish my dearest Ester to continue to cherish and as far as in her power alleviate the declining years of my best of uncles, which it was my full determination to have done myself had it pleased Divine Providence to have spared me."

Another part reads: "To my cousin William Cochran of the Townland of Leck in the County of Managhan and Kingdom of Ireland, I leave the entire use of profits of my lands in the said Townland of Leck and also my share of the houses in Glaplough so long as he shall continue to reside in the same during the lifetime of my uncle Robert Cochran

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1. Deed Book B., page 247

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II. The Old Home

Cane Mount (continued)

and no longer, this being agreeable to the promise I made him and the understanding between us when he left Mississippi for Ireland.

Inscriptions on monuments in Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson read: (Both on same lot.)

Ester
Wife of John Murdoch
Born in Ireland
Died in Port Gibson
April 23, 1843
Age 58 years.

Rev. Zebulon Butler, D.D.
Born Sept.27, 1803
Died Dec. 23, 1860
Founder of Presbyterian Church
Pastor for 33 years.

As before stated, Reverend Butler married Mary A. Murdoch, daughter of John and Ester Murdoch.

In 1861, the second Mr. Murdoch, son of the builder of the home, with his family returned to Maryland and thence to England, leaving his property to be cared for by friends and slaves, not returning to Claiborne County until about 1874.

Very old residents state that 1875 to 1908 was the heyday of Cane Mount. The owners being wealthy traveled extensively and accumulated many treasures, and entertainment was of a delightful character there. Among the prominent visitors in this home were: David Hunt, James McGill, Smith C. Daniell, John Snodgrass, William Young.

The second Mr. Murdock had several sons and daughters, and his son, William, lived at Cane Mount up to the time of his death in 1905. One daughter, Dora, married a Mr. Dennis; and it was from her son, John Murdoch Dennis, that the present owners Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Rice, pur-

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II.> The Old Home

Cane Mount (continued)

chased the property in 1929. Mr. Dennis came to Port Gibson to make the sale. He now lives in Baltimore, Maryland where he is President of the Chamber of Commerce. It was he who moved a large amount of valuable furniture from this home a number of years ago. A sister of Mr. William Murdoch married a titled Englishman and made her home thereafter in England. In the family burying ground near the old home is a tomb the inscription on which reads: George Cochran, Subject of the Kingdom of Ireland. (1)

There are still marks of the wide path which Mr. John Murdoch had cut from his home to the Mississippi River, then about three-fourths of a mile distant, that he might have the pleasure of watching the steamboats pass. He knew all the captains of these boats, and they would signal him by whistle. (1)

The flower gardens in the olden time were terraced and were considered the prettiest in the entire countryside at one time. The present owner has just completed a cedar planting and is continually adding to the beauty of the place. (1)

This place has for over a century been recognized as very valuable property, being valued at $30 per acre in 1830. Just prior to selling, Mr. Dennis disposed of the timber for an enormous sum of money. (1)

1. Mrs. J. L. Rice, present owner.

Other bequests in the will of Robert Cochran are:

To the Trustees of Oakland College $2000.00 to be added to the permanent fund of the institution.

To the Presbyterian Church in the town of Port Gibson $2000.00.

To the wife and children of Gloster Simpson their freedom, and I hereby request that, as soon after my death as convenient, they be set free and emancipated from slavery on condition they leave the State of Mississippi and go to Liberia, or to some other place in Africa. And I bequeath to each said negro the sum of one hundred dollars to be paid in a manner best calculated to promote their happiness.(1)

1. Will Book A, page 308 in vaults of Chancery Clerk.

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Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

II. The Old Home (continued)

Greenwood (in Westside neighborhood) (1)

Built about 1828 by William Young, husband of Clarissa Crane Christie, daughter of Waterman Crane.(1) "Merely to mention the hospitable home of the Youngs and the friends that came there to visit would be to marshal before the mind's eye the wealthy, cultured families of that day, among them the Freelands, Bucknerø, Murdochs, Parkers, Duncans, Chaplains, Vertners, Broughtons, Bucks, Tweeds, Colemans, and Governor and Mrs. Allen." (2)

Mr. Young came directly from Scotland to New Orleans and thence up to Claiborne County. He became very fond of a nephew of his wife, J. W. Watson who was orphaned at two weeks, son of her sister, Malinda Crane Watson. On his return from Princeton he gave him money to buy Buena Vista Plantation. (3)

Mrs. Mary Bertron Hughes inherited Greenwood from her grandmother Clarissa Crane Christie Young and lived with her family here for many years. Mrs. Hughes was the daughter of the marriage of Caroline Christie and Samuel Redding Bertron, direct descendant of Governor Redding of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Hughes sold the property in 1907 and moved with her children to Port Gibson where she lived to age of 92, dying only a few years ago. (1) Much of the beautiful old furniture from this plantation home is now in possession of a daughter of Mrs. Hughes, who lives in Port Gibson.

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1. Information from Mrs. Louise Hughes Berger of Port Gibson, daughter of Mrs. Hughes.
2. From an undated clipping from The Port Gibson Reveille belonging to Mrs. Berger.
3. Interview with Mrs. Maria Briscoe of Port Gibson (deceased since the interview)

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II. The Old Home (continued)

Grove's Valley

Another of the charming ante-bellum homes in the Westside neighborhood is this frame home situated one-fourth mile off the original Port Gibson-Rodney road, about three miles east of the old Bethel Church. It has its name from a Mr. Groves, who built the house about 1821.[1] in this lovely valley. Near by there once stood the beautiful Valentine home.

The building is one and a half stories high. A distinguishing feature of the wide hall is a partition with double doors just back of the graceful stairway, the doors opening into a room now used as a diningroom with huge mantel to either side of which are unique built-in cabinets. Four bedrooms and kitchen complete the lower floor. Upstairs are two spacious bedrooms and a hall. Plastered walls throughout. Outside there is a wide porch extending the length of the house. Old blinds at the windows.

Daniel Joseph Dohan was an emigrant from Ireland at the age of nine years, coming to Philadelphia and thence about the year 1821 to Claiborne County. In 1849 he became sheriff of Claiborne County, and this same year proceeded to the home, which is the subject of this sketch, in the pursuit of his duties as tax collector. He immediately fell in love with the widow Rembert, at that time owner of "Grove's Valley". Shortly afterwards they were married, and to this union were born Ellen Elizabeth Dohan and Emma Dohan. The old Catholic Bible,(Mr. Dohan was a Catholic), records the birth of the former as of Oct. 14, 1852 and her marriage to Richard Valentine as of March 2, 1871.

1. Thought by some to be around 200 years old.

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II. The Old Home

Grove's Valley (continued)

The house is occupied today by Mrs. Everett Mitchell and Mrs. Bessie Stanrod, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Valentine.

Many handsome pieces of furniture still remain in this house, though much was disposed of by Mrs. Emma Dohan before her death. Two exceptionally handsome what-nots, a massive secretary filled with old books, some of which reach the century mark, a marble topped rosewood center table, large four-post mahogany bed, a number of fragile occasional chairs, two pairs of bronze candlesticks with statuary marble bases. A valuable picture by N. Currier bearing the title "Camping Out", said to be one of the only two now in existence. An exceptional portrait painting of Ellen Elizabeth Dohan done in Philadelphis. Huge paintings: "Voyange of Life","Blind Man", English Immigrants", and others.

The grounds were according to tradition among the prettiest in the country at the time Grant proceeded through the valley. The story goes that he gave strict orders that the gardens be not disturbed. The house served as confederate headquarters, and the property is said to have suffered as little as any place in the neighborhood in the passing of the army. (1)

1. Information from Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Stanrod.



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II. The Old Home

Lodie

Situated north of Pattison and adjoining the Bearden place, we find another ante-bellum home. A long wide hall with three rooms on each side, a deep front and back gallery completes the structure. It is more interesting because of the people who lived there than from an architectural point of view. "Lodie" is a Scotch name, but its meaning and significance cannot be learned.

In the 50's Captain Joseph Magruder, son of Dr. Thomas Magruder who came to Claiborne County in 1822, lived in this old home. At that time it was furnished throughout with furniture typical of the period, pieces of which are seen today in the homes of Joseph Magruder's relatives. Captain Magruder fell in defense of the lost cause and the land of his nativity in 1862. As late as 1900 his only child Amanda Louise Magruder McClean, who was both beautiful and accomplished, returned to Lodie from New Orleans and lived there for a year or so.with her husband. He died and the house was closed, left intact for sometime, during which period many valuable things were stolen.

The house and plantation are now owned by Mrs. Lizzie Magruder Disharoon of Port Gibson, niece of Capt. Joseph Magruder.

1. Facts in above are from Mrs. Lizzie Magruder Disharoon of Port Gibson. For further information in regard to Joseph Magruder and Amanda Louise McClean see Fine Arts.

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Askamala Plantation (1)

This home lying between Port Gibson and Hermanville was the home of William Thomas Magruder, son of Dr. Thomas Magruder whose home "Cabinwood" is described elsewhere. Irwin Russell was a frequent visitor to Askamala for week end parties, being a particular friend of Henry Magruder, one of the sons of the family. The following story reveals the sympathetic and close affection that existed between Irwin and Henry. The story is told by the former in a letter to a friend and is as follows: (2)

"I must tell you of a very strange occurence that took place last week and which I cannot account for. I had an intimate and valued friend here who died about two weeks ago. One night last week about nine O'clock, I was standing on our back gallery. It is about six feet from the ground, all southern residences nearly being built on pillars to keep them dry and cool. The gallery is latticed and has steps and a door at the end. A voice, apparently in the yard near the gallery, pronounced my name very distinctly. Now, I was not thinking of my dead friend at the time, but as soon as I heard the call, I thought: "Whoever that is, his voice is exactly like that of poor Henry Magruder; it must be Herbert."(An uncle of his about the same age.) I called out, "Hello, Who's there?" I then went out and looked in the yard under the house and over in the Church yard, but there was nobody there. The moon was shining very brightly, and no person could have been there without my discovering him. I heard the voice as plainly as I ever heard anything, and it appeared to be that of someone in the yard very near the gallery. Was it not strange? I am more than half inclined to believe that it was the spirit of my old friend. It was his voice exactly."

1. It has been impossible for us to get the story of this ante-bellum home.
2. Found in a Port Gibson Reveille of Aug.1,1929 in an article by Mrs. Maggie Williams Musgrove of Port Gibson.

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II
Cabinwood (For full information see Old Homes-Assignment #15)

Dr. Thomas Magruder"had many homes-~~two in town- at what is now The Port Gibson Bank, and the Mason house, now the Abraham's~~, in each of which he kept 'open house'; at 'Oaken Grove'(1), a mansion the admiration of all beholders for its superior architecture and fine carving, hand work of better days, to lastly the more humble one of 'Cabin Wood', so called from a cabin in the front yard built for the workmen, while the building of the home was in progress."

"The doctor was a delightful host, though his generosity was his undoing. Never known to be 'in his cups' though cider was plentiful. A learned Christian gentleman, reared a good Catholic, but this community not being served by a priest, he wedded a Methodist and united with that church, afterwards becoming an Episcopalian and dying as senior warden of that church. He was extremely popular because of his agreeable manner and many versatile gifts. He loved music; played the violin as well as backgammon and had a good voice- in parlor and nursery as well. Rocked the babies to sleep with 'Hey Bettie Martin, tiptoe fine. She can't get a husband to suit her mind' etc., and 'Johnnie so long at the fair'- one stanza in particular I loved: 'He promised to bring me a bunch of blue ribbin'(ribbon)-Grandpa said 'ribbin' to tie up my bonnie brown hair'. Professionally he was respected and widely beloved, answering calls in all weathers. Yet his books showed many unpaid bills for he never forsook a patient because he was poor; in fact often remonstrated with other physicians. At intervals served his state in the legislative assemblies. Was a Whig in politics, but endorsed 'the lost cause'. Financially a failure, because of signing a friend's note. Generous, genial, dear old doctor, no kinder heart ever beat in a human bosom."

Above written by a granddaughter, Miss Mary Magruder of Port Gibson.

1. Long since gone. On Pattison Road a few miles South of Port Gibson.

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Old Homes

Cabinwood (continued)

The Magruder boys and Irwin Russell were close friends and Irwin was often a visitor at Cabinwood for week end gatherings, and stories are told of the fun and jokes on those occasions. Of how Irwin "would get up nights and write on the wall verses that would be invaluable today. Of how, the next morning on arising and finding them there, he would attribute them to his friend Watt Magruder and write beneath such lines as:

'Byron, Shakespeare, Pope and Moore
Are poets dead and gone before,
But Watt Magruder beats them all
And writes his verses on the wall.'

"And then of how, when the gathering dispersed on Monday mornings, Mrs. Magruder, the immaculate housewife, would have the walls carefully scrubbed to effece all signs of heedless lads and so reduce the all too small amount of verse that made him famous." (1)

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1. Article by Mrs. Maggie Musgrove of Port Gibson in Port Gibson Reveille of August 1, 1929 in which she states the incident of the verses was told to her by Mr. Watt Magruder himself

State-Wide Historical Research Project
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Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

Hopewell

Many beautiful homes in Claiborne County have been destroyed by fire, among them "Hopewell," a few miles from St. Elmo, on the G. & M. R. Railroad. This plantation was purchased from William H. Martin June 10, 1856, by Ephraim Davenport. (1)

"When Mr. Davenport bought the place, there was another home standing there which burned. The story goes that he told his lovely young wife not to weep over the loss of the first home, that he would replace it with one far more desirable." (2)

In planning this new home, he called in the skill of northern architects and builders. The entire home was cut and prepared in the North. The material was then floated down the river on barges from Cincinnati, Ohio; and the northern contractors came down and erected it. (3)

"It was a two and one-half story frame structure, the front of which was flanked by eight pillars extending the height of the two stories, but a gallery the same size as the first floor piazza extended across the front at the second floor level. At the rear, the piazza and gallery above extended beyond the main body of the house at each end to a distance of thirty feet, being about 125 feet over all in length. Two ells jutted back from these extensions- the kitchen and diningroom were in one and a large bedroom above-the other ell had a dairy cellar below the first floor room and a stairway leading to the floor above. A large hallway ran from front to rear, downstairs and upstairs of the main part of the house, and there were four large rooms on both floors between 20 and 24 feet square. The walls throughout the house were calcimined a beautiful glazed white finish, and on the first floor all the ceilings

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1. Deed Book C-C page 352
2. Mrs. Molly Gartman Gordon, once owner of the place, now living in Brookhaven
3. Mrs. Robert Bruce of Claiborne County, niece of Ephraim Davenport

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
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Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

Hopewell (continued)

were decorated with elaborate moldings of intricate design in plaster of Paris, with large center ornamentation of the same type for the chandeliers. The war broke out just before the second floor was completed." (1)

Anne Davenport, a daughter of Ephraim Davemport, married John G. Hastings, and to this union were born three children. Mr. Hastings was married a second time to Miss Olivia Valentine of Westside neighborhood. This Mrs. Olivia Hastings it was whose articles on education attracted the attention of the Hon. J. McMartin, then a member of the state legislature.(2) He went to "Hopewell" to talk with Mrs. Hastings; and in the parlor of this old home, he drew up the first draft of the bill creating the Industrial Institute and College. This bill was soon afterward passed and the Mississippi State College for Women is the result.(3) The table on which Mr. Martin drafted the above bill has since been given to the museum of M.S.C.W. by the descendants of Mrs. Hastings.(4)

Eugenia Davenport, another daughter of Ephraim, later inherited this beautiful home and married a Mr. Charles Gordon of Massachusetts.(2) "She died in childbirth, and in six months time her husband died of a broken heart. His brother, Willard F. Gordon, then bought the place, and he and his wife, the former Mary Gartman of Brookhaven, lived there for forty-three years, until the home burned." (1)

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1. Mrs. Molly Gartman Gordon, owner of "Hopewell", now living in Brookhaven.
2. Mrs. Robert Bruce of Claiborne County, niece of Ephraim Davenport.
3. Typewritten copy of "True History of Incorporation of the I.I. & C." by Mr. J. McMartin.
4. Mrs. Cora Gaines, niece of Mrs. Hastings, Westside, Claiborne Co.

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Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-Bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

Talbot

Talbot, the ancestral home of the Martin family, is situated a few miles west of Port Gibson in the St. Elmo neighborhood, one of the most aristocratic and exclusive neighborhoods in the county. The house is a spacious frame building with wide old fashioned southern gallery extending across its entire front. The entrance hall is of generous proportions, running from front to rear of the building. A very lovely winding stairway with mahogany hand rail rises to the second story.

Talbot was under construction when the War Between the States was declared. Workmen left their tools to answer the call to arms and never returned, leaving the building unfinished for almost half a century.

Mr. William Martin came to Claiborne County from Talbot County, Maryland. He married June 27, 1837, Miss Mary McCaleb, who inherited this plantation from her father, Johathan McCaleb.(1) They called their home "Talbot" in memory of Mr. Martin's old home, Talbot County, Md. Children of Mr. and Mrs. Martin were John McCaleb, George, Fletcher, Henry, Sarah, Mollie and Carrie. Fletcher and Henry served and died in the southern army during the War Between the States. John McCaleb Martin, a young law student during the Reconstruction Days, was very active in driving the carpet baggers out of the county, later becoming one of Claiborne County's prominent lawyers, serving in his profession for more than a quarter of a century.

In 1883 Carrie Martin sold all of that plantation known as "Talbot" containing 375 acres to John H. Gordon,(2) whose daughter, Miss Margaret Gordon is still in possession of this beautiful old place.

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1. Interview with Mrs. John McC. Martin of Port Gibson

2. Deed Book W-W, page 358

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Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

II. The Old Home

Bloomquist home in Port Gibson

As Highway 61 enters pretty Church Street on the north end, the ~~strikingly lovely~~ quaint attractive home of Mrs. Bloomquist appears on the left side of the street, and immediately arrests the attention because of its quaint old-time air.

Though built over one hundred years ago from timbers brought down the Mississippi in boat form, the house looks as trim and fresh and solid as though it were built but yesterday, and is perhaps more substantial. Such repairs as have been necessary reveal the foundation put together with wooden pegs and the columns solid trees. There are two dormer windows with rounded arched window frames, a particularly attractive feature. The center front double entrance doors, surrounded by unique side lights and transom, opens into a wide hall with two large rooms on either side. The ceilings are low but the floor space is spacious. Beyond a small back porch there are two additional rooms probably added in the late 50's.

The builder is unknown today, but deed books show the property was bought from Samuel Gibson by a Mr. Bower of Natchez and passed next to the Ziegers and thence to Nicholas McDougal. It is still called by the old inhabitants "the McDougall home". In 1900 Mr. Bloomquist bought the property from Mr. Chisolm and since has kept it in perfect repair.

The only occupant of the house today is Mrs. Bloomquist, who although advanced in years, takes great pride in her flower garden, where bloom sweet olive, japonicas, wistaria, crepe myrtle, and roses.

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1. Information from Mrs. Sallie Bloomquist.

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Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

II. The Old Home

Hollyrood, home of the Rev. H. H. Brownlee

Among the attractive ante-bellum homes near Port Gibson is Hollyrood now owned by the Reverend H. H. Brownlee. Hollyrood lies two miles south of Port Gibson on the historic Natchez Trace. It was once part of a large tract known in the records as "Abijah Hunt's Bayou Pierre Plantation". After various partitions of this huge estate, what is the present place became the property of Israel Spencer, a pioneer from Connecticut, who built the present dwelling ~~in~~ about the year 1859.

Here "in this dear old mansion of Holly Rood" (1) Mr. Spencer and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in the year 1866, "with a pleasant party of kindred, neighbors, and friends assembled." (1)

The years ran on and in the 90's Dr. R. G. Wharton, outstanding pioneer physician of the county moved to this "delightful country residence", (2) then the home of his daughter, and died here in 1896. Extracts from his diary reveal his delight in the place, which he refers to as 'Holyrood'. (2)

In 1890 the present owner came to Port Gibson to accept the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church. Looking about for a home in the country for his growing family, he selected Hollyrood and in 1897 bought the place, on which he is still living.

Golden weddings are rather rare events, but for the second time in its history Hollyrood was the scene of such a celebration, when on April 22, 1929, Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee observed the 50th anni-

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1. The Weekly Standard of Port Gibson, issue of Sept. 15, 1866. Note old spelling of Hollyrood.
2. "Memoir of Richard Goode Wharton", p.62 by his daughter, Mrs. Kate Wharton Grafton

Claiborne County
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II. The Old Home

Hollyrood (continued)

versary of their wedding. On the evening of that day a surprise awaited them when a party of about fifty friends called on them. On behalf of the guests, Judge R. D. Gage in happy manner presented a gift in gold, stating that "it came from people of all demominations in appreciation of the love of the good people to whom the gift was made".(1)

Well back from the road, the house in immaculate gleaming whiteness, red chimneys, and green roof and shutters, is glimpsed through age-old oaks rising from a spacious lawn with its gentle lateral slopes, and driveway to one side. It conforms to a type of architecture prevalent in the South in the late 50's. A story and a half structure with dormer windows, deep gallery extending almost the width of the house with its four simple square columns, fine central door with side lights and transom opening into a wide hall with stairway rising from the rear door. Downstairs rooms are twenty by twenty with high ceilings, while the upstairs rooms, though of ample floor space are low ceilinged. The wing extending back from the rear is connected with the main house by a lattice enclosed porch which extends across the width of the main house and down the wing.

The house is simply furnished: a few antique pieces of furniture mixed with modern. Gracing the living room is a handsome mahogany sofa, six feet in length, once used on the pulpit stand of the Presbyterian Church in Port Gibson, probably as far back as the days of Zeb-



1. Port Gibson Reveille of April 1928,

Claiborne County
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Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

II. The Old Home

Hollyrood (continued)

ulon Butler, founder of the church. This was a gift to Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee when they moved to the country from the manse. A Seth Thomas clock ticks away the hours even as it did seventy-five years ago in the ancestral Pennsylvania home of Mr. Brownlee, and a large mahogany table from the same home is an ornament to the hall. In a cabinet in the diningroom gleams the silver of a handsome pitcher and waiter presented to Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee on the completion of Mr. Brownlee's twentieth year as pastor of the church in Port Gibson.

Ante-bellum incidents, stories and traditions connected with Hollyrood are buried for the most part in oblivion, but the house remains in the charm of its setting to delight the present generation.

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Facts for the above were furnished by Mrs. Helen Baldwin, daughter of Mr. Brownlee, who lives at Hollyrood with her father.

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Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

II. Old Homes

Vaucluse

The following information is to be added to the account of this old home already in your office under Assignment #15.

"This home was at different times headquarters for both Confederate and Federal armies during the War of Secession, and was the first headquarters in this section of the Ku Klux Klan." (1)

Enid Richmond, County Supervisor

1. History of Port Gibson, p. 294- Pamphlet by Rev. H. G. Hawkins (Reprinted from Pub. Miss. Hist. Soc. Vol. X)

Claiborne County
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Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

II. The Old Home

Wheeless home in Port Gibson (1)

Noteworthy among the decidedly old homes of Port Gibson is this one built a century ago and located near the northern end of Church Street on the left side, if traveling southward. Built of solid cypress, parts of which pegged together speak for the substantial construction of the early period. The treatment of the roof, which has three unusually large dormer windows lends distinctive character. The name of the builder has been lost with time. The house has dignity, for all its moderateness of size. Square columns, doors with side lights, wide long porch, large windows with square panes, and a spacious interior. Flanking the house off the rear is a wing built in a later period, probably following the War Between the States.

There is no dinginess apparent about this old place, as in the eighteenth century it was purchased by Mr. George Wheeless, one of the wealthiest citizens of the county, who restored it to its original beauty. Including the gardens, today the house is banked by every imaginable shrub, and the rose garden is complete. To many it is one of the most outstanding homes in Port Gibson.

Mr. Wheeless purchased the property from William G. Parker, who was at one time president of the Port Gibson-Grand Gulf Railroad and brother of J. M. Parker, former governor of Louisiana. Mr. Guthrie, an early president of Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, once owned and lived in this house. Mr. Pete Wheeless, brother of George, now owns the place and lives there.

1. Information from Mr. Carl Bloomquist of Port Gibson, nephew of Mr. George Wheeless.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, Antiques and Relics

Highland Home, home of the Hamiltons.

Five miles west of Port Gibson and one mile off the Grand Gulf road in self sufficient seclusion stood Highland Home, known throughout the county for its magnificence. The picturesque road to the home site lies through inviting stretches of virgin forest. Beyond the gate way is a semi-circular drive outlined by cedars. Before the house burned in 1929, the view from the entrance instantly brought an imaginary picture of dainty ladies attired in hoop skirts and bonnets, stepping from luxurious carriages to the old stile block erected by slaves.

Highland Home was built in the brilliant days of the period just previous to the ~~Civil~~ Between The States War, in 1856, by Charles Darius Hamilton, son of Jesse Hamilton, a pioneer of Frankfort, Kentucky. Deed Books carry records of numerous land transactions, together with purchases and sales of slaves, by the Hamiltons, one being a patent from the United States to Charles and Darius Hamilton in 1821.

The building followed the classical colonial type, frequently adapted by Southerners of means. A certain generosity predominated, the rooms and corridors being of unusual spaciousness with windows and doors on the same scale. Special features were the double parlors and a court twenty-five feet square. The court on countless occasions was used as a ball room, and always as a summer living room, as doors from several rooms (which were so constructed as to enclose the court from three sides) opened on to it, including a door from the main entrance hall, dining-room, two bedrooms, and large pantry. Eleven rooms completed the structure three of which formed a wing to the left at the rear. On either side of the house stood large latticed summer houses.

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Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes etc.

Highland Homes (continued)

Charles Darius Hamilton was born Feb. 6, 1814; married Elizabeth Walcott Belknap (formerly of Louisville, Kentucky, visiting at Grand Gulf at this time) June 18, 1853, at Grand Gulf, Mississippi. To this union eight children were born, all of whom were educated at colleges in Virginia. The youngest, Robert Lee, was born on the eve of Grant's encampment on the banks of the Mississippi and the Hamilton estate. Terror reigned in the home at this time, as the store houses were being pillaged and the work animals taken. Mrs. Hamilton wrote a very tactful note to General Grant, stating that Robert E. Lee was a newly arrived guest in their home. Whereupon General Grant returned pillaged property together with a wagon load of delicasies from his own supply.

After the War Between the States, there were many difficulties of the reconstruction period to be dealt with. All in all Highland Home had a checkered career, at times brilliant, at times troublous.

Charles Darius Hamilton died Nov. 26, 1869. Some years later Mrs. Hamilton married Judge Stephen Thrasher, a wealthy and prominent attorney of Port Gibson; and together (as her executive ability matched his) they amassed quite a fortune and continued to add th the already rich store of matchless antique furniture, curios, and historic memen-toes.

The double parlors contained two nine-piece carved rosewood suits, marble top center tables, whatnots, secretaries, piano and old music rack. The curtains were of lacy net draped with lined brocaded red satin edged with two inch braid. The carpeted floors harmonized with the draperies. On the walls of both parlors and hall hung many handsome

Subject: Ante-Bellum Days, Old Homes etc.

Highland Home (continued)

portraits, among them Phoebe Locke Belknap, William Belknap, Charles Hamilton, Elizabeth Hamilton, Nannie Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Anthony Glass, Stephen Little, and others.

Robert Lee Hamilton, the last of the family to dwell in this palatial old place, was married twice, first to Nell Allen, and second to Emma Glass, both descendants of prominent Warren County families. To each union three children were born, and the property remains in their name today, and the same estate which was a livelihood for Charles Darius Hamilton one hundred fifteen years ago is the principal livelihood of his descendants today: Robert Lee Hamilton, Jr., Mary Lee Hamilton, and Dorothy Hamilton.

Written by Mrs. Lela Ethel Hamilton - daughter-in-law of the family.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

II. The Old Home

Collina----Port Gibson

Collina stands on part of a Spanish Grant to Samuel Gibson who, in his last will and testament, left one sixth of the grant to his daughter, Mary Trimble. Thereafter records in the Claiborne County Court House give as successive owners, Israel Loring, Volney Stamps, William Stowers, Robert Harper, Mary Harper, his wife, Henry Hughes Harper, the son, Archelaus Kirkland Jones, members of whose family now own and live at Collina.

The one hundred forty-five acres known as the Shushan place was changed by Judge Stamps to the much more appropriate name of Collina, the Spanish word for hill. On this high eminence, in the midst of a virgin forest, Judge Stamps built a modified classic style of house, with wide portico and large square pillars and wooden bannisters, making the front entrance simple and dignified. The typical wide hall, with high ceiling, arabesques and panels for decoration, ran the length of the main house. Spacious double drawing rooms, a library, and bedrooms open into this hall. A large dining room opens into the library and onto a long L shaped latticed back gallery running across the entire back of the house. In the rear of the house and separated from it by a paved alley is a two story brick building with bedrooms in the upper and storeroom, pantry, kitchen, wash and ironing rooms below with an adjoining latticed house over a huge cistern, back of which was a milk house. To the south and at quite a distance were smoke-house, potato house, and servants' quarters, and still farther off the stables, carriage and saddle house, barn and barn yard.

Although on a high hilltop, Collina is completely hidden by

II. The Old Home

Collina (continued)

by immense forest trees of oak, elm, beech; also cedars and other evergreens. A beautiful avenue of oaks extending from Church Street to the foot of the hill was called "Lovers' Lane". Its quietude and beauty, the rustic seat and old fashioned stiles invited romance, especially when the setting sun cast shadows and outlined towering magnolias and pines in the distance.

At the foot of the hill, the avenue divided into two arms to encircle the hill and wind up in front of the house at bricked pavement and steps flanked by brick horse blocks. Another succession of brick pavement and steps, then a long pavement and broad flight of steps led to the portico. A narrower brick pavement went entirely around the house to end in a large square brick court bordered by a hadge of arbor vitae.

Three terraces grace the grounds on the south side: in the olden days a double row of cedars made a bowling alley of the upper one; the second one was used for croquet and archery; the third terrace was massed with all kinds of bulbs and bordered by gay flowers and sweet-scented shrubs.

Mrs. Stamps was famous for her hospitality and lavish entertainments. She was also a lover of beauty and order and the grounds, gardens, and orchard were kept in perfect condition while she lived at Collina. Her successors followed her example until the complete change of fortune resulting from the War Between the States and the "Tragic Era" which followed robbed the owners of the means to keep up the large estate. The Mississippi Valley Railroad cut witching and romantic Lovers' Land in half; the carriage and wagon roads became badly washed and

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

II. The Old Home

Collina (continued)

gullied; the flowers and shrubs died from neglect, or were stolen; and the houses fell into disrepair.

Since 1882 Collina reflects the taste and circumstances of the Jones family. Mr. Harper, before selling it to Mr. Jones, removed all his intimate belongings, portraits, paintings, books, and papers; also the lovely rose-wood and mahogany furniture and the long and handsome pier glasses.

Dilapidated portions of the house and most of the out buildings had to be torn down and ells or wings added to accommodate a large and growing family. Little by little the present owners have refurnished the house, achieving comfort, convenience, and atmosphere while gradually restoring in a measure Collina to its former state.

Several strong and interesting personalities have left their stamp upon Collina, which is a mute witness to the glamorous life of the ante-bellum South; dancing and gaiety, joy and sorrow, victory and defeat it has housed during its ninety-seven years.

One of its noblest and most brilliant sojourners was Colonel Henry Hughes, who spent much time here with his loved and loving sister, Mrs. Mary Ann Hughes (Morehead) Harper; and it was at Collina he died at the early age of 35 years. Henry was the son of Benjamin and Nancy Brashear Hughes. He was a brother of William, and Maria, who married Mr. Thomas Magruder, and Mary, who married first Mr. B. H. Morehead and after his death, Dr. Robert Harper.

He was a precocious child and fulfilled all promises. Endowed with many gifts and talents, he used them as a solemn trust. "All knowledge was his province"; he excelled in mathematics, languages, philosophy and was a born explorer and poet. Taking an old classifi-

Collina (continued)

cation as guide, the two faculties of his mind which predominated were the reason and the imagination. The subject which fired his mind through life was human society. Before leaving college he began to write a treatise on Sociology. The dominating tradition of the college he attended was high standards in scholarship first, and afterwards achievement in other fields that make life a rich and significant experience. And so the liberal arts were Henry's first allegiance; then he prepared himself for the practice of law and transacted ably and faithfully all business entrusted to him, but he cared little for the mere details and nothing at all for the emoluments of his practice. His interest was in the wider problems of public affairs and advancement of scientific research.

During a visit to Europe he became acquainted with the leading thinkers and writers on social questions. In Paris he revised and completed his"Treatise on Sociology", the first book of its kind published in either England or the United States.

This was the period when States Rights and slavery deeply agitated all minds. Disposed at first to judge the institution of slavery unfavorably, as he studied and reflected and observed he gradually became satisfied that human society in the South had more nearly realized its object than any other anywhere. In his book on Sociology he disclosed this opinion and argued for the idea logically and brilliantly.

When was was declared Hughes entered the service as a private but was shortly elected Captain of the Claiborne Guards and subsequently became Colonel of the immortal Twelfth Mississippi Regiment. Fortification construction and forced marches impaired his health. In the long and frightful march from Manassas to Gordonsville, thence to the Peninsula, he was seen trudging on foot at the head of his men while

Collina (continued)

some sick or wounded soldier was mounted on his horse. Much of his scanty pay was expended for the comfort of his men. In the campaigns in Virginia he had a weekly prayer meeting in his tent, and nothing but urgent official duty ever interrupted it. Among his papers one reads: "I pray God to make me one of the wisest and best of men." To an affectionate sister whose anxiety prompted the question, he answered: "Why, I was converted when a child."

In the spring of 1862 Col. Hughes was sent back to organize a regiment of Partisan Rangers. He rapidly accomplished his object and Hughes Battalion of Cavalry had an honorable career. When the Rangers were ordered to Port Hudson, he was carried on his bed to superintend the departure. Then in October 1862 he turned homeward to die- a heroic martyr to a cause he believed in with his whole being. He had put all his thought, skill, strength, time and health into his military duties. He was more than willing "to give and not to county the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest".

Lately there has been a revival of interest in Hughes' "Treatise on Sociology". Students writing theses for their M. A. and Ph.D. degrees have visited Port Gibson seeking unpublished papers and locating the published book, which has been out of print so long that very few are found in private libraries,-the college and public libraries having bought them up, they are now very valuable.

For A. K. Jones, as for most men of his generation, the golden years were over while he fought for four yearsin the War Between the States followed by the ten years known as the Tragic Era.

The essence and best of the Old South's traditions; something more than can be described by words but is felt by every true child of

Collina (continued)

the South came to fruition in Archelaus Kirkland Jones. He was born at Whitehall, the family home in Claiborne County. He was graduated from the University of Mississippi and had gone to Troy, N. Y. to qualify for a degree in civil engineering. When war was declared, he promptly returned home and with his five brothers enlisted in the Claiborne Guards. The military life of Capt. Jones, as he was called by everyone, is one with that of the Army of Northern Virginia, beginning with Manassas in July, 1861, and ending at Fort Gregg in front of Petersburg, Va., April, 1865.

When the captain of his company was killed at Seven Pines May, 1862, he was elected captain of Company K., 12th Mississippi Regiment. This company went into the Seven Days Battles around Richmond with four swords and sixty-three muskets and came out with only one sword and fourteen guns. Capt. Jones was wounded at Frazier's Farm, where his brother Meriwether and his second lieutenant, John C. Calhoun, his wife's only brother, were killed. He was wounded again at Bristol Station and Yellow Tavern and August, 1864, was captured and sent to Fort Delaware where later he was exchanged as unfit for service. Regaining his health, he rejoined his command in March, 1865. After the wounding of Colonel Duncan, Jones as senior captain was in command of his regiment in Fort Gregg, "the last and most sanguinary battle of the war, considering the number of men engaged". Two hundred Confederate soldiers had been told to hold the Fort at all costs in order to give General Lee's army time to retire behind the breastworks in front of Petersburg. They held the fort for two long hours against General Gibbons whole army, supported by two divisions from another corps. They never surrendered but the few left alive were captured and taken to Washington and confined in the"Old Capitol" prison. "None



Collina (continued)

of the prisoners slept the night Lincoln was assasinated, owing to the howling of the mob outside, which threatened to tear down the walls and murder them." From thence Captain Jones was taken to Johnson's Island in Lake Erie and detained until June. He reached home very footsore and weary, July 4, 1865, to find all gone but honor, courage, and a determination to build a new life in the midst of an unspeakable changing order. The need was for clear vision, true judgment, and great daring to right the wrongs imposed by radical rule of carpet baggers, scalawags, and newly freed negroes drunk with unaccustomed authority and power.

When unbearable conditions were finally changed and a sound basis laid for the achievement of a better existence, Captain Jones, with special qualities of experience, exceptional mind and ability,and an unusual gift of common sense and humor, was foremost in promoting good works and in dissuading others from unwise or unfair measures. He had traits of character that endeared him to everyone who came in contact with him. Someone has said we love those, and only those, whom we love to serve. Judged by this test, Captain Jones loved all men; none had better right to claim "Ich Dein" as a coat of arms. An appeal for aid was never unheeded; in addition, he sought out the needy, the sick, and the unfortunate. Courteous under all circumstances, eminently sociable and hospitable, tender and sympathetic in every relation, if necessity were laid upon him he proved that the wounds of a friend are faithful. Shrinking from no responsibility and daunted by no opposition, if duty called, he was always a cool and resolute leader of men. No meaningless shibboleths uttered in impassioned terms,

In October, 1867, Captain Jones was happily married to Mary

Collina (continued)

whether it were some political party, or so-called patriotic, or religious slogan, inflamed his spirit, or kept him from rational anglysis and reflection. He kept his mental integrity and remained faithful to the end. His passing was the passing of a hero.

In October, 1867, Captain Jones was happily married to Mary Henry Calhoun. The rearing of a large family in the brave new world required the giving up of his chosen field of work and the taking up of a scope and variety of business activities. He was for many years Chancery Clerk. Then the first cashier of the Mississippi Southern Bank. Owing to his generosity and kindness of heart and liberality in going security for his friends, he was not able to save money, but an unselfishness of spirit, an innate nobleness made him follow out his natural instincts to trust people, to give to everyone who asked, "to do good and lend, hoping for nothing again". Compassion and love in dealing with others is not all of religion, but it is a great part, for what we do for others we do to God. And an act springing from a right motive is a far-reaching thing!

At an early age Captain Jones was confirmed in old Epiphany Church by the venerable Bishop Green, the first Episcopal Bishop of Mississippi. In 1879 he moved from Woodside Farm to Port Gibson and served as vestryman in St. James Church, whose senior warden and Sunday School superintendent he was at the time of his death in 1911.

Captain Jones was a hardy sould with an invincible determination; his mind remained flexible, responsive, and sensitively adapted to change. He pursued knowledge to the end; his was no blind loyalty to history and tradition without any understanding of the conditions under which the old customs and beliefs once right and natural were so

Collina (continued)

no longer. He had slight patience for self-satisfied commonness of mind. With an old writer, he believed that the mind of man is the throne of the Godhead, and unless the true God is enthroned where He alone ought to dwell, the vacant seat will be occupied by idols- And that our ideals, our idols, make our character and our character make our idols.

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Written by Miss Anna Jones, Port Gibson, who lives at Collina. She is a daughter of Capt. A. K. Jones.

N.B. Please let this article on Collina replace entirely the one sent in previously.

Assignment Fifteen.

## OLD HOMES

### Magnolia Grove

By driving one mile west of Port Gibson on the Port Gibson-Rodney road and turning to the left at the first fork, then driving two miles over a rather hilly but beautiful road overlapped by mossdraped trees we come to Magnolia Grove which has the distinction of being one of the only extremely old plantations owned and occupied by a descendant of the original founder, William Richardson Buck. An added interest is the fact that part of the Battle of Port Gibson was fought on this place, a cannon ball striking the house. A number of Union soldiers were brought to the house and cared for, some dying there of their wounds.

In 1817 Mr. Buck built a small home for his family. In 1820 he added additional rooms and again in 1851. Built of hand hewn timbers, the solidity and well planning has made for a whole which has withstood the wear of over a century. Although simple in design the house and furnishings, many of which are originals, are an example of the splendor and opulence of that golden era in the history of the old South, when gentlemen lived in patriarchal style, surrounded by slaves who loved more than feared them, and when a man's word was his bond. On the floors today are handsome old carpets and on the walls exceptional portraits and paintings.

Remnants of a once lovely flower garden remain. Crepe myrtles grown into trees are also wrapped in moss, but spring after spring sprays of delicate pink blossoms are thrust forth from enveloping canopies of grey moss. Very old shrubs and rose bushes, cared for so long by Miss Caroline Buck, daughter of William Richardson Buck, still bloom profusely. Miss Buck was born lived ninety three years and died in this house.

OLD HOMES

Magnolia Grove----------(continued)

Perhaps no place is more suitably named then Magnolia Grove as age old magnolias abound everywhere and in the blossoming season perfume the entire country side. Picturesque live oaks planted by Mrs. Buck from acorns brought from her girlhood home in Bayou Sara, Louisiana also surround the place. The boughs of these oaks spread a veritable canopy of living green over the grounds. An intangible atmosphere clings to Magnolia Grove giving it magic and investing it with a subtle charm only felt in a real home.

Today Mrs. Marian Briscoe Person, granddaughter of William Richardson Buck, is the gracious hostess in this home. She is also the granddaughter of W. J. Watson, builder and owner of Buena Vista, therefore a descendant of two of Claiborne County's best known pioneer families. With Mrs. Person lives her eighty three year old mother, Mrs. Briscoe. Though very feeble she is a dainty, charming lady, becoming enthusiastic when recalling stories of bygone days.

"William Richardson Buck was born in Strassburg, Va. in 1790, and set an example which his sons afterward followed by graduating from Princeton College. He was a typical southern gentleman, chivalrous, courteous and kindly, and by his superior business qualifications amassed a large fortune. He volunteered to serve in the war of 1812 and while in the service was appointed as midshipman on the American Peacock, and the gallant fight between this noted vessel and the English Epewier took place on the Mediterranean sea was participated in by Mr. Buck, who so distinguished himself that he was awarded a beautiful sword, set with costly jewels, as a

OLD HOMES

Magnolia Grove----------(continued)

testimonial of his bravery, by the United States Congress. In 1822 he was united in marriage to Mrs. Maria Flower, a native of Louisiana. She was a daughter of Dr. Flower, one of the early pioneers of this country under the Spanish rule. Her family is a noted one and is prominent in the history of Louisiana. Mrs. Buck was an accomplished lady, a noble and wise mother, and a true Christian inprecept and example."(1)

To this union were born four children: Charles E., William, Miriam and Caroline. Charles C. Buck graduated from Princeton College, New Jersey, with honors in the year 1856. After his graduation from this institution, he entered the University of Virginia at Charlottesville as a medical student in the fall of 1857 and also graduated from the medical college of New Orleans. After leafing college, although he was compelled to abandon his practice for sometime, and devote his attention to his landed interests he kept himself well informed in medical lore, as well as the current topics of the day. On Nov. 22, 1864 he married Miss Sarah Letitia Jeffries. William grew to be a planter of note of Louisiana, was a graduate of Princeton College, and married Mrs. Catherine Servis. Caroline was a graduate of Port Gibson Female College, and was a lady of decided culture and refinement. Miriam married James W. Watson, a graduate of Princeton College who was at the time of their marriage an extensive planter. Miriam was the grandmother of Mrs. Person, the present mistress of Magnolia Grove.(2)

1. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississipoi, Page 452.
2. " " " " " " " " (not exact words)



OLD HOMES

The Ryan House

Built in 1807 by Domingo Beloso, a Spaniard; the Ryan House, an old log structure, a few feet northwest of the Court House, is one of the most fascinating land marks to be found in Claiborne County. As in most primitive buildings the logs of this house were hewn to fit into each other, no nails being necessary and where nails were used, they were square, hand made ones. Some time within the past fifty years, the rooms have been sealed, but in the attic and basement, the logs are still to be seen. One of the chimneys is about eight feet across, stretching the entire length between two windows. The fire place has been remodeled but the chimney stands as it did when built in 1807. The floor plan is simple, fourrooms on each side of a hall running the length of the house. The ceilings are not more than nine feet high, the floors of wide hand sawed timbers. The interior has been remodeled so that one can hardly believe this to be a structure 129 years old.

This building dates back to the colorful days of the old Natchez Trace when the travelers frequently came from far off Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee, making the journey down the river in flat boats. Sometimes both boat and cargo were sold in Natchez and New Orleans and the crew made their way home overland. The Trace was infested with cruel highwaymen and it was so arranged that inns or taverns should mark its length at intervals, there being several others in this county.

Aaron Burr and his confederate Blennerhassett are said to have held conferences here. Aaron'Burr's name was carved on one of the original front gallery posts but these old posts have been replaced by new ones. Many

OLD HOMES

The Ryan House----------(continued)

owners have come, lingered and passed on to join the great throng forever journeying through time.

Windsor

While not detracting in the least from the atmosphere of romance that surrounds the old Natchez homes, we are willing to condede that other sections of Mississippi, along the banks of the Father of Waters, likewise have their traditions and old land-marks that connect the golden past with the ever-living present. Claiborne boasted some of the most palatial of the grand old ante-bellum homes, and no home in that county or in that state if indeed in the entire South could transcend in grandeur "Windsor", the mansion that adorned the old Daniell plantation of that name, situated in the rear of what in ye olden times was known as Bruinsburg, now normore but then a city of some 3500 souls, located on the Mississippi River, just opposite the old Hard Times landing in Tensas Parish.

This elegant residence was built by the late Mr. Smith Coffee Daniell, in his time a prominent citizen of our parish, and of Mr. Thos. F. Daniell, yet a resident of Tensas Parish. Of magnigicent proportions this old home was probably the most princely of all the ante-bellum plantation residences of that county, and that it survived the ravages of war is almost inconceivable when we remember it was located almost in the center of the war zone as the Union Army under Gen. Grant crossed the Mississippi at Pleasant View, in Tensas Parish, landing at Bruinsburg and marching on Vicksburg from the rear, and meeting determined and heroic opposition from foemen worthy of.

OLD HOMES

Windsor----------(continued)

their steel, who contested every foot of ground. The regal grandeur of this home alone must have saved it from destruction, only to fall a prey to the demon nearly a generation later.

Unhappily no photograph was ever taken of "Windsor" in the days of its beauty and splendor, and only after fire had taken its toll and reduced to ruins what had been a palace was a pitture made, showing a score or more immense columns which still rear their heads in imposing dignity as mute reminder of a wealth, aristocracy and culture that made the old south famed in song and story.

We are indebted to Mr. Thos. M. Wade, Jr., of St. Joseph, for the privilege of reproducing the following very pretty tho brief description of "Windsor" as contained, along with a reproduction of the stately ruins, in the Year Book of the American Clan Gregor Society, composed of a number of old families of Mississippi and other southern states, and including some of the finest blood that America ever boasted.

The winds made weird music through the huge capitals. Thus it gained the name of "Windsor" and not from any fanâied resemblance to Windsor Castle, as many suppose. Situated on a plantation of about two thousand acres east of the MississippibRiver, not far from historic Bruinsburg(made so by the landing of Grant's army), stand the ruins of a once magnificent home, viewed by tourists with wonder and delight. Twenty of our Corinthian columns with their capitals mutely attest its former grandeur. What thoughts come to us as we look upon them. How mutable are human affairs. Yet clinging tenderly about these columns is the old Virginia creeper, God's handiwork making

OLD HOMES

Windsor----------(continued)

them even more beautiful-whispering, God is, God, is.

Windsor was built by Smith Coffee Daniell(born Oct. 10, 1826-died April 28, 1861), who was married Jan. 9, 1849, to Catherine Skinner Freeland(born Aug. 31, 1830-died March 6, 1903). They were cousins, being grandchildren of Catherine Magruder Skinner. At that time he was a young planter of thirty-four years, a graduate of Oakland College under its first president, Jeremiah Chamberlain. He was a man of wealth, culture and refinement, combined with an innate love for the beautiful as the building of this home exemplifies. I have been told that he planned this home during an illness of long duration, showing a spirit of rare unselfishness in that he had no thought of self, but that those near and dear to him might find enjoyment in its beauty, and also instruction from the splendid library of his selection.

There were thirty-two rooms in Windsor. Its spacious hall was supported on the interior by a number of large columns. There were four entrances with seventeen iron steps leading to each. I could not give in detail the elegance of its interior furnishing but one cannot recall this home without remembering the marble mantels, mirrors reaching from floor to ceiling, old furniture of carved rose-wood upholstered in crimson brocade with draperies to match; another room in green brocade with draperies to match; another room, the library, with its green hangings and oak book cases; also the hall and dining room in oak. The mention of the dining room brings to memory the set of exquisite imported china with a band of pink and gold and the Daniell monogram in gold. Very much enjoyed by visitors to Windsor was the



OLD HOMES

Windsor----------(continued)

observatory where one could view the surrounding country for miles.

Windsor was ready for occupancy in March, 1861. The death of Mr. Daniell occurred one month after moving with his family into this home. He is buried in the family cemetery on Windsor plantation. After this sorrow war came with its devastation. One of his sons, who was quite a small boy at the time, remembers the landing of General Grant and his army at Bruinsburg, on the way to Vicksburg. Indelibly stamped on his memory is a vivid picture of this army, not moving in column, but spread out with bayonets fixed and displayed as skirmishes (to use the military term). They spread through the broad fields of Windsor and about the grounds. After the Battle of Port Gibson, the wounded Union soldiers were brought to Windsor and the lower floor was requisitioned for a hospital and so used for three weeks The family had to move upstairs. Grant and his entire staff spent a night here. At one time Union soldiers threatened to burn the place. Capt. Ellett of the Union army provided a special guard to protect the home. The Confederacy had a signal corps here. For the purpose of using the house for a hospital all the furniture except from the hall and library was removed, the library being used by the surgeon, Dr. Lois (or Lloyd), a man of refinement and culture. The few who still live and remember him have not forgotten his unfailing kindness to everyone. The dead men, numbering between fifty and sixty, were buried between two large red oak trees, where they remained until moved to their final resting place. Strange to relate, this house passed through the war uninjured, though it had some narrow escapes. And, though supposed to fireproof, it was burned in 1890 and how and where the fire originated still remains a mystery.

OLD HOMES

Windsor----------(continued)

While the war brought many changes in the old neighborhood in and around Windsor, the sorrow and devastation were bravely borne. The family became adapted to the change of circumstances and Windsor again became the social center because of its gracious hospitality. Here the daughter of the new home grew from girlhood into charming vivacious womanhood, endowed with those attributes of character that make for popularity and with her many Christian virtues she has lived beloved by friends and relatives.

And here in her home at Windsor, she met Joseph Moore Magruder, who was then living at Bruinsburg plantation, he having the place in charge for a New Orleans firm. Very shy and reserved he at once fell a victim to her vivaciousness and charm and, like the proverbial fairy tale, it ended with a wedding at Windsor, one long to be remembered by the guests who were present.

In the family Bible is written: "Married at Windsor Plantation, December 13th, 1888, by the Rev. D. A. Planck, Priscilla Daniell to Joseph Moore Magruder."

Among the graves at Windsor are those of Smith Coffee Daniell and his wife, their grandmother, Catherine Magruder Skinner (1777-1837), and an infant daughter of Priscilla Daniell Magruder. The present owner of the plantation is Mrs. Katherine Daniell Magruder.

OLD HOMES

Cabinwood

A short distance east of Port Gibson probably three miles is situated Cabinwood. Particularly interesting from both architectural and family history standpoints is this old home owned today by descendants of the original builder and owner.

Cabinwood was built sometime between 1820 and 1830, being erected by Dr. Thomas Magruder. The timbers were hewn by slave labor. The heavier timbers are of heart cypress. Miss Rosa Magruder, a daughter of Dr. Magruder, tells of having heard her father talk about what a difficult task the slaves had in sawing the timbers with one slave in a pit and the other above A very old brick walk leads from the gate to the house. In common with most old homes of that day there is a spacious porch all the way across the front Four windows, inclosed with green blinds,open on to the porch. The front door is surrounded by panels of unusual frosted glass making the entrance most attractive. The lower floor consists of a wide hall, two rooms on either side, a back porch from which, by descending a small flight of steps, you enter two more rooms, the original kitchen and storage room. The ceilings are low antedating the higher ceilings of a later era. By descending a narrow but fairly steep stairwayleading from the second bedroom of the main floor you reach the hall, which is as wide as the lower hall, but only half as long. Two comfortable, but small, handsomely furnished rooms occupy each side of this upstairs hall. So heavy are the four poster tester beds that removal in case of fire would be an impossibility. The tester to one of the above mentioned beds is lined with handpainted blue satin.

Deterioration has necessitated the replacing of the original wide plank

OLD HOMES

Cabinwood----------(continued)

flooring with modern flooring in some of the rooms.

Three pieces of furniture made by the slaves on the place remain in this house: a clothes rack similar to a hall tree such as most rooms were equipped with instead of closets made of cherry wood, a chest, and an old dish press resembling a wardrobe. On the plastered walls are hanging today pictures of members of the Magruder family. In Cabinwood the floor plan is simple in design and very plain, but well arranged making it roomy and convenient.

Although the trellises and borders of the bygone days have crumbled to dust, the yard proper and surrounding grounds remain a very pretty sight. A number of cedars, which once made an avenue from the house to the road, still stands, together with numerous oaks and pecans.

Perhaps no finer character ever settled in Claiborne County than Dr. Thomas Magruder. Surely never was there one more beloved by his fellow men; and this holds true of his descendants also, all of whom are among the prominent families of the county.

"Dr. Thomas B. Magruder was born Sept. 25, 1800 at the ancient family mansion, near upper Malboro, Prince Georges County, Md. and had he lived one month longer would have reached the age of eighty five years. After graduating in his profession Dr. Magruder determined to venture out to the then sparsely populated southern states, and in 1822 rode horseback from his native county to this region through the wild unsettled intervening country, and at the end of a journey of two months reached Port Gibson, which city

OLD HOMES

Cabinwood----------(continued)

and vicinity continued to be his home until his death. He entered at once upon a successful professional career, and he it was who established the first drug store in Port Gibson. A year or two after his arrival in this country he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Harrington, by whom he became the father of three sons; Calvil, Hon. W. T. and the late gallant Captain Joseph M. who fell in defense of the lost cause and the land of his nativity. Mrs. Magruder died on the 5th of July, 1844 at the age of forty-six years, after having lived a useful and truly Christian life. In Mrs. Magruder's day it was the custon of the Choctaw Indians, who then inhabited Claiborne County in great numbers to camp at "Gruders", as they pronounced the name, and they were always kindly treated by the mistress of Cabinwood. At her death large numbers of them attended her funeral and expressed deepest sorrow for the loss of the friend whose kindness and consideration for them never wavered or knew diminution. In 1845 the Doctor wedded Mrs. Sarah Olivia (Dunbar) West, of Adams County. Four sons and five daughters blessed this union,-one, Mrs. Alice McDougal lived in Cabinwood." (1)

Mrs. Margaret Seldon, the present mistress of Cabinwood, possesses the same pleasing personality and gracious manner of her ancestors. On the pilgrimage made to Cabinwood she very graciously guided the research workers through the home and grounds at the same time giving the history of the family as she so clearly remembered it.

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1. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. II, Page 388.

Assignment Fifteen.

OLD HOMES

Home of Henry T. Ellett

Near the center of the residence section on Church Street in Port Gibson stands a three story colonial residence, the Ellett House. It is a magnificent reminder of antebellum taste and grandeur, being a large dignified structure. No one knows for whom or just when it was built. From all indications, after days of searching through musty records, it must have been the home of Passmore Hoopes and erected between 1830-1840 since a Deed Book in the vault of the Court House gives an account of a sale of this same square, lot and residence by the sheriff from Passmore Hoopes to James Cotton and Elias Ogden Nov. 30, 1840 and later another deed describes this property in a sale from James Cotton to H. T. Ellett May 31, 1850.

This home is built after colonial lines with wide pillared galleries both on the first and second floors. Surrounding the solid double front doors are triangular shaped transom and side lights that lend a distinguished air to the portal. The entrance opens into a spacious and particularly lovely hallway at the back of which a winding stairway rises to the third floor. This winding stair is a fine example of architectural skill with a series of graceful curves and slender mahogany rails. In the parlor and dining room which are on the right there are lovely, black imported Egyptian marble mantels so popular during that period and marble hearths. The facings surrounding the mantels are of wrought iron in beautiful leaf motifs. These rooms are connected by large sliding doors, and may be thrown into one long saloon. In each of these rooms there are chandeliers from the old steamboat "Robert E. Lee". To the left of the hall the floor plan is the same, two large rooms, with sliding doors between. The rooms on the second floor are

OLD HOMES

Home of Henry T. Ellett----------(continued)

equally lofty and large. The walls and ceiling throughout the house are plastered just as most of the interiors of that day were. The second story is similar to the first in design containing four large bedrooms and a wide hall through which the stair case continues. Another interesting feature will be found in the heavy green blinds at each window.

Henry T. Ellett was born in Salem, N. J. He graduated in Law at Princeton. He came to Port Gibson before he was married and established himself as a lawyer. In two years he went back to New Jersey and Married Miss Rebecca Seel, returning with her here. She died in 1860. In 1864 he married Mrs. Kate Coleman Stowers.(1) "Judge Henry T. Ellett was very prominent in county and state affairs. He was appointed with Judges W. L. Harris and Sharkey to revise and codify the laws of the state and the code of 1857 is the result of their labors."(2) In 1867 or 8 he moved to Memphis because he considered Memphis a wider field than Port Gibson for his law practice since the fortunes of the south were so depleted.

On January 7, 1861 the Secession Convention met in Jackson. Henry T. Ellett was called to the chair. He was an eminent lawyer of Claiborne County, had served out the unexpired term in Congress fo Jefferson Davis which ended March 3, 1847.(3) He was one of a committee appointed to draw up the articles of secession.

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1. Mrs. Sallie Mann, granddaughter of Henry T. Ellett.
2. Mississippi Official and Statistical Register-1908-Page 153.
3. History of Mississippi (The Heart of the South) by Dunbar Rowland, Page 778.

OLD HOMES

Home of Henry T. Ellett----------(continued)

He had the origianl draft in his possession when Grant's army passed through Port Gibson on the way to Vicksburg, and placed it face down in a picture frame, covered it with a picture and replaced it on the wall in his home. When the Yankees took charge of this home they diddnot notice the picture, thus no harm came to this valuable document. The Federal Government offered a reward for the authors of the secession bill on the grounds of treason.(1)

In 1887 when President Cleveland, on a tour through the South, came to Memphis, he was introduced by Henry T. Ellett. Henry T. Ellett, having been in feeble health for some time and his heart being weak, was seriously affected by the excitement. As he was speaking he fell dead on the stand.(1)

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1. Mrs. Sallie Mann, granddaughter of Henry T. Ellett.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

"Anchuka"(To be added to material on this home already sent in.)

Inside this home is a most unique circular staircase. Enclosed by the encircling walls to the left side of the wide hall, it runs up two stories and a half. You enter a dark well on the first floor-doubtless lighted by candles in the long ago- and wind gropingly about until you reach the landing above. On the back porch is an easily ascended stairway, open to the light, which must have been the one most in general use.

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Huge fireplaces in adjoining rooms were adjacent to the sides of the bathroom and furnished the needed heat. Entrance and exit to the bath was by means of a small ladder, which remained in place until recent years.

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On the place, not a great distance from the house, is a large pond. Here the master of the place conceived the idea that he might grow oysters. Pouring first many, many barrels of salt into the pond, he then planted his oysters and waited for them to grow. But the experiment proved unsuccessful. Springs seeped into the pond, and the oysters would not thrive. The experiment had to be abandoned.

1. Information from Mr. Duncan McDougal, present caretaker.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

II. Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

Home of the Snodgrass family (continued)

The site of the historic Bethel Presbyterian Church in the Westside neighborhood was donated by Lewellyn Price, and his grandchildren have always been told that he was a large contributor to the building of the church.(1)

In no home in the county has a larger collection of interesting old documents and letters been found. One well preserved paper reads: "Mrs. Margaret Price, born in New Jersey in June 10, 1766; died July 5, 1847 near Oakland College aged 81 years and 25 days. Emigrated with her late husband L. Price from Virginia in the fall of 1788, landed about 1st Jan. 1789 at what is now Bruins Burgh in the then Spanish country, about eight years before the American Government took possession. No Protestant members in the country, none but Roman Catholic priests officiated in marrying and burying, etc. At time of Mrs. Margaret Price's decease, she had 92 descendants. She is interred beside Lewellyn Price in the family burying ground near Oakland College, Miss." Numerous deeds of conveyance bearing dates from 1803 up written with the old form of s are found; also a bill dated 1858 for miscellaneous articles, including 6 negroes @ $7400.00. Letters: To "Dear Mother" dated Feb. 27, 1860 signed John W.S. written from Havana, showing he was there for his health. From W.B. Murdoch in Baltimore to Mrs. Snodgrass dated Oct. 16, 1878, written on the death of her son, a doctor, of yellow fever. From Robert Price dated Princeton, Nov.14, 1857, and directed to "My dear John, Oakland", in which he says:"The studies of the Seminary are on the whole pretty arduous. I don't believe you planters have any idea of the amount of study requisite to fit one for the office of the

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1. Interview with Edward Snodgrass, present occupant of the old home.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela L. Hamilton

II. The Old Home

Home of the Snodgrass family (continued)

holy ministry. I am sure I had not when I began my course. But after all, the most important preparation is the preparation of the heart. As I draw near to the time when I shall enter on the active duties of the ministry, I am more deeply impressed with the fact that a deep-toned piety and a burning zeal are preeminently the qualifications for a minister." Robert Price later became a noted minister in the Presbyterian Church of this section.(1)

In an old family Bible are the following names:

John Snodgrass-born in Lancaster County, Penn. 14th April, 1789

Margaret Snodgrass born in Claiborne County, Miss. 24 Feb., 1806

Ann Snodgrass Warren born in Jefferson County, Miss 8th day of Feb.1815.

Emily Snodgrass Warren born Jefferson Co.,Miss 2nd June, 1807

John W. Snodgrass born in Claiborne Co.,Miss 24th May, 1829

Elizabeth Clark Snodgrass born Claiborne Co.,Miss 22nd Dec., 1827

Dr. Henry Clay Snodgrass born Claiborne Co.,Miss 22nd March 1831.

Stanley Snodgrass born Claiborne Co. 5th June, 1842. The two last mentioned sons served the full four years of the War between the States, neither being wounded. Dr. Snodgrass continued his practice of medicine until 1878 when he was stricken with yellow fever.(1) /

There was a close friendship between John Snodgrass and David Holmes, first governor of Mississippi, attested by the gift of Holmes to John Snodgrass of the Holmes silverware, the only piece today remaining being an exquisite silver ladle bearing the name David Holmes.(1) The old Bible records the death of David Snodgrass in Claiborne County 27th June, 1841, evidently named for the first governor.

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1. Edward Snodgrass, present occupant.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

II. The Old Home

Home of the Snodgrass family (continued)

From the back porch of this home can be seen, not far away, the family cemetery containning a number of substantial monuments placed to the memory of these Claiborne pioneers. Within the home ring the laughter and merry voices of two young girls, Faraba and Doris Price, who make their home here with their Uncle Edward Snodgrass. Mrs. Stanley Snodgrass, mother of Edward, passed away in 1936 at the age of 77 years. She was a refined,cultured person and will be sadly missed by her granddaughters, the mother of whom passed on in 1935.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-Bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.
III. Antiques and Relics Home of Mr. Charles Hawkins

1. Pair of brass candlesticks made in England 125 years ago by grandfather of Mr. Charles Hawkins of Port Gibson.

Solid gold spoon 125 years old belonging to above Mr. Hawkins.

Many daguerrotypes, notably one of Rev. and Mrs. Tommie Owen; he was founder of the Rocky Springs Church 100 years ago, given to the Project.

Table mats and flowers made by Mrs. Olivia Hastings in 1871.

Silver gravy ladle and sugar tongs made from the hilt of a sword over 100 years old, belonging to Mrs. Thomas Freeland of Port Gibson.

Silver cup made in 1853 " " "

Four-poster bed made by the slaves at "Ashland plantation" belonging to Mrs. Fannie Humphreys. Sideboard of mahogany one hundred years old belonginging to " "

In home of Mrs. Mary Richmond of Carlisle, Miss: mahogany sideboard of 1830; secretary of crotch mahogany 100 years old; small Duncan Phyfe table; very old sewing table; Bennington pitcher. Knitted bedspread 100 years.

In home of Mrs. Louise Berger of Port Gibson: one mahogany sideboard over 100 years old; mahogany secretary, sewing table, chairs, fan-back sofas, all over 100 years and family pieces; flat silver belonging to a great grandmother; set of wine glasses, and coffee cups and saucers; old card table, rosewood Steinway piano, nearly 100 years old; family Bible owned by her grandfather Rev. S.R. Bertron (100 years).

In home of Mrs. Catherine Farr of Port Gibson: Mahogany chest of drawers, walnut spool what-not and table, two spool cathedral chairs with original horse-hair covers, very valuable celery vase- all at leaat 100 years old.

In home of Miss Mary Naasson of Port Gibson: claw-foot mahogany folding table, secretary (mahogany), both over 100 years old. Also father's diary of Civil War written in camp.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum days, etc.

III. Antiques and Relics (Not listed with homes)
I. Articles, Owner, Where found

In Home of Mrs. Oren Segrest of Port Gibson:

China vase about 20 inches high, liqueur set--both at least 100 years old; large picture thought to be done in water-color in 1832-artist unknown. Old letters, receipts, and bills ranging from 1804 to 1871, one a letter from Jefferson Davis.

4. In Public Buildings

Chamberlain-Hunt Academy in Port Gibson

Old papers from Oakland College including the following: Minutes of the board of Oakland from 1829-1831; original copy of the transfer of Oakland from Presbytery of Mississippi to the Synod on Nov.29,1839; a letter written by Robert J. Breckenridge in 1855 concerning the disturbed conditions of Mississippi over secession; letter from Jeremiah Chamberlain 1847 and others back to 1835; a record of Washington Lodge No.3 of the Masonic order instituted in 1820.

[illegible]

Office of Circuit Clerk-Court House

"County Court Minutes" with first entry July 19, 1802.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

III. Antiques and Relics (Not listed with homes)

In home of Miss Elizabeth Spencer, Port Gibson saved from the burning of the old plantation home "Almont".

Mahogany plantation desk with her grandfather's diaries; Mahogany dining and serving table, two mahogany dressing tables, old family silver service of seven pieces---all articles over 100 years old. Sword used by great-uncle in Mexican War.

In home of Mrs. Hannah Freeland of Port Gibson

Pair of Dredden China vases, handsomely decorated in gold leaf, covered by glass globes (over 100 years); pair of green china vases worth $75 100 years ago; red Bohemian colognebottle; blue Bohemian compote; pier mirror- all at least 100 years.

In home of Mrs. Byron Levy, Port Gibson

Silver fruit bowl (125 years); silver filigree liqueur set with glasses (110 years); over-mantel mirror (115 years); mahogany hat rack and what-not (100 years)

In home of Mrs. Meredith Spencer of Port Gibson

Great grandmother's fire-screen bought in 1823; three hand-blown Venetian decanters belonging to great grand parents; Dresden perfume bottle and syrup pitcher; pewter egg boiler; chest of handsome flat silver and silver fish set; linen table cloth; Japanese ware, carved work box; white cameo pin set in gold; berry set of silver; a valentine sent by her great great grandfather to her great great grandmother; two pairs candelabra--all in the neighborhood of 100 years or over.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-Bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

III. Antiques and Relics (Not listed with homes)

#1. Article, Owner, Where found

In home of Mrs. Clara Harwood of Port Gibson

Her old home was in Grand Gulf in the flourishing days of this little community. This home has long since disappeared, and she is living today in a small home in Port Gibson, the contents of which listed below were once in the old home.

Snuff box- Made of ivory and bound in gold with a central miniature of Cupid pelting nymphs with roses. Given to Joseph Warren, grandfather of Mrs. Harwood over a hundred years ago by the steward of the household of king George III of England, who had himself given it to the steward.

Grandfather Clock- More than 200 years old and that long in the family. Eleven feet high with eight bells, or chimes. The face of the clock shows the names of the months, the days of the week and the phases of the moon.

Old English Silver Casters (boat shaped); Silver Sugar Tongs in oak branch design. Both given to Mrs. Harwood's mother, a relative of the English writer, William Hazlitt.

China Persian Bowl- Used as a baptismal bowl for four generations.

Pyrian Marble Tea-set - Brought from London about 80 years ago.

Two Silver Candelabra with prismatic pendants 90 years old.

Old English Prayer Book- Published in the early 1830's

Mahogany Claw-leg Table, ~~are~~ more than 100 years old.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, etc.

III. Antiques and Relics (Not listed with Homes)
I. Owner, Where found, etc.

In Home of A.C. Callendar of Grand Gulf

Duelling pistol which belonged to Colonel Bowie who invented the Bowie Knife; mortar and pestle brought from Scotland by the ancestors of the family before the Revolutionary War in 1740.

Home of Mrs. John Heath of Port Gibson

Teaspoons and ladle in silver owned by a great grandmother 100 or more years ago.

Home of Mrs. Ben H. Morehead of Port Gibson

Fruit Bowl over 100 years old.

In Homes of the Snodgrass family of Westside and of Mrs. Hannah Freeland Port Gibson papers and manuscripts over 100 years old: land grants, contracts, bills and invoices.

In possession of Smith C. Daniell of Port Gibson is the Spanish Grant by which Peter Brian Bruin came into possession of his plantation Bruinsburg on the Mississippi River. Also in Mr. Daniell's possession is a small picture framed like a daguerrotype but an oil painting with the following words on the back: "Smith C. Daniell(179?-184?) Painted in Charleston, S.C. in 1837 by H.B. Bounctheau from a portrait painted somewhere 'in the Western country'."

In possession of L. B. Allen of Port Gibson the sword presented to his great great grandfather Job Allen II, Capt. Western Battalion of New Jersey, in 1776. Beautifully etched with ivory and brass hilt. Leather scabbard with gold mountings. Mr. Allen's most treasured possession.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Lela E. Hamilton
Mary Naasson

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

III. Antiques and Relics (Not listed with Homes)

In the home of Mrs. B. H. Morehead of Port Gibson there has been found an old plantation account book and diary kept by her father, James Allen.

The following extracts have been selected from the diary as among those most interesting:

May10, 1862: Plows finished little field. Hoes in it. J. A. to V'burg , tho' by Valentine place. Started at 4 amm., in V'burg 8½ o'clock- returned leaving 2 O'clock home at 7 p.m. Bought molasses 29 half bbls for $110, calculate 20 gals ea; price abt. 19c. Could not get a sack of salt- off'd $100 -----believe all partners in speculation on necessaries of life.

May 11, 1862: A letter from Charly written a week after he left, it took him just that time to go from V'Burg to Corinth- his horse at "Lake" fell thro the car platform- raised him out with ropes and luckily not injured much.*********Found Dr. Glass well and just coming in with a prisoner- a native and a spy- he having taken Capt. Barnes camp for Federals and offered to show him the confederate pickets. Hear that Genl. Price had routed the enemy at Farmington- took 2100 prisoners; and Genl. Ruggles also routed and pursued them with great slaughter, no gunboats above Natchez and those at Fort Pillow have gone somewhere- Gave Phillis blue powder for her children with bad bowels. Dressed Millie's burns with mullen oil.

May 21, 1862: Capt. Cannon and his boats gone up, no news. 2 gunboats and a transport at Warrenton- rest nearer Vicksburg. ****** Court home

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

III. Antiques and Relics (cont).

at night from VBurg- brings no paper or news. No fighting. A Mr. Tucker sends me word if I do not send up my team and a negro he will send a posse after me and team. Who the devil he is don't know. I have paid no attention to any of their requisitions, thinking more than one half are by scoundrels to get planters' teams to have private property. A Mr. Stout made a requisition in W. Cruthers name and W.C. repudiates it, one gentleman found his team hauling out a fmily and their truck and wanted to know if they were govt. stores.

May 25, 1862: Killed a beef for soldiers; sent corn and meal and cooked for them. Alex up, no signs of the enemy. Sold Wm. Buckingham 100 bbls corn at $1.50. Wrote Dr. Balfour by Capt. Johnson's boy to see if any letters. Vince to Wm. Blass's and Wm. Watkins. Vince did not get to Mr. Watkins- pickets on the road.

May 28, 1862: Below copy of Gen. Butlers proc'm:

"Headquarters of the Gulf---New Orleans, May 15, 1862

General Order No. 28:

As the officers and soldiers of the U.S. have been subject to repeated insults from the women (calling themselves ladies) of N.O. in return for the most scrupulous non-interference and courtesy on our part:

It is ordered that hereafter when any female shall by word, gesture, or movement insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the U.S. she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation.

By Command of Major Gen. Butler

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

III. Antiques and Relics (not listed with homes)

May 24, 1862 (cont.)

Geo. C. Strong, A.A.G. and Chief of Staff:

I see by the "Whig" that Genl. Beauregard has had the above outrageous proclamation read and published to his army, and that Dr. Palmer, who is a private in the Wash'n Artillery, will preach to the army on the 20th, or did address them.

This evening Capt. W. H. Johnson came down with 54th Cavalry to watch at mill for Gunboats they think will try to get up and take the "Vicksburg and Quitman" now laying at the Cow killing bluff. Capt. J. quartered here, his men at the mill. Sent them corn.

May 28, 1862: Messenger passed over from Claiborne County to V.Burg, requisition on Gen'l Smith for 550 men, the battery of 6 guns at Humphreys place. Messenger (Capt. Johnson) from V'Burg. Vicksburg was shelled yesterday evening. Shells hit the Methodist and Catholic churches. ******* They shelled Rodney yesterday evening. Gen. Butler in N. O. forbids the circulation of Confederate money after the 31st. ******Killed beef for soldiers and loaned them cooking utensils to cook for selves.

June 1, 1862: Hear a report that Genl. Butler is assasinated in N. Orleans. It is to be hoped it is true- for a bigger yeakee scoundrel- dog- and devil never breathed- hell itself will be contaminated with him. May the devil roast him well.

June 3, 1862: War news is ----********* and look for a fight at VBurg about Friday,- also that there had been a meeting in Capt. Buckner's Company and 9 men sent to jail and 30 men to guard house, that an order was out to burn all the cotton in Washington County- look for the same here.

June 6, 1862:

III. Antiques and Relics (cont) (Not listed in homes)

June 6, 1862: Capt. Johnson has a peremptory order from Brig.Genl. Smith to burn all the cotton from Big Black Bridge to Miss. River, and also an order to do the same 25 miles on the other side Big Black. I started and went as far as Hylands to go to V'Burg and telegraph the Sect'y of War to stop the order, it being illegal, as the law only requires cotton burned that is liable to fall in the hands of the enemy. Wm. Davis wrote the telegraph, and also wrote to Mr. Jeff Davis on the subject, gave Hyland notice to gather the neighbors here Monday to meet and protest to Gen'l. Smith against the order, we wanting delay now to hear from Richmond.

June 13, 1862: Gunboats all left V'Burg and Gulf. They shelled Grand Gulf, and only one man in it- he went on the rocks and fired a pistol at them, and then took his seat on a gallery and when a shot would come near him he would turn up the hind part of the center of his body, and pat his hand on it. Don't know who it was.

The fall of Fort Pillow and taking of Memphis confirmed- our boats (7) all destroyed except two. Hear rumors of the intervention of France and England- doubt them- and even if facts, do not want their interference . The promised ports are now opened to them- but where is the cotton? it is burning fast- look for mine to go tomorrow.

June 14, 1862: Cotton burned today-Lieut. Holly applied the match- about 200 bales- it was under shed in the big field- left in gin 11 pressed bales and about 5 or 6 not pressed; there is no doubt it is an illegal act and uncalled for as far as the safety of the cotton is concerned, the act of Congress calling for the burning of cotton "when in danger of being taken by the enemy".- its gone and my regret is small but hope the regret and misery of the enemy may be multiplied a thousand

III. Antiques and Relics (not listed with homes) continued

fold for each bale now turned to ashes. Lt. Holly in the last 8 days had burned the following **********

The soldiers made a clean sweep of the new garden last night- shall have the old one watched. Capt. Harod has his camp guarded now, as I have advised both captains I will shoot a garden thief.

June 21, 1862: The cotton I put upon the raft in the swamp in goose-bend was burned today (27 bales). Moved it there 11th inst. and when I sent up boys to strip the 20 bales hid at the old field mound, found it was burned yesterday. Sent up to strip it after writing the following letter to Capt. H. H. Johnson, coming to the conclusion that if the 27 bales in the swamp could be discovered the 20 on the mound would be. It was burned following this letter.

Nanachehaw, June 21, 1862

Capt. W. H. Johnson: My dear sir:-

I understand a posse from your company has this morning burned some cotton of mine I thought securely hid from all eyes. When Lt. Holly burned my cotton, I showed him the quantity under the sheds and in the gin (that in the gin he left for plantation use) but did not scruple to do what I think no more than right, to hide enough in case of legal opportunity to purchase necessaries for my place. I have another small lot hid, but like the lot burned securely hid except from the eyes of some neighbors, whose natural instinct should take them to the locality Butler came from- if that is also to be burned, let it go, but shall not be accessory to its distruction- but in such an event should like it stripped. You know my opinion of the illegality of burning cotton mine is situated in. I also know your orders, but do not think low lived neighbors or negroes should act as detectives.



III. Antiques and Relics (Not listed with Homes)

June 21, 1862 (cont.) **********

Truly your friend, James Allen.

President Davis has for'd a dispatch to the Mississippi office, alluding in indignant terms to an article in the Taymond Gazette, implying that he has preserved his cotton on the Miss. while that of his neighbors has been destroyed. He states that, engaged as he is by pressing public duties, he has given no attention to his private affairs, and supposed his cotton had been destroyed by the military authorities, as their instructions were peremptory to burn all which was in danger of capture by the enemy.

The Mississippian states his entire crop has been consumed.

**********

The plantation owned by Mr. Allen lies in the southern part of Warren County on the Big Black, being spparated from Claiborne County by this river. It was called"Nanachehaw" Indian name for Fish Hill, so named because for years the Indians cured fish here. It is still in possession of the family.

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-Bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

III. Antiques and Relics (not listed in homes)

2. In Museums

Irwin Russell Memorial, Port Gibson, Miss.

Child's Rocking Chair used by Irwin Russell

Mahogany Chair in Queen Anne style in constant use since 1848

Candle Table, What-not, very quaint small mahogany desk, card table

Type Case used by Irwin Russell as part of a personal printing outfit.

Mahogany secretary, an exact replica of one owned by George Washington and now displayed at Mt. Vernon.

Brass addirons, grandfather clock, vase with glass cover

Deed involving sale of negro dated 1858; a marriage certificate of 1838.

Indenture of 1866 binding L.P. Williams to bring up and educate in the status of apprentice a negro boy.

A 200 year old box containing "love feast" tickets

American Indian relics picked up about Grand Gulf and relics from the battle of Port Gibson.

Letter from Irwin Russell on treatment of yellow fever, and original manuscripts of Irwin Russell. Constitution and Bylaws of "The Thespian Society" originated by Russell

The above are some of the most interesting relics in the building. There are many more which we did not list.



Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

IV. Miscellaneous
1. Ante-bellum characters and incidents

in Port Gibson, and urged her to come here and make them an address. They ended by telling her if she would go directly to the residence of Mrs. Emily Briscoe on her arrival she would find something very much to her interest personally. They signed a woman's name with the number of a postoffice box as her address."

"Dr. Mary arrived promptly. As it happened Irwin had been assigned to take up the fares on that day. She gave him a gold piece that he could not change. So on the arrival or the train from Grand Gulf he went into the office and asked the change of Mr. Chas. Shreve who happened to be there. This gave him the opportunity to notify his co-conspirators who promptly faded out of sight."

"Dr. Mary inquired the way to Mrs. Briscoe's. To say she created a sensation would be to express it mildly indeed. The sleepy old Port sprang suddenly and widely awake. A curious procession formed and wended its way through town becoming larger and more varied with each square. At the head was Dr. Mary in men's trousers and Prince Albert coat, over that a ladies' short brown coat bordered with black silk passamenterie, a small, flat, brown velvet hat-that matched her brown coat-trimmed with red velvet flowers, and a black lace face veil tied in the back with streaming ends. Behind/followed every size and age of small boy and little negro and one, with a grasp of the situation rare in one so young, was violently beating a drum. With joy unspeakable the three conspirators viewed the result of their efforts. For them it was a supreme moment as yet undimmed by the shadow of a large amount of damage later extracted for many of their fathers."

" Mrs. Briscoe utterly ignorant of the suprise in store for her,

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Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Ante-Bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

IV. Miscellaneous
I. Ante-bellum characters and incidents

Irwin Russell, a Lover of Amusement (1)

"Irwin Russell in his boyhood days added considerably to the gayety of life among the youthful members of society in Port Gibson. He was the leader and originator of all the escapades the account of which has come down to amuse and entertain, and they are forever connected with his name. These escapades reveal the love of fun and foolery in his nature, the love of excitement and the joy of living that was the tragedy of his life. It was this vein of joyousness that made Irwin Russell so charming a personality.

"One of the outstanding episodes in his career relates to the Dr. Mary Walker incident. Dr. Russell, in an effort to find work for the idle hands, obtained for Irwin a position as a sort of clerk with the Grand Gulf and Port Gibson Railroad. It was there that the friendship between Irwin Russell, Austin Wharton, and Willie Marquis(now a Presbyterian minister in Louisville, Ky.) had its beginning, as those two boys were also employed there.

"Just at that time the Woman's Rights Movement was being widely heralded, and Dr. Mary Walker, with her assumption of men's rights expressed even in her dress, was very much in the public eye. Scarcely a day passed that the newspapers did not print something concerning her crusade. These boys conceived the idea of bringing her to Port Gibson for a closer inspection. So they wrote to her in Washington telling her that she had a large, enthusiastic, and well organized following

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1. Article by Mrs. Maggie W. Musgrove in the Port Gibson Reveille of April 18, 1929.

This probably happened in the 70's but we felt it should have a place somewhere.

Claiborne County
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Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E.Hamilton

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

IV. Miscellaneous
I. Ante-bellum characters and incidents (continued)

Irwin Russell, a Lover of Amusement (continued)

received Dr. Mary in profound astonishment and disclaimed any knowledge whatever of anything to Dr. Mary's interest in her home. Dr. Mary, growing suspicious, went direct from there to the Post Office and inquired for the lady whose name was signed to the letter. On being told that there was no such person living in Port Gibson, she gave the box number and asked the owner. It was Dr. Russell! She promptly made her way to his office, told her story, and threatened suit if compensation was not granted her. Unlike Dr. Mary, Dr. Russell did not have to know the authors of the letter that brought her to Port Gibson. He merely sent for Dr. Wharton. Together they sent for a lawyer. The lawyer, after reasoning, arguing, persuading, and cajoling, finally effected a compromise. The two doctors paid her expenses each way and gave her the minimum sum of money she was willing to take as bale to her wounded feelings."

" Thus ended the first and last and only visit of Dr. Mary Walker to Port Gibson."

Maggie W. Musgrove.

Mrs. Musgrove's two sisters were eye witnesses to the parade down Walnut Street to Mrs. Briscoes. Mrs. Kate Wharton Grafton, sister of Austin, took issue through the local paper to some of the statements made above, claiming that Austin was very ill at the time of Dr. Mary's visit and that Dr. Wharton did not defray her expenses. (1)

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1. Interview with Mrs. Musgrove.

The above story is not ante-bellum, as Russell was born in 1853

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

IV. Miscellaneous

1. Ante-bellum Incidents

"Joseph Jefferson, the great actor, in his autobiography tells an amusing story of his trip from Grand Gulf to Port Gibson. No date is given as to when the incident took place, but it was probably in the early '40's. He was very young, taking a child's part in the acting. The story as he told it follows:

"I next found myself in the town of Grand Gulf, in the State of Mississippi, with my mother and sister. We were there awaiting the arrival of my half-brother, Charles Burke, who was somewhere in the interior of the State, with a small company of actors, struggling along from town to town. Our letters to him had crossed or miscarried; so we were obliged to remain there for several weeks until we could hunt him up. ..... .....The money had run out, and we were in a straitened condition, when, to our joy, my brother arrived.....It seems that his company was at Port Gibson, only eight miles away, where they had arrived the night before, and he had started at daylight, walking to Grand Gulf to meet us. After breakfast he went out for the purpose of hiring a wagon and team to take us on. This was soon done, and we started on our journey. We had got but four miles from the town when I observed my brother and the driver in close conversation. I saw that something was wrong. Presently the driver pulled up, and the wagon stopped. My brother turned round and said: 'Mother, I have made a bargain with this man to take us to Port Gibson for ten dollars. I have no money, and expected to pay him out of tonight's receipts after the play. He says this arrangement will not do for him; he seems unwilling to trust me, so he must be paid now or he will turn back'. I looked at my mother and hint-



Subject: Ante-bellum Days, Old Homes, etc.

IV. Miscellaneous

1. Ante-bellum Incidents(continued)

"ed that perhaps, if she searched hard, something might be found in the stocking. Her eyes filled with tears and I saw by her face that the bank was broken. There was nothing left us but to get out of the wagon and remain by the roadside until my brother should go back and make another trial. The rain came down, and we took shelter under a large tree, awaiting his return. My mother had once been one of the most attractive stors in America, the leading prima donna of the country, and now, from no fault of her own, was reduced to the humiliation of being put out of a wagon with her two children, in a lonely road in the far-off State of Mississippi, because she could not pay a wagoner the sum of ten dollars. ....."About.noon the sun shone bright, and shortly afterwards my brother appeared in sight, mounted on top of an ox-cart driven by an old negro. We were only four miles from Port Gibson, but it required as many hours to make the journey, so about sundown our party alighted at the hotel." (1)

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond, County Historian

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of Aug. 19, 1926

Robert Price was a nephew of Mrs. Margaret Price Snodgrass, spent much of his life with her, and she educacated him. He was a graduate of Princeton University. His first church was Rodney Presbyterian. Some Yankee officers from a nearby gunboat were attending services here when the church was fired on by the Confederates,"which came very near being the end of Rodney". He was afterwards pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Port Gibson, and at the time of his death was a member of the faculty of the Southwestern Presbyterian University at Clarksdale, Tennessee (Now at Memphis). Two grandsons became missionaries. (1)

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1. From a letter from an aunt to Mis Feriba Price, great great granddaughter of Llewellyn Price, who is not living in the old Snodgrass home.

Works Progress Administration
For
Mississippi

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #15

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E.Hamilton

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, etc.

IV. Miscellaneous:
1. Sketches of Ante-bellum characters and incidents

"A Mississippi Duel, Fought Forty Years Ago, one of the parties to which as a principal, subsequently acquired fame as a military hero and as governor of a great state." (1)

"The little village of Grand Gulf, on the Mississippi side of the great river, with a population of about one hundred and fifty souls, and a business of small proportions, has run down to its present dimensions (under sundry adverse influences, but chiefly from caving into the river) from having been, at the time of the occurrence about to be related, a thriving town of about twelve hundred souls, with a business of sufficient magnitude to well sustain its population. It was at that period a larger cotton market than Vicksburg was and boasted of one firm that bought largely for shipments to foreign ports. The beginning of its shrinkage dates back about thirty-five years, and at the commencement of the war twenty-three years ago, it had lost half of its population, with a similar loss of business; still it then maintained several large and prosperous business firms. It was the scene of two conflicts between the Federal fleet and the Confederate batteries planted on the lofty hills in the rear of the town; the first between a portion of Farragut's advance fleet, after the fall of New Orleans- and a battery of artillery commanded by Capt. James A. Hoskins, of the Confed-

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1. From"Random Recollections of Early Days in Mississippi" by H.S. Fulkerson

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, etc.
IV. Miscellaneous
I. Sketches of Ante-bellum Characters and Incidents

"A Mississippi Duel, Fought Forty Years Ago" (cont)

"erate Army, in which the latter inflicted considerable damage upon the former but was finally compelled to fall back. The Federal officer in command, in retaliation for Capt. Hoskins audacity, afterwards bombarded and burned the little town, without giving notice to the inhabitants, a cruel act, to say the least of it. The second conflict was between the fleet cooperating with Grant when he crossed over to the Mississippi side at Bruinsburg, to make his successful attack upon Vicksburg from the rear, and a battalion of artillery under the command of Col. Wade of Bowen's Division of Missourians. Nothing serious resulted from this conflict other than the killing of the gallant Wade. The battalion fell back on Vicksburg with the retreating army. But"

"The Duel"

"I was standing one morning early in the month of July 1843, on a street of the town meagerly described above, in front of my place of business, engaged in earnest conversation with Capt. Henry W. Allen, a young lawyer of the town, about a private matter of concern to both of us, when a friend of Allen's walked up hurriedly and interrupted us with the remark, addressed to Allen, that Dr. Marsteller,(a practicing physician of the town, who was from previous altercations, on bad terms with Allen) was down the street and using, in the presence of others, very abusive and insulting language about him. Allen, without another word to me, whipped off in his quick, nervous way, in the direction indicated by his friend, and was soon face to face with the Doctor; and drawing two pistols from his person, presented them handles foremost to his adversary, accompanying the act with sundry uncomplimentary observations, and winding up with the words, energetically spoken,'take your choice, sir.' (Possibly the same liberal offer would have been made the writer if his interview with the Captain had not been interrupted!) Before the Doctor, who met the challenge with a look of defiance, could act or respond in words, a planter from the parish across the river,who was present, stepped between them, with the remark, addressed to Allen, that a street fight was unbecoming in gentlemen, and suggested a resort to the 'code'. Allen,a pronounced advocate of the duello, touched and pleased at the suggestion, verbally challenged Marsteller to meet him at Coffee Point, over the river within an hour. Marsteller promptly responded with the assurance that he should be accommodated. They separated, each to get a friend and surgeon and means of crossing the river."

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SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, etc.

"A Mississippi Duel Fought Forty Years Ago"(cont.)

"They soon found their friends and means of crossing, and in less time than an hour, ten or fifteen skiffs were being pulled to the opposite shore, filled with the principals and their friends and numerous spectators. News of so exciting a scene in prospect rapidly spreads over a little town, and people with curiosity about a scene as ugly even as a duel are easily found. Before proceeding with the immediate story, it will help it perhaps in interest to remark somewhat upon the personal history and peculiarities of the principals to the fight. Captain Allen, then but twenty-four years old, was a native of Virginia and when but seventeen years of age had left his home in Virginia, without the consent of his parents, to go South. Without any known special reason for it, he came off a boat on which he was traveling, at Grand Gulf, and

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, etc.

IV. Miscellaneous

"A Mississippi Duel"(cont.)

in a few days was installed as school teacher in the immediate neighborhood of the town. He afterwards, upon the call of President Houston, of the Republic of Texas in 1842 for volunteers, became an adventurer in that young Republic and acted as Captain in a company doing frontier service. Tiring of this he returned to Grand Gulf and opened a law office, having studied for that profession while teaching school. He afterwards became engaged to an eccentric and attractive young lady of the county whom he had married but a few days-not a week-before engaging in this affair. Allen was impetuous, impulsive, ambitious, proud, vain, and somewhat boastful, but generous, kind-hearted, and genuinely chivalrous. He was elected to the Legislature of the state for one term. He was industrious as a legislator, but was not a leading member, as his abilities were of a moderate order."

"Less is known by the writer of his antagonist, Dr. Marsteller. He was a young bachelor of thirty years, had resided in the town of Grand Gulf a year or two, was a man of refinement and education, a well bred physician, but modest and rather taciturn, and unlike Allen, was not much of a society man. He was a native of the District of Columbia, and had highly respected relatives residing at Port Gibson, a neighboring town to Grand Gulf, and the county seat. Allen's habits were good for one of his temperament, convivial tastes and rather reckless mode of life. Marsteller had been led by his morbid sensitiveness,as was believed, into intemperance, but it was the intemperance of a gentleman." ~~When the fighting ground~~

"When the fighting ground was reached, a grove of cottonwood



SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, etc.

and cypress, immediately on the bank of the river, Allen was greatly excited. He stripped himself to the skin as low as the waist, was very vociferous, and confident of killing his antagonist, and his countenance bore a marked expression of ferocity. Marsteller said nothing and was perfectly calm as he awaited the settlement of the preliminaries. He had only taken off his coat and loosened his shirt collar."

"A few of us spectators busied ourselves at an attempt at reconciliation, but our efforts availed nothing towards a settlement. Marsteller, as the challenged party, had the choice of weapons and the naming of distance. He had procured a pair of heavy pistols-not dueling- which he chose, to be filled with buckshot, and named the distance at ten feet-not paces. Under the apprehension that he meant paces when he said feet, he was inquired of about it, but he repeated ten feet. Allen won the position and the word. It was about midday. The pistols were loaded, the distance was measured, and they took position north and south-Allen north. Knowing the nature of the loads of the pistols, there was a general movement on the part of everybody present to get out of range by moving off at right angles to the fighters, leaving the second who gave the word alone in his danger. As the writer was not the special friend of either party, he very appropriately got up on the top of a fence near by."

"As they stood in position, Allen held his pistol perpendicularly up. After the second had called out "gentlemen, are you ready?", intending to follow immediately with the words fire-one-two-three, Allen cried out "stop", and told the second to state again how the word

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, etc.
IV. Miscellaneous

"A Mississippi Duel" (cont.)

was to be given-thought to have been a ruse on the part of the Captain to disconcert the Doctor, but the Doctor gently lowered his pistol when Allen called out "stop", and when Allen said "go ahead", the Doctor again elevated his pistol and quietly waited for the word."

"As they stood at this moment, in the deep shadow of the tall cottonwoods, in ten feet of each other, Allen with his ferocious look, his high cheek bones, smooth face, closely cut hair, slender, but tall, half nude form, with pistol down, and Marsteller in his shirt sleeves, with collar of the period open, with his reddish whiskers and slightly bald head, rotund and rather heavy figure, with pistol up, calm and self possessed, they made a picture not likely to be seen oftener than once in a lifetime."

"The second called out distinctly but with trembling voice, "Gentlemen, are you ready? Fire! one-two-three." They fired, both of them so nearly together at the word 'one' that it seemed to the bystanders to be but a single loud report. A great volume of smoke completely enveloped them, andwe all looked on in profound silence till it rose and disclosed the two figures standing and looking savagely at each other, and each with apparent astonishment that his adversary was not prone upon the earth, and we the spectators equally surprised."

"Immediately, Marsteller began to sink slowly to the ground, and Allen turned away bloody and limping in the direction of my perch. I reached him as he sat down upon a log near by, and shall not soon forget the mingled anguish and anger of his face as he replied to my question about his wound."

Claiborne County
Assignment #15

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Ante-bellum Days, etc.
IV. Miscellaneous

"A Mississippi Duel" (cont.)

"A single ball had passed through both thighs high up. A single ball had struck Marsteller in the hip, and he lay upon the ground where he had stood."

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond, Historian

5

OLD HOMES

Claremont

A short distance southwest of the city for probably a mile or more stretches an intriguing driveway walled in by steep embankments on which grow large forest trees. The interlacing branches of these trees form a leafy roof over this road leading to Claremont which is situated in a beautiful grove.

Claremont was erected in 1818 by Judge Joshua G. Clarke.(1) Like most handsome homes of its day it was nobly and solidly built, heart cypress being used throughout. The size of the rooms seems extraordinary inthis day of small apartments and kitchenettes. There was lavishness in the buildings as well as in the feminine hoop skirted styles of that period. The floor plan is simple and dignified with a hall 28 feet long and 20 feet wide running the length of the building. One is attracted by the large folding doors at both front and back entrances. During the War between the States a wounded Confederate soldier sought refuge at Claremont from a troup of Federal soldiers. He hid behing the folding doors and the mistress of the house in her wide hoopskirts stood in the door and would let no Union soldier enter. The front rooms on each side of this hall are twenty feet by twenty feet.and the left is the front parlor. The floor of this room is covered by a carpet which has been in use for ninety-five years and is in a good state of preservation today. The mantels are of black marble; and in the cheerful open fire places dancing tongues of flame are reflected in rosy hues from the brass fenders and irons.

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1. Ike Magruder(deceased) a relative of Joshua G. Clarke gave the date to the present owner.

Assignment Fifteen.

OLD HOMES

Claremont

The present owner has many handsome antiques that are in keeping with the old southern atmosphere, among them a beautiful four poster spool bed of solid walnut and of a very unusual design.

"Joshua G. Clarke was born and reared in Pennsylvania but came to Mississippi during territorial days. He succeeded Judge Shields in 1818. as supreme judge from the first district in Mississippi. He represented Claiborne County in the Territorial legislature and in the Constitutional Convention of 1817. In December, 1821, when separate Chancery Court was organized, he was appointed first Chancellor of the state, and held that office until he died at Port Gibson July 23, 1828."(1) "The high character of Miss.judicial decision is in a large measure due to Judge Clarke."(2)

The present owner's grandfather, Rev. S. R. Bertron, bought Claremont from Eli West in December, 1837. Since then, ninety nine years, this property has been in the same family.

Claremont was in the line of bombardment during the battle of Port Gibson. At this time Mr. Bertron hid his horses in the basement which was a solid brick foundation of the house, this foundation being about twelve feet high. Some of the negroes told the Federal soldiers about the horses, after which the soldiers demanded the keys and took the horses with them.

The home as we have already seen was a noble structure., The furnishings were in perfect keeping with the exterior.

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1. Biog. and Hist. Memoirs of Mississippi - Page 112.
2. " " " " " " - Page 555.

OLD HOMES

Idlewild

Just south of Port Gibson on Highway 61, situated in a natural park, with a curving driveway against a background of stalwart moss draped oaks reposes the spacious home, Idlewild.

This home was erected in the early 30's by Mr. Stamps, who presented it to his foster daughter when she married Mr. Louis Stowers of this town.

The house is a typical one story frame type antebellum home. There is quiet dignity and simplicity in the structure. Its wide sloping roof and spacious front gallery make a restful inviting spot. The steps rise in a graceful sweep to the long, wide front gallery, which extends all the way across the house. These steps were made by the slaves, who cut and hauled the timber from the woods surrounding the house. They are unusually wide thick and heavy. It was from this gallery that Henry Clay later, 1844, delivered a speech to the citizens of Claiborne County.

The floor plan of Idlewild is a simple as the exterior. A hall, forty(40) feet by 20 feet extends through the center of the building with four large rooms on each side. The doors leading into the rooms from the hall and the windows in the rooms are of an almost unbelievable size, the doors being 13½ feet tall and only 3 feet wide. Like most of the handsome buildings of the same period Idlewild has silver doorknobs and brass hinges. Attractive features of these rooms are high ceilings and open fireplaces.

Double folding doors open between the parlor and dining room, each room being about twenty feet square. The walls in these rooms are in perfect condition having been made of Plaster of Paris, not the ordinary plaster



OLD HOMES

Idlewild----------(continued)

usually found on walls.

Of the original furniture the most unique is a tall old mahogany wardrobe. Although too large and cumbersome for a modern house it blends easily with its present surroundings. Another interesting article of furniture is a lovely mahogany what-not the graceful lines of which enhance the beauty and charm of the parlor.

The fountain in the garden was built without any access whatever to water. Mr. Stowers, who built it after his marriage, was much perturbed by this but even so he desired a fountain so much that he wished to have it there anyway. About the time it was finished three Irishman appeared on the scene seeking employment. Mr. Stowers secured their services of piping the water from a spring a short distance from the house by promising them a plantation in the Delta. These men were successful in piping the water and Mr. Stowers complied with his share of the bargain. The Irishmen found the Delta plantation a swampy land covered with cypress trees but they drained the land and became successful planters.

During the War between the States the Confederate soldiers, in dire need of lead for bullets, dug up the lead pipes and used them thus the tinkling music of the fountain is no longer heard.

Idlewild was always noted as a place of pleasure and gayety and today it's walls still ring with happy and carefree laughter of the young people of the present generation who frequently gather here for parties and dances.

OLD HOMES

"The Hill", home of Earl Van Dorn.

"On an eminence overlooking the town of Port Gibson was located the home of Judge P. A. Van Dorn, which was known as "The Hill". The judge had built the almost square double brick mansion after a simple model adapted to comfort, ventilation and sunlight; one arrangement being unique in having at the top of each window a space filled in with Venetian slats, without glass, in order that pure air could not be excluded nor impure air prevented from escaping. There were two porches forming front entrances, and a lagge covered porch at the side with colonial pillars and stationary seats. Paved walks led from the carriage-way to the porches, each walk lined with rows of gay jonquils that in springtime looked like troops of yellow-plumed cavalry drawn up for inspection. On the left was the garden with its terraces, grape arbors, jasmine, roses of every name flanked by flowers of every hue and perfume; and hidden from view by the horticultural display were the more useful beds of vegetables and fruits, carefully tended by a German gardener. On the same side was the winding carriage-way through a grove of stately poplars, which seemed as straight and dignified as the old carriage driver "Beverly", as he sat upon the seat like a monarch on his throne, and was a trusted, faithful servant whose authority over the carriage domain was never disputed. On the right of the house, commanding a view of the village from the side porch, were two ridges or hills that ran parallel and sloped gradually down to a meadow, forming midway a gentle declivity, at the foot of which was a spring and spring-house, where the water flowed as cool as a mountain stream into the dairy, and converted the spring-house into a refrigerator for the use of the good house-wife. The hollow between the hills was filled with tall



OLD HOMES

"The Hill"----------(continued)

spreading trees that waved and flaunted their branches over the eaves of the mansion, giving a grateful shade when the sun was at high noon. A pathway wound down to the spring, where there were rustic seats and tables, and here often the midday luncheon or evening meal was supplemented by the fruit of the dairy, and melons made ice-cold by the water of the spring.

The old spring is there still; the old mansion stands a wreck of its former glory; some of the live oaks planted by the mother as acorns are there the fair skies that greet the eye are as blue as of old,-but all else is changed, and decay has marked the old home for its own. The terraces, the stately poplars, the winding driveway, the yellow jonquils, the roses, all are gone, and the fair forms that once brightened the home now lie under the sod, not far from the old homestead, and make it holy ground to surviving friends and admirers of this once well-known family, which was one of the oldest and most prominent in the history of the State. The home circle consisted of the father and mother,--Judge and Mrs. Van Dorn,- three sons and six daughters. In the order of birth were Mary, Jane, Octavia, Earl, Aaron, Mabella, Sarah, Emily and Jacob. The two elder daughters married early, Mary becoming Mrs. John O. Lacy; Jane, Mrs. John D. Vertner. When the youngest child was about a year old the mother died and left Octavia, then a girl of fourteen years of age, in charge of the household. The sons were sent to an academy near Baltimore to be educated in a few years the father died, and the home was entirely broken up. "some at the altar and some at the tomb".

Assignment Fifteen.

OLD HOMES

"The Hill"----------(continued)

As the name implies, Judge Van Dorn was descended from a Holland ancestry. The family came to America early in the seventeenth century and bought lands from the Indians in Monmouth and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, which have been continuously in possession of their descendants to the present time. The Judge's pious parents said he was so "no account on the farm, being always off with a book, that they would send him to Princeton College and make a preacher of him." So the Judge passed through the classical and theological training, but when he had finished he said he "could preach but could not pray". At the age of twenty-one he removed to Mississippi when that part of the country was yet a territory, and turned his attention to the law; received a life appointment as Judge of the Ophans' Court for the southern district of Mississippi, making his home at Port Gibson. He was a man of unswerving integrity, unimpeachable veracity, and redoubtable courage, with a quaint humor that made him a pleasing acquisition to any circle. The older people of the State never tire of recounting his witty sayings, anecdotes, and amusing jests. He was a Mason of high degree. He departed this life on his way to his plantation on the Yazoo River, the 12th of February 1837, in the 64thyear of his age.

Mrs. Van Dorn was a granddaughter of Colonel John Donelson of General Washington's staff, and a niece of Mrs. General Andrew Jackson. In appearance she was a fair brunette with dark hair and eyes, while Judge Van Dorn inherited the Saxon blond type of his ancestors. After the death of Mrs. Van Dorn, Octavia, then only fourteen years of age, journeyed with her father to New York and Washington, visiting President Jackson at the

OLD HOMES

"The Hill"----------(continued)

latter city.

General Jackson idolized his wife, and was interested in her kindred; he fancied that the beautiful young girl resembled his wife, then deceased, and paid her much attention. On one occasion in driving on Pennsylvania Avenue, he stopped the carriage at a jewaller's and selected a ring set with pearls, had a lock of his hair placed in it and presented it to his fair visitor, who treasured it as a souvenir of her memorable visit to the White House.

In the bright and happy home of Judge Van Dorn, which was embowered in foliage that never changed, and where the mocking bird sang its love song to its mate, blended with the minor notes of the whippoorwill from the willows that dipped into the stream near by, as it rippled and gurgled to the sea; where the roses ran riot over the walls, and the breath of a thousand flowers filled the air; where the harvest moon shone over a happy home, and the stars kept watch and marked the destiny of its inmates,-- in this beautiful and supernal atmosphere was born, on September 17th, 1820, the soldier, Earl Van Dorn, who was to become the pride of his house and one well beloved by his comrades in arms. The blood of a noble Holland ancestry and patriot fathers of the American Revolution coursed through his veins, and he was destined to become an American warrior in more than one of the nation's battles, in Mexico, and in Texas against the savage Comanches, and in the war between the States. In his early youth he chose the profession of arms for his life work, and at the age of sixtee, unprompted and unaided by an older head, addressed a letter to

OLD HOMES

"The Hill"----------(continued)

ex-President Jackson, at the Hermitage in Tennessee, stating his desire to become a military man; and at length, after waiting several months, while sitting under a tree on the playground near.Baltimore, feeling melancholy and homesick, the principal of the academy appeared holding up a large official envelope, with a big red seal, and called for Earl Van Dorn. It proved to be a commission to enter West Point, obtained by General Jackson, and with hurried eagerness he packed his trunks and was soon on his way to the Military Academy. There he remained for the four years's course. ----Earl Van Dorn thus became a military man, devoting his whole life to the study of military tactis, living in U.S. garrisons and forts, and became cosmopolitan in his citizenship as an officer educated for the army. Subsequently, when his native State had need for his services he became an officer of the Confederate army. ------ He was first assigned to duty at Fort Pike on the Gulf of Mexico, and from there to Mount Vernon, Alabama, where at the early age of twenty-three he married the only daughter of Colonel Godbold, an esteemed citizen of that neighborhood. As the only child, the parents of Mrs. Van Dorn were averse to being separated, and consequently the young Lieutenant was often l eft alone at his barracks. Mrs. Van Dorn, as a bride, was a girlish looking little woman, sixteen years of age, modest and shy, slight and graceful, and the youthful heart of the soldier soon fell a victim to her romantic charms. ----- Soon after the marriage of General Van Dorn, war was declared between this country and Mexico, and he left his bride for the field of war. In the campaigns in Mexico his name was frequently mentioned for gallantry in action. ------- After the close of the war with

OLD HOMES

"The Hill"----------(continued)

Mexico Major Van Dorn visited his native place and received cordial congratulations and encomiums from all sides. The legislature of the State, citizens of Port Gibson, and Claiborne County, presented him with costly swords in honor of his achievements in Mexico. ---- In a subsequent visit to Port Gibson the citizens presented him with a handsome silver service in recognition of his gallantry in Texas against the Indians. During the Civil War Mrs. Van Dorn managed to save this gift of silver, but the swords were captured or abstracted from her home by Union soldiers. ----- Still another sword was presented to General Van Dorn during the Civil War by the State of Mississippi, for"his noble defense of Vicksburg". ------ Gen. Van Dorn was shot in his own room, at Spring Hill, Tenn., by a citizen of the neighborhood. His untimely death brought to a close one of the greatest military careers in southern history. ---- The family burial spot at Port Gibson was at the time of Gen. Van Dorn's death in the lines of the enemy, and the remains could not be taken to that place, which would have been the proper one for their sepulture beside his father and mother. But many years after, the sacred remains were removed to his native place and laid there."(1)

Planter's Hotel

The Planter's Hotel is one of the extremely old buildings of Port Gibson, known to have existed as far back as 1820, but the exact date of its erection is veiled in mystery.

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1. A Soldier's Honor by His Comrades - Pages 12-33, 253.

OLD HOMES

Planter's Hotel---------- ----------(continued)

It stands near the Court House on Highway 61; was a hotel in days when boats came up Bayou Pierre and docked at the town, and overland travelers used the Natchez Trace. The building bears all the ear marks of an early period, being both massive in its masonry and enduring, in spite of ill usage, and countless vicissitudes encountered since the hey-day of its existence.

It is three stories in height, with a basement floor similar to the Spanish style. An artistic feature of the Planter's Hotel, which suggests the Spanish influence, is the exquisite iron grille work or bannisters that surrounds the upper galleries. The pattern is unique and lovely. Another unusual feature is the absence of windows on the side walls of this three story brick building.

At an early date in the history of this building it was owned by Alvarez Fisk, one of our earliest philanthropists. He gave it to the Presbyterian Seminary of Learning and in 1831 the trustees sold it for $5000. Mr. Fisk was interested in education and often gave land to educational purposes.

The Planter's Hotel, while not so handsome, is nevertheless a real treasure antedating many houses in Port Gibson. It marked the Natchez Trace for the weary wayfarer on his long journey through the wilderness, and how his heart must have warmed atthe sight of the lights of this old tavern.



OLD HOMES

The Williams Home

A departure from the usual classic type of antebellum homes but one that is all the more interesting because of its quaint simplicity and extreme age is the one hundred and twenty year old Williams home. Situated on a corner lot of Church Street in the heart of Port Gibson's exclusive residential section this home is found in almost perfect state of preservation and is a typical example of architecture common to the colonial period. The foundation, having petrified, is not penetrable by any tool. Pretty dark green blinds inclose the windows and every door. The present occupants, daughters of Mr. Williams, quote their father as telling them they need never fear wind or storm so long as they were in this home, and adding that, although it might be picked up by storm, it could not be demolished.

The original lawn, now shaded by huge pecan trees, and formal gardens, laid our by a Swiss gardener before the Civil War, form outstanding beauty spots. The age old magnolia fuscati, sweet shrub, mimosa and sweet olive trees make the place a paradise of fragrance and enchantment. The entirety is inclosed by a low iron fence which is interwoven with a dainty Japanese climbing fern. In the right corner of the rose garden is a gratigus tree, very rare in these parts.

The interior furnishings consist almost wholly of genuine antiques, largely mahogany. From the front porch to the left you enter a spacious old parlor and behold a marvelously exquisite marble mantel with handsome candlebras and over the mantel hangs one of their numerous rare paintings. On another wall you see the portrait of Mrs. Williams, said by a represen-

OLD HOMES

The Williams Home----------(continued)

tative of a famous art association to be the finest in the south. Over the windows are brass cornices suggestive of the opulence of the east. Hanging from these cornices are snow white lace curtains exquisitely patterned. There are graceful sofas, chairs and tables. A superlatively handsome what-not holding curios and relics, collected by the family down through the years, occupies a conspicuous corner. To many an old grandfather's clock made in 1793 and wound by a wooden chain would be most interesting. Especially does the family prize two pictures of early Italian art supposedly the only two of their kind done on glass from the under side in existence today. Inthis family is a very old quilt which has taken every prize wherever exhibited in Kentucky and Mississippi both before and since the Civil War., among the prizes being silver goblets, silver pie knives and cake knives. The quilting is remarkable and the coloring in red and white. A great deal of sentiment is attached to this quilt as it was made by Mrs. John Ash, grandmother of the Williams ladies. No less valuable to them is an old, old Mason scarf and apron which was handed down to their father, Levin Williams. They also have in their possession valuable colonial money.

On entering the dining room you are immediately attracted to a rare old sideboard, its beauty being enhanced by a silver celerine of unusual height and arranged so the part containing the bottles turns around showing three colored bottles. In one drawer is kept one of their most treasured possessions, a very old soup ladle hammered by hand out of silver dollars. And you turn to see a lovely china closet filled with both china and silver which would be a credit to any palace. Nor can the men-

OLD HOMES

The Williams Home----------(continued)

tion of the old dining table be omitted for it, too, fills its place in this old home.

Each bedroom carries the charm and grace of their occupants. Priceless pieces of furniture chosen and purchased many, many years ago far surpass any modern day furniture.

It was from the gallery of this house that a Federal officer, after the fall of Vicksburg, gave the order for the arrest of a number of women of this county to be sent to a prison in Vicksburg. This was done in an effort to shake the morale of Southern troops. This is the only instanceof this kind in history.

Today Mrs. Maggie Musgrove, Mrs. F. C. Inglesing and Miss Ella Williams, three sisters, and three of Port Gibson's most highly cultured ladies live in this home. To Mrs. Maggie Musgrove, formerly Miss Maggie Williams, goes a large part of the credit for the Irwin Russell Memorial. Having been a childhood playmateof his, she has struggled through the years to keep his name alive in the state. And being a historical enthusiast she has developed a historical museum for Port Gibson. The museum is housed in the room adjoining the Memorial room. Several days of each week Mrs. Musgrove and Mrs. Weil, who shares equally with Mrs. Musgrove in this accomplishment, keep the rooms open to the general public and tourist.

Levin P. Williams purchased their home in 1857 from Mr. Goza. The owner of the property prior to Mr. Goza was Mr. Archibald Carey who was editor of the first paper in Port Gibson. Mr. Carey's wife was a daughter of Lord

OLD HOMES

The Williams Home----------(continued)

Fairfax. His daughter, Constance Carey, who later moved to Alexandria, Va. and there made the first Confederate flag, was born in this house.

Mr. Levin P. Williams was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was married in Kansas to a Kentucky girl and came south soon afterwards. Possessing business ability plus ambition he very soon acquired considerable wealth. He was one of the owners of the famous old Port Gibson Grand Gulf Railroad, carrying on farming interests at the same time. It is with extreme tenderness that Miss Ella and Miss Maggie speak of the faithful slaves and black mammies who served them, and especially one male slave who provided groceries during the trials of the war.

So depleted were their circumstances following the war that Mrs. Williams was forced to wear a gingham dress on a boat trip back to Kentucky to visit her mother.

Like other stout hearts Mr. Williams never lost courage and made his comeback along with other heroes of that day. He died on March 20, 1910.

OLD HOMES

"ANCHUKA"

Forlorn and dilipidated, yet lovely, the stately antebellum home known as Anchuka may be seen on the Pattison road about two miles from Port Gibson. The residence, surrounded by large forest trees, is situated on an elevation overlooking the plantation. The approach winds through a grove of moss draped cedars and crepe-myrtles. Traces of the carriage driveway in front of the house, on which no wagons were allowed, may still be seen. This driveway was built in the shape of a heart, inclosed by cedars.

Anchuka, an Indian word signifying home, was erected by Richard T. Archer in 1834. It is a typical southern residence of two and a half stories, containing sixteen rooms, the frescoing in the spacious rooms being very beautiful. There are broad verandas on the first and second floors. Around the balcony on the second story still stands a picturesque wrought iron railing. A lofty hall, on each floor, runs the entire length of the building. The rooms, about twenty by twenty-five feet, contain especially handsome marble mantels, with wide old-fashioned fireplaces. Commodious dressing closets are odd features of the bedroom. Between the double parlors are large folding doors, through which passed many a gay and happy throng. A velvet carpet in the front parlor, which dates to the thirties, is a floral design with the colors still quite vivid. The house was furnished throughout with handsome rose wood and mahogany furniture of that period. One son has a palatial residence in Richmond, Va. equipped with the handsome furniture and old portraits from Anchuka.

Ascending through the center of the house is a very unusual spiral stair-

OLD HOMES

"ANCHUKA"----------(Continued)

case which excites the curiosity and admiration of all who see it. This house afforded every comfort and convenience of that day. Most interesting is the shower bath, to which slaves were a necessary part. It has the appearance of a vault, being sunken into the floor about four feet with steps leading down into it. The interior is made of cement. Slaves brought water and poured it through an improvised shower. Beneath the house is a large cellar, formerly used for a wine cellar since the first master of the house was a connoisseur of wines.

Richard T. Archer, an early settler from Amelia County, Va. where he was born in 1797, came to Mississippi in 1824; was educated at William and Mary College, Va. He married Ann Maria Barnes, a wealthy heiress of Claiborne County in 1834. He was active in promoting public welfare, prominent in politics and was an ardent patriot. Being to old to serve in the War between the States he sought to help at home the cause in which two sons and a nephew served.(1) Mr. and Mrs. Archer reared a large family, eight of whom grew to maturity. "Mrs. Archer was noted for her many charities and her kind and Christian character. She has a fine library, many of her books being very rare and costly."(1) She possessed an intellect far beyond the ordinary.

The descendants of this family of Claiborne county, like their progenitors, are more or less successful as far as worldly advancement goes, but no sound of merriment echoes through the wide halls of "Anchuka". Members of the family are still in possession of this lovely old home of the south, with its sweet associations and tender memories.

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1. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I, Pages 309-310

OLD HOMES

La Cache

In 1796 Blennerhassett left England to escape the ostracism which he encountered after his marriage with Margaret Agnew, daughter of his sister, Catherine. A few months later they landed in America and established a home on an island in the Ohio River. He became interested in the schemes of Aaron Burr and finally, in January, 1807, followed him down the Mississippi River. It was possibly in 1808 that he settled in Claiborne County about six miles from Port Gibson near Tillman on a thousand acre tract of land belonging to Drury W. Breazeale, a prominent lawyer and planter. In February, 1910 Blennerhassett purchased this tract of land for four thousand dollars ($4,000), calling it La Cache, in token of his purpose to lead a life of seclusion. They lived here eleven years. While here he identified himself with the affairs of the county. In 1818 Blennerhassett sold La Cache and soon afterwards moved to Canada. He later returned to England where he died in 1831. No trace of a beautiful residence on La Cache has ever been found.

We have given a full account of his life in a Supplement to Assignment One under Citizens of Unusual Note.

OLE HOMES

Spencer Home.

At the extreme north end of College Street in Port Gibson on a pretty spacious corner lot stands a quaint old home, the major portion of which was built and owned by Samuel Gibson, the founder of the town of Port Gibson. The house is approached by an old fashioned brick walk through a large, park-like yard, inclosed by a moderately high picket fence. In the yard stand magnificent giant trees, magnolia, oak and pecan. The flower gardens are largely but a memory, but there are crepe myrtle, spiraea, and shrubs of unusual size, also many rose bushes. Deed records show where the property passed from Samuel Gibson to Passmore Hoops, an extensive property owner of that day, and from Passmore Hoops to Dr. John G. Hastings, thence to his son J. G. Hastings, Jr. The latter added more historical significance to the place, due to the fact that Mrs. Hastings featured prominently in the bill for M.S.C.W., which was drawn up by Hon. John McCalleb Martin. The interior architecture is most uncommon to that found in the homes of today and, although additions have been made from time to time the ancient earmarks are distinctively there. In the basement, formerly the kitchen in Samuel Gibson's day, the large old fashioned fireplace has been retained, where hangs the original crane but no longer is it a cheerful setting with dancing flame and a singing kettle. Many pieces of genuine antiques are in a perfect state of preservation in this old home; among them old furniture, rare old silver and several priceless paintings. Today this home is owned by Miss Elizabeth Spencer, granddaughter of Horatio N. Spencer(whose life is given in Assignment on Prominent Citizens) and daughter of James Grafton Spencer. James Grafton Spencer died at this home Feb. 22, 1926 at the age of 82 years. He served in Cowan's Battery, Army of Tennessee through the



OLD HOMES

Spencer Home.

four years of the war, enlisting at the age of sixteen. He was a member of Congress during Cleveland's administration; was a member, and for more than fifty years, an elder of the Presbyterian Church. On April 25, 1866 he married Lucy Ann Jones and to this union were born five children: Sarah Marshall, Horatio Nelson, Elizabeth Frafton, Meredith Jones and James Grafton, Jr. Of these the latter four survive him, also fifteen grandchildren. Miss Elizabeth, the present mistress of this homw, is a true type of the southern lady and is a member and faithful worker in the Presbyterian Church, the connection with which she holds especially dear because of the part her grandfather had in the erection of the church.

Shaifer Home

The Shaifer home, over a century old, is particularly interesting because memories of the war are interwoven with its very structure; its being situated on the battle field proper and only one hundred yards from the Confederate monument which stands on the spot from which the first shot was fired. Not once down through the century has this property changed from the Shaifer name and today, Mr. Percy Shaifer, a grandson of E. K. Shaifer, is the proud owner. And although he owns and lives in a palatial urban residence, a caretaker is retained for the old home so near and dear to his heart. The house is not an exquisite example of architecture, but a modest six room structure, built to weather the ravages of time and change. Blinds of a very heavy type inclose the windows and two front doors. A low sloping roof shelters the four main rooms and small hall, also the

OLD HOMES

Shaifer Home----------(continued)

front and side porches. There is the old latticed cistern house in use today and entered immediately off the side porch on the right side of the house. In the left hand front bed room is seen a beautiful four post bed with a canopy, on the mantle an old fashioned clock. In the corner of this room is a chair around which a most interesting story is centered. A number of years after the war Mr. Frank H. Foote, Post Master at the time, received a letter from a Mr. Dufner of Mitchell, Indiana (who was a Federal soldier and participant in the battle of Port Gibson) asking if any of the Shaifers were alive. The letter was handed to Mr. Shaifer and a correspondence between Mr. Dufner and Mr. Shaifer began, after which visits were passed between the two resulting in a beautiful friendship. Mr. Dufner made several visits to Mr. Shaifer's home where together they enjoyed a review of the old battle lines and a general discussion of war times from the angle of both sides. After returning home from one of these trips Mr. Dufner presented Mr. Shaifer with the above mentioned chair, a creation of his own hands, on which he made an almost perfect map of the march from Bruinsburg to Vicksburg, showing the line of march of the several divisions of Gen. U. S. Grant. This map was done by Mr. Dufner from memory and there was only error to be discovered, this being a dot representing the town of Port Gibson which was placed on the opposite side of Bayou Pierre. Although the map is dimming it is still a most interesting object to view. Many wounded soldiers were left by the Federal army in this home(which was a Federal hospital and the subject of this sketch) and nursed back to health by Mr. Shaifer before

OLD HOMES

Shaifer Home----------(continued)

returning to their distant homes.

The grounds surrounding the home are exceptionally pretty. Giant live oaks with wide spreading boughs make magnificent shade. Numbers of age old moss draped cedars and crepe myrtles lend an air of enchantment as can be said of the entire road that leads from Port Gibson to the battle ground and Shaifer home. The very steep hills and deep, deep cuts over lap in many places by the branches of beautiful trees, the beauty of which is unsurpassed in spring time when the dogwood, red bud, and yellow jasmine bloom, the latter perfuming the entire country side.

The first A. K. Shaifer came from Maryland when very young and settled in Claiborne County between 1825 and 1830. The second A. K. Shaifer was a thrifty, industrious planter, but together with many others was considerably broken up when duty called and he took up arms to fight for this country. All of the Shaifer descendants have been among the county's highly respected citizens.

Assignment Fifteen.

OLD HOMES

The Humphreys Homes.

While we are describing the magnificent old homes we have visited on our tour it is fitting that we mention some of the houses of distinguished families that have been destroyed in the late years.

The Humphreys name recalls to memory families which have figured prominently in the history of Claiborne County since the close of the Revolutionary War; this being the time that Mrs. Ralph Humphreys together with her two children, slaves, and worldly goods settled at Grindstone Ford landing of the north fork of the Bayou Pierre river. The country was under the Spanish governor, Gayoso, at that time and from him Mrs. Humphreys secured a large tract of land. Soon after this her husband, Ralph Humphreys, a Revolutionary pensioned colonel, made the trip from Carolina on horseback to join his family. A few months after reaching his family he sickened and died, being buried at Grindstone Ford.(1)

"In 1793 George Wilson Humphreys, the only surviving child of Col. Ralph Humphreys, removed from Grindstone Ford onto a piece of land on the north side of Bayou Pierre, known as the Hermitage, which particular tract of land had been obtained by Mrs. Ralph Humphreys from the Spanish government."(2) A log cabin was the first structure erected on this place. As his financial enterprises were prosperous and he became a wealthy planter this was replaced by a handsome home in which the family lived in opulent splendor. This was known as the Hermitage. For several generations the Hermitage was the home of the Humphreys. The residence on

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1. Biog. and Hist. Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I, Page 980.
2. " " " " " " " Page 983.

theHHermitage plantation was burned by the Union soldiers.

George Wilson was married to Sarah Smith who came from her native state of Tennessee to Mississippi in her girlhood. His marriage with Miss Smith was consummated January 17, 1792. George Wilson Humphreys was brilliantly educated and although he was not an active politician he served in the state legislature for some time, and was an earnest member of the A.F. & A.M., he and one other member being the only ones of the family that ever united with that order. He organized a company of which he was made captain, and was a participant in the battle of New Orleans. "To Captain Humphreys and his wife a large family of children were born, three sons and three daughters living to maturity and marrying, the rest dying in childhood."(1)

Most celebrated among the Humphreys is Governor Benjamin G. Humphreys, son of George Wilson, who was born Aug. 26, 1808 at the Hermitage plantation. At an early age he was sent to Kentucky to attend school. After finishing his education at West Point, where he entered the class of Joseph E. Johnston, Robert E. Lee, and a number of others who afterwards distinguished themselves on both sides during the War between the States, he returned to Mississippi in May, 1827 where he entered upon the duties of an overseer on his father's plantation, the Hermitage, relieving him of all care. In March 15, 1832 he married Miss Mary McLaughlin of Marion County.and entered upon the duties of a planter. His wife died March 17, 1835 leaving two children. December 3, 1839 he married Miss Mildred Hickman Maury of Port Gibson. In 1846 he moved to Sunflower County.

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1. Biog. and Hist. Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I, Page 980.

OLD HOMES

The Humphreys Homes----------(continued)

When the war broke he entered the service in '61 and was made captain of his company and later was promoted for gallantry in action to a brigadier-general. Mr. Humphreys was the first givernor elected after the war. He was inaugurated in October, 1865 and held that office until the fall of 1868 when he was ejected by Generals McDowell and Ames. In 1877 he went back to his delta plantation where he died December 20, 1882 at the age of seventy four years. "As a patriot and soldier his fa fame will stand immortal on the page of history."(1)

Another home of splendor was Oaklawn built by David George Humphreys, grandson of Col. Ralph Humphreys, located on a part of the original grant from the Spanish governor to Mrs. Ralph Humphreys. The beauty of this house was unsurpassed by any in Claiborne County. It consisted of nineteen rooms including a large billiard hall on the second story. The furniture was in perfect keeping with the exterior, being both rich in design and material. The silver was heavy and of a very plain design except for a monogram. Pieces of the original silver and furniture are still in the possession of the granddaughter of David George Humphreys. This home contained every comfort and ouxury purchasable in that day. The living room furniture, the like of which was very seldom seen in the south, was recently sold for a princely sum. The library contained a valuable set of Audubon's works which were all lost when the house was

1. Biog. and Hist. Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I, Page 985.



OLD HOMES

The Humphreys Homes----------(continued)

destroyed by fire. The site of this beautiful old home is now the home of the daughter of Bayliss Earl Humphreys, the son of David George Humphreys. David George Humphreys was a patron of education and was one of the founders of the Port Gibson Female College.

Ashland is another elaborate home which was in the possession of the Humphreys family although not built by them. It was bought by them in the early eighteen hundreds and was retained up to 1927 when it was destroyed by fire. The plantation remained in their possession three years after that until sold in 1930. The Ashland home was no less commodious and luxurious than the Hermitage and Oaklawn. The ground floor which opened out of an extensive lawn was level with the gardens. It was partitioned and thoroughly completed although occupying the place of the basement in other antebellum homes. It was equipped with huge fireplaces as were the enormouseupstairs rooms. A graceful flight of stairs led to the second or main story and from the wide front porch the entrance led into a hall twenty feet wide and thirty five feet long. This hall has been the scene of many brilliant dances at the time when so prosperous was the family that the expense of an orchestra was a small matter. Beautiful stories are heard today of the charming hostesses who graced these old homes, not only of their beauty, grace, and hospitality, but also of their charity and their love of God. Their exquisite flower gardens were examples of their character, culture, and refinement.

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Civil War

I. Battles and Skirmishes in County

Battle of Port Gibson (Already written in full and sent in as a supplement to Assignment Five)

Skirmishes:

"On May 4, 1865, the formalities of the capitulation were conducted between General Taylor and General E.R.S. Canby. Before the result was known, a raid into Port Gibson by some companies of the ninth Indiana regiment resulted in the killing of one man and the capture of two prisoners." (1)

" Colonel Adams was promoted as Brigadier-General September 25, 1863. Part of his regiment and part of Starke's, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wood, were engaged in a skirmish at Ingraham's plantation, near Port Gibson, October 10, 1863, with the cavalry expedition that was sent out before McPherson's movement on Canton." (2)

"During the period of the Federal expedition which brought on the battle of Harrisburg in Northeast Mississippi, another expedition under Ellet and Karge, brought down by river from Memphis, invaded General Adams' territory from Vicksburg and there were skirmishes at or near Utica, July 13, and Port Gibson July 14, and a considerable fight at Grand Gulf 16th. Karge reported that Major Shorey was driven back to camp near Utica, and near Port Gibson twenty-six men were captured from a foraging party of the First New Jersey." (3)

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1. Heart of the South Vol.1, pages 888-889----------Dunbar Rowland
2. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908), page 777
3. " " " " " , page 780



Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

I. Battles and Skirmishes in County (continued)

"In September a raiding party out from Natchez reported part of Wood's Regiment on the Homochitto. Later in the month Osband from Vicksburg raided from Haynes' Bluff to Deer Creek, and about October 1 from Bruinsburg to Port Gibson, gathering cattle and destroying property." (1)

II. Names of Fighting Units from County

a. Histories of such units

Port Gibson Rifles--Company C, later F. 16th Regiment Army of Tennessee (2)

"Prior to the War between the Northern and Southern states in 1861, the Port Gibson Rifles figures at Port Gibson as a local company of the State Militia. War being declared in March 23, 1861, this company left Port Gibson about 48 strong for Jackson, Mississippi, picking up recraits in Vicksburg and Jackson to the number of 15 or 20 men."

" At Pensacola, Florida, they became Company C of the 10th Regiment and saw light service then for eight or ten months. Their term of enlistment was, for the state of Mississippi, one year, which expired, and the regiment and companies underwent a reorganization.

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1. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908)---page 780
2. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, pages 7 and 8---Compiled by F. H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Wasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War
II. Names of Fighting Units from County

a. Histories of such units (continued)

Fort Gibson Rifles (continued)

"The Rifles practically disbanded, none of the original officers being reelected, though Captain McKeever managed to retain a few, which gave him command, and was with them at Shiloh Battle, April 6, 1862, after which he resigned. The company meantime had recruited from other companies and being without officers, private W.R. Daniels of Co. D. Jackson, Miss. was assigned as 1st Lieutenant and took command. The company was now F of regiment. A little later Lieut. Daniels was made Captain and retained command until the surrender of Johnson's Army in North Carolina in April, 1865. This company served with the company in the Western Army, or Army of Tennessee under Generals Bragg, Hood, and Johnston, and their record is good as soldiers imbued with a cause, which they dared defend even at life's limit."

Claiborne Guards (1)

"This Company, the second organized in the county, known as the "Claiborne Guards", was mustered into service of the Confederate States in April 29, 1861, and left that date for Union City, Tennessee, where they became part of the 12th Regiment of Miss. Volunteers, and enrolled as H Company. Their Captain, Henry Hughes, was elected Colonel of the regiment and was succeeded as Captain by W.H. Hastings. This regiment arrived one day too late to take part in the Battle of Manassas, July 21, 1861. Went into camp at Centerville, Va., and in April

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1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, page 13, compiled by F. H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Nasseon
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

II. (a) Histories of Fighting Units (continued)

Claiborne Guards (continued)

"reached Yorktown, Va., and upon reorganization of the regiment was known as K Company. This company with its regiment bore a brilliant part in the Battle of Seven Pines. In June, the 12th, 19th, and 20th battalions formed Featherston's Brigade, in July the 16th regiment was added. From this date, their history and campaigns are part of the Army of Northern Virginia. The brunt of battle, privations of camp, and necessities made them into uncomplaining soldiers, devoted to their cause and southland. They, a few, returned to desolated homes, ruined of all save honor, which they builded anew, never losing sight of the fact that they were confederate soldiers, fighting for a just principle and taking with them to the grave the consciousness of duty well done and with no regrets or apologies to any."

Fairview Rifles (1)

"This company (the third), Fairview Rifles, afterward changed to Claiborne Rifles was organized in May, 1861, and left about the 15th for seat of war in Virginia, and became G Company of the 16th Mississippi Regiment. With the regiment it served under Stonewall Jackson in the celebrated Valley Campaign, and was the only Mississippi Regiment in Jackson's army. In July, 1862, they were assigned to Featherston's brigade, completing the same, and as follows: 2nd Battalion,

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1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, page 20--compiled by F.H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Masson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

II. (a) Histories of Fighting Units

Fairview Rifles (continued)

"12th, 16th, and 19th regiments and with the brigade took part in all the battles fought in Virginia by General R.E. Lee to the end of Appomattox, April 10, 1865.

" This company, too, when the great war drama closed returned to ruined homes, commenced life anew, and with commendable pride established themselves as good citizens, as they were soldiers, and to the end of their allotted time retained a pardonable pride in their fellow commander, of the times that required all the devotion, courage, and loyalty they could command to overcome the privations of a suffering and starving army."

Claiborne Volunteers (1)

"This company was the fourth company organized and sent to the war by Claiborne County in 1861. It was organized in June and left for Virginia Sept. 12th. A short lay over at Iuka was had and in November we became Company F, 2nd Mississippi Battallion, in December became part of Magruder's Army of Yorktown, Va. Here under vigorous management, marches in mud and rain, digging and building breastworks, they builded the foundation of real soldiers that stood them so well the gruelling ordeals that ensued later in the war. At Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Seven days of Richmond, in fact in all the campaigns and battles of the army of Northern Virginia, we bore ourselves well, and prov-

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1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, page ----compiled by F.H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

II. (a) Histories of Fighting Units (continued)

Claiborne Volunteers (continued)

"ed to be brave and devoted soldiers, ending their service at Appomattox C.H. April 10, 1865.

"Being good soldiers, we became good citizens, worthy and well qualified of the County, and though but a few living today (1908), they retain a loyal memory of the days of 1861-1865."

"This Battallion was completed into a regiment in November, 1862, and henceforth known as the 46th, the last assigned regimental number of Mississippi's quota of infantry."

Van Dorn Guards(1)

"The Van Dorn Guards, an infantry company of Claiborne County, was made up in the neighborhood of Rocky Springs, Grand Gulf, and Brandywine in March, 1862. This company organization consisted mainly of middle aged men of families. They were a sturdy set, well ordered, brave, and obeyed orders as became soldiers enrolled for a principle. In April they became B Company of the 38th regiment and soon afterwards participated in the Corinth and Iuka campaigns.

"They served at Snyder's Bluff, Miss., and soon after in Vicksburg camp and trenches. Their serving in these trenches and battles was harrowing, but undaunted they assisted in beating off each assault of the enemy.

"After surrendering, they were paroled home. When exchanged they reported to duty and were given leave to again return home, obtain a horse and report again for mounted infantry duty with Wirt's Brigade.

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, page 30---compiled by F.H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Wasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

II.(a)Histories of Fighting Units (continued)

Van Dorn Guards (continued)

"horse and report again for mounted infantry duty with Mabry's Brigade. With this command, they were in many engagements and suffered considerable loss at Harrisburg. They rode with Forest in Tennessee and Northern Alabama Campaigns, and again in Mississippi, demeaning themselves as became men and patriots inbued with love of liberty and native land."

Claiborne Light Infantry (1)

"This company was the 6th infantry company from Claiborne County. Very little matter is obtainable in regard to this organization, its fortunes were varied and unfortunate, being bodily captured twice and the officers therewith. First at Port Hudson in 1863, and sent to prison North. After a long confinement, they were exchanged and returned to their homes, called again to the colors, they assembled in the county and by gross carelessness they were surrounded and captured and again sent North where they remained to the close of the war. Some who escaped capture enrolled themselves in other commands. This company was enrolled early in 1862, and saw first service in August, 1863, at Baton Rouge, La., 385 strong, under the command of Lieut.C.L. Barrott. They served in the defense of Port Hudson prisoners being sent North.

"Capt. A.J. Lewis being exchanged was promoted as Major and assigned to command of the 24th Battalion of cavalry, the men as mounted infantry.

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, page 35----compiled by F.H. Foote





Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Wasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

II. (a) Histories of Fighting Units

Claiborne Light Infantry (continued)

"This Battalion was surrendered at Gainsville, Ala. by Major Lewis, May, 1865, being third and final surrender. Lack of authority enforced, no discipline and unmilitary methods are always fraught with disastor and has been done since man waged war."

Magruder's Partisan Rangers (1)

"Magruder's Partisan Rangers, a cavalry company, was organized in May, 1862 and in June (14th) they were mustered into the Confederate service. For several months thereafter they were with Miles' Legion around Grand Gulf. From there, reported at Port Hudson, La., being the first troops to camp there, doing considerable scout and patrol duty. Later ordered to Fayette, Miss. and with five other companies formed Wilburn's Battalion of Cavalry, being Co. A of same. The battalion marched to Port Hudson, doing duty for General Gardner, then fortifying this stronghold, were in action at Plains Store on reapproach of General Banks, U.S.A. May, 1863, and fell back to the interior, when with other command under Gen. Logan they did great injury and loss to the Union Army inventing Port Hudson. Soon after the fall of this place the battalions of Major Stockdale and Lieut. Col. Wilburn were consolidated and formed the famous 4th Miss. Cavalry regiment under Wilburn as Colonel. The company was numbered C and so remained. They served in the brigade of Wirt Adams, Mabry's and later

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, page 47, compiled by F.H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Hanson,
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

11. (a) Histories of Fighting Units

Magruder's Partisan Rangers (continued)

"in Starke's. They saw a good deal of active duty in several states and later rode with Forest, rising to distinction, and on close of the war by surrender were given high praise by him. On their battle flag were lettered many noted battlefields, in all of which they rode, charged, and fought as became men imbued with lofty ideals of state and cause, and Claiborne County lost no nobler men than those who in this company gave all--Life."

McClean's Company (1)

"This cavalry company was made up in Claiborne County in (about May) 1862, by Henry Hughes, late Colonel of the 12th Miss. Infantry, having a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel to organize a Legion of Cavalry, Infantry, and Artillery with Lieut. Geo. P. McLean. Col. Hughes sickened and died, McLean succeeding as captain raised and equipped the company. The Legion plan was abandoned. The company was with Wilburn's Battalion in rear of Port Hudson, operating on the rear of the Union Army. After the fall of Port Hudson, they were sent to North Mississippi, to campaign, and thence became part of the 4th Cavalry regiment, being Company 15. Later they were returned to the county to recruit and remount and while there participated in the fight at Coleman Crossroads, Jefferson County.

"With the 4th Cavalry, they saw much hard service with Forest

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1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne County
Vol 1861-1865, page 56--compiled by F.H. Foote

Civil War

11. (a) Histories of Fighting Units

McClean's Company (continued)

"and other celebrated officers.

"They were paroled at Gainsville, Ala. May 2:, 1865, and dropping the saber for the plow, they helped to restore their stricken homes and lands and were in no time merged into good and useful citizens, never forgetting the days they wore the Gray and sturdily contended for justice and principle."

Davenport's Cavalry Company (1)

"This cavalry company was organized in the summer of 1863 by J.W. Davenport, Captain, Scott Russum, 1st Lieut., E.S. Jefferies, 2nd Lieut., Jos. N. Brashear, 3rd Lieut. Much confusion exists as to date of this company and its enrollment. Much of it is made from memory. The writer appealed in vain to those who had rosters to let us use them for record. Indifference and procrastination ensued, the parties died and data lost.

"The roster given shows that, out of 95 names obtained, 60 are of Claiborne County, 29 from Copiah, and 6 from Jefferson County. No list of deaths, wounded or any matter affecting an organization is available.

"The Company was in action at Coleman Crossroads, July, 1864, and later in the war saw some real hard service in North Miss. and Alabama.

"The data given is by Lieut. Shelby Jefferies and from letters

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne County, Miss. Jan 1861-1865, page 58--compiled by F.H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Masson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

11. (a) Histories of Fighting Units

Davenport's Cavalry Company (continued)

from former members, and to tell the truth this company was looked upon as a "joke" and was jocularly known as "Joe Davenport's Army".

"Some of the company were parolled at Gainsville, Ala., May, 1865, others at Jackson, Miss."

Warren and Claiborne Guards (afterwards Barnes Cavalry Company) (1)

"This Cavalry Company was raised jointly in Warren and Claiborne Counties and mustered into service at Warrenton in 1861. About 70% of the company are from Claiborne County, and its officers were mainly also of the same county. It was early ordered into service and belonged as Company I to Wirt Adams' regiment and its total enrollment is given at 172 men, many of them joining near close of war. The regiment joined Gen. Hardee in Ky. in 1861 (Sept.) and were in battle at Shiloh April 6, 1862, participating in many riads on Union communications and rendered conspicuous service at Corinth Battle, saw much service in Mississippi and Tennessee and also Alabama and Booneville, Miss., defeated Sheridan's Cavalry Company I, and was highly complimented by Col. Adams for splendid conduct in the Vicksburg campaign impeding Sherman's march to Jackson, taking prisoners and inflicting much loss to him. They assisted in the capture of the U.S. Gunboat Patrol in the Yazoo River, and were in battle at Clifton (Coleman Crossroads). In 1865, they rode with Forrest in

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne County, Miss., War 1861-1865, page 62--compiled by F.H. Foote



Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Masson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

11. (a) Histories of Fighting Units

Warren and Claiborne Guards (continued)

his final campaign and surrendered near Ramsay's Station, Ala. May 4, 1865.

"Others surrendered at Gainsvill, Ala May 12, 1865."

Abbay's Battery (1)

"Abbay's Battery was the only artillery company organized in Claiborne County, though many men of the county served in such companies from adjacent counties.

"This battery was organized early in 1862 and went from Port Gibson to Jackson, Miss. and became Company K of the First Mississippi Light Artillery regiment. From Jackson, they were sent to Vicksburg and were under fire of the Union fleet, which tried to enforce a surrendor of this city, which demand was refused by the authorities by the curt answer, "Come and take it".

"Ordered to Corinth in October, 1862, they did not arrive in time for part in the battle there. Upon the retreat of the C.S.A. forces, they were ordered to Holly Springs and soon after ordered to Port Hudson, La., participated in that seige; captured and parolled on the fall of this place; the men to Camp at Enterprise, Miss. and the officers interned at Camp on Johnson's Island, Ohio.

"Exchanged, they were ordered to Selma, Ala., thence to Mobile Bay, where they were again captured at Blakely, April, 1865, sent as prisoners to Ship Island for several weeks, thence to Big Black River Bridge, where they were parolled. This company made quite a reputa-

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne County, Miss. War 1861-1865, page 40--compiled by F.H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

11. (a) Histories of Fighting Units

Abbay's Battery (continued)

tation as artillerymen and were reckoned sturdy fighters and when at home at last engaged in building anew the waste places, showing the same indomitable pluck that became such men and makes such desirable citizens."

(b) 155th Regiment Information

What later became the 155th Regiment was, during the period of the Civil War, known as the First Mississippi Regiment.(1) "The 1st Regiment was completed in August and ordered into camp of instruction at Iuka. The field officers were elected 10 September, 1861. The First was one of the four regiments sent by Governor Pettus to Kentucky to reinforce Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston. Camp near Hopkinsville, Ky., October 17." (2)

A careful search for mention of Claiborne County in the history of the First Miss. Regiment reveals only a notation that B. F. Hynum of this county was transferred from the Port Gibson Rifles to the First Mississippi(3). Mr. Hynum served during the duration of the War between the States. He died March 20, 1934.

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1. Heart of the South, Vol. 2, p. 368---1-----Dunbar Rowland
2. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908), p.527
3. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne County, Miss. War 1861-1865, page 11---Compiled by F.H. Foote

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Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

III. Names of Enlisted Men

Port Gibson Rifles:- (1)

Capt. Wm. McKeever
E. J. Smith
A. K. Stampley

Sergt. Wm. Shroeder
Sergt. O. O. Newman
Sergt. E.W. Gordon
R. B. Richardson
Albert Boyd
Tim Callihan
Charles H. Conklin
Augustus Chevendeman
J. H. Copell
Wm. Clarke
Richard Coats
Joseph Culver
Sergt. Richard Dorsey
Henry Deschinger
Thomas Deschinger
Drummer John Dorr
Andrew Denne
Wm. Daniels
Rufus Goin

Sergt. Thomas Gill
Sergt. E. B. Hoopes
Orderly Hohn Hahw
James Harris
B. F. Hynum
Stephen Hand
Wm. Hunter
R. G. Heidow
Orderly R. B. Jablonaski
W. R. King
Florence Leonard
Wm. Little
Morris Ledow
Mike McDonauld
Ramey McCabe
G. P. McLean
R. W. McLean
T. J. Gilmon
Thomas McLaughlin
John Thompson
J. W. Ross
Corp. Marshall Trammel

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1. Record Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, pages 9-13---compiled by F. H. Foote

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Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (continued) (1)

Port Gibson Rifles

C. C. Goza
J. C. Goza
J. N. Rush
James Smith
J. P. Smith
Albert Sager
Joseph Washam
T. J. Stoval
J. A. Toliver
John Roach
Martin Villor
Boone Westrope
B. F. Wade
_____ Williams
F. W. Stevens
Henry Staub

Claiborne Guards

Capt. Henry Hughes
A. J. Lewis
Lieut.W.H. Hastings (Promoted to Capt.)
Sergt.Rufus Shoemaker ( " " )
Sergt.J.H. Capers (Promoted to Adjt.)
Lieut.W. T. Jefferies
Sergt.J.G. Hastings(Promoted to Lieut.)
Sergt.Archie Baugn ( " " " )
Sergt.B.F. Booth
Corp. W.M. Martin ( " " " )
Corp. J.M. Magruder
Wm. Bunting
Lieut.C. E. Buck
Corp. E.H. McAlpin (Promoted to Lieut.) " "
Corp. Ziba Ben Butler " "
Sergt.John D. Bridges
Corp. J.Wm. Brown(Promoted to Sergt.)
W. D. Brown
John Brown
Louis Batha
Pat. H. Burns
J. F. Butler
J. W. Butler
Lucien Bland
James Boyce
Charles H. Barland

1. Record Confederate Soldiers Claiborne County, Miss. War 1861-1865, pages 14-19---compiled by F. H. Foote



Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men

Claiborne Guards (continued)

Lieut. John C. Calhoun
T. C. Cater
John Casey
G. B. Clarke
W. R. Clarke
L. E. Clarke
S. C. Cobb
Hl M. Colson
Leonard Chambliss
John Crace
W. W. Croide
Sergt. John G. Derrah
James H. Derrah
W.H. DROMGOOLE
Pat. Duffield
John Duval
W. H. Duval
Elbert Dunbar
W. E. Daniel
James P. English
R. R. Foran
J. M. Foy
H. Kirk Fuller
J. W. Griffing
J. Y. Griffing
Jacob Meyers
W. S. Griffing
D. W. Girarde
James F. Girault (Regimental band)
L. B. Harland
S. W. Harland
Commissary Sergt.- W. H. Hamilton
Louis Heck
J. M. Hurdson
E. T. Harrington
T. McA. Harper
M. L. Jones
Wm. S. Jones
W. C. Johnson
Sergt.F. G. Johnson-promoted Lieut.
Sergt.Harry C. Knight
W. K. Kennard
H. F. Lischer
A. Henry Little
Edmond Long
James Lynn
B. F. Latham, Jr.
Corp. John I. Mitchell
Joe L. Maganos
James Magill
B. H. Morehead

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Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvasses:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men

Claiborne Guards (continued)

W. H. Moore

Lieut. W. H..McCardle

David McCardle

Sergt- E. H. McCaleb
Major

PrivateA. K. Shaifer-Lieut.Capt.

Pat McCabe

R. D. McAlpin

Robert McClinton

John V. McPherson

Sergt. C. R. Nesmith

Wm. Neal

Sergt. R. A. Owen

John W. Owen

H. H. Owens

H. W. Porter

A. W. Philips

R. P. Philips

J. W. Philips

James G. Rollins

James Raines

J. E. Reives

R. G. Wilson

W. Howard Williams

W. H. Wilson

Frank Ragland

John H. Roberts

Louis Rathbone

John Rhineland

John W. Ritchie

Geo. P. Sevier

A. J. Sevier

J. M. Stiles

E. H. Stiles

B. F. Stevens

Color Corp.F.M. Stevens

J. Oscar Stevens

G.W.H. Shaifer

Green Sorrels

J. H. Simms

Asbery S. Tarpley

Augustus W. Tarpley

W.R. Thompson

T.C. Trevillion

Stephen Thrasher

Pierce Wells

W.Howard West

Stephen Williams

17 1, From Dr. J.T. McCaleb, Carlisle, Claiborne Co.

Frances Lucilla McCaleb - 1st Claiborne C. Army nurse. With Claiborne Guards in Va. 1861. (1)

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S. T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (continued) (1)

Fairview Rifles (later Claiborne Rifles)

Company G 16th Regiment--A.N.Va.

Capt. John Taylor Moore
Lieut. Ben Humphreys
Lieut. C. L. Barrot
Lieut. D. S. Pattison
Sergt. Edward Kearney (Promoted Lieut.)
Sergt. John B. Coleman
Sergt. James Wylie
Corp. J. T. Waddell (Promoted Sergt.)
J.R. (or J.B.) Willis
Corp. Wm. A. Green
Corp. W. C. Griffing
Priv. Charles Allen
Corp. Thomas Dorsey (Promoted Sergt)
Thomas Kennedy
George Lofflin (or Lofflam)
Thomas Lowry
M. Levy
J. B. Ferriott
J. Fizzotte (or J.B. Fewatti)
M. G. Myers
J. Murfitt
Wm. McMaury
Sid W. Abbay
James Aesop
Wm. Cahn
Arthur Cunningham
F. A. Christian
James Cramsie
John Darden
Richard Duval
John DeLara
Harry Dry
Pat (or Pete) Doran
Nat Davenport
M. Kaufman
Sergt. J.H. Dimcan (Promoted Lieut-Capt.)
Reg. Band--Aaron Eickle
J. E. Elliott
Sergt. Cpt. G. H. Fulkerson
Archie Lemon
Corp. Joseph Lee
John Green
D.B. Genasci
A. Leslie Gordon

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, pages 20-24--Compiled by F. H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:

Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S. T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

Fairview Rifles (continued)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| D* | D. B. McJoor | M. A. Girault |
| | Robert McElveen | C.G. Girault (known as Tip) |
| | J. M. McClun | G. W. Gilmore |
| Lieut. | Neil McLean | George Goza |
| | J.C. McIntyre | Jesse C. Hays |
| | L. McLauren | Ed. W. Hutchinson |
| | Samuel Orr | Abe Hunter |
| | W. F. Poole | N. A. Hancock |
| | E. (Dr.) Pollan | W.H.B. Healy |
| | Richard Peyton | Geo. B. Harvey |
| | W. C. Porter | John Peoples |
| | Joseph H. Hudson | J. M. Quilman |
| | Ed. J. Hickman | John Runderburg |
| Lieut. | Ed. W. Jefferies | Frank Ragland |
| | James Jefferies | Curtis Ritchie |
| | E. S. Jefferies | B. F. Rogillio |
| Sergt. | James J. Jones | Scott W. Russum |
| | A. Shelton Jones | Henry Sauls |
| | R. P. Jones | Sol Smith |
| | Charles Kirk | A.R. Stampley |
| | John A. Shields | Peter(or F.W.)Stewart |
| | John Shannessy | J. Henry Shannon |
| | Thomas Trainor | Samuel Ullman |
| | Charley Weil Courier(Fine Soldier) | John(or R.) Walsch |

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Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers

Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

Fairview Riflos (continued)

John Wassom

John Wirt

J. Wesley Walters

_____Wilson

Wm. Young

Claiborne Volunteers, Co. F. 2nd Battalion, 48th Regiment A.N.Va. (1)

Capt. W. Sidney Wilson--Promoted Major, Lieut-Col.

Capt. Joseph Regan

Lieut.B. F. McClellan--Promoted Capt.

Lieut.W.D. McClellan(Promoted from Orderly-Sergt.)

Sergt. Samuel Hughes

Sergt. Robert F. Williams

Sergt. W. W. Johnson

Sergt. B. F. Chase

Sergt. C.S. Mason-Commissary Sergt. of Regiment

Private James Hutchins

Private John Herbert

Corp. C. F. Megrew

Corp. J. W. Elliott

Corp. J. W. Richmond

Private Thomas A. Adams

Private Thomas P. Applegate

Private S. F. Beeker

Private J. J. Bryan

Private John Bettlheimer

Lieut. Samuel B. Walker

Lieut. N. S. Walker

Sergt. Thomas Hilger

Sergt. Wm.Smith,Jr.(Promoted Sergt-Major)

Sergt. E.A. Garrison(Promoted to Chaplain of Regiment)

Sergt. W.F.Rogillio

Sergt. J.R. Durkee-Ordinance Sergt. of Regiment

Corp. R.F.Williams-made Sergt.

Corp. C. F. Hopkins

Private M. Kantenberger

Private Peter Kantenberger

Private M. R. Lyon

Private P. T. Lee

Private Rev. A.P. Leach

Private T. C. Love

Private Sol Labenburg

Private Alex Lynn

Private Hosen McMurry

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne County, Miss., War 1861-1865, pages 25-29--compiled by F. H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:

Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S. T. Hamilton

Civil War

Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Claiborne Volunteers (cont.)

Private David Carder
Private Geo. S. Clark
Private John Collins
Private Patrick Devlin-Hospital Corps
Private James S. Mason, Jr.
Private Jacob Osteen
Private Samuel J. Osborne
Private P. M. Perkins
Private F. M. Price
Private James Powell
Private William Powell
Private C. K. Flowers
Private Frank H. Foote
Private C. L. Garrison
Private Jesse C. Hays
Private Perdue Holt
" W.F.J. Smith
" Thomas Sprague
" W. T. Adams
" Lemuel Alford
" L. E. Siddon
" James Siddon
" J. R. Stuckey
" Geo. W. Stampley

Private Charles McDougal
Private M. S. Manix
Private J.T.B. Morrison
Private C.B. Mitchell-Hosp.detail
Private John R. Dean
Private Josiah W. Elliott
Private Samuel Fisher
Private Frank Francis
Private M. M. Franceway
Private Charles Foster
Private William Rier
Private Cleave Rowan
Private T. P. Ray
Private E. J. Rickhow
Private Edward Rogillio
Private Moses Backman
Corp. Wm. Adair
" John Ely
Private. A. Sackett
" W. J. Seamen
" H. T. Adams
" George Burford
" John E. Butler
" Wm. Burns





Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

Claiborne Volunteers (cont.)

Private L. S. Thompson
" P. S. Throckmorton
" C. L. Whitney
" Edward Watson
" H. C. Wave
" John Winters
" Samuel Winters
" John J. Walls

Private James Baker
" Joseph Baker
" Wm. Baker
" W. D. Boren
" Wm. Beard
" Henry Boggs
" David Blevins
" David Buckley

Van Dorn Guards-Co. B. 38th Regiment Army of Miss. (1)

Capt. R. C. McCay-Promoted Major
Lieut. John J. Harper
" Wm. L. Faulk
" Irwin Harrington
Sergt. S. F. Smith-Promoted 2nd Lieut.
" C. D. Lum- Orderly
" Milton Payne
" Alex Cameron
" John Kelly
Corp. I. N. Rush

Private _____Browder
" Emerson Brooks
" Levi Crow
" James Crow
" John Crow
" Joseph Crow
" Lyman A. Campbell
" John Cunningham
" Wm. Clevish
" M. R. Clements

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, pages 50-54--compiled by F. H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

Van Dorn Guards (continued)

Corp. John McDevitt

Private James Dixon
" Bev Dixon
" H. C. Drexler
" James Duval
" Will Dickerson
" James Dean
" Thomas Dean
" Wm. Dean
" H. Dowdy
" J. Ellison
" Edward Evans
" Will Ely
" Wm. Ewell
" Theodore Etsdorf
" Richard Flowers
" O. L. Flowers
" Armstrong Flowers
" C. L. Farris-promoted Sergt.
" J. G. Goza -- " "
" C.C. Goza-Regimental Color Sergt.
" James Green
" Robert Houston
" B. N. Head

Private Seaborn Jones
" R. A. Jobe
" Dav
" David Jobe
" James Jeter
" Henry Jordan
" Wash. Jones
" Thomas Kemp
" Mid Kelly
" Gus Leonard
" Leslie Leonard
" Gardner Linden
" Sylvester Lum
" B.B. Litchfield
" J.F. Lanstrop
" Larry McCabe
" Joe McFatter
" M.V. Middleton
" Seaman Newman
" T. A. Nuson
" Pat O'Muella
" G. M. Powers
" T. L. Rush
" John Rogillio

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Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (continued

Van Dorn Guards (continued)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Private | James Hamilton | Private | Louis Shelton |
| " | Harrison Irby | " | George Scott |
| " | Frank Jones | " | B. A. Jones |
| " | S.P. Sorrells | " | "Doc"Shannon |
| " | David Segrist | " | John Siddon |
| " | Louis Segrist | " | J.Henry Shannon |
| " | "Lige" Short | " | Jeff Tanksly |
| " | John A. Thornton | " | J.W. Thornton |
| " | James Wright | " | "Tap" Williams |
| " | J. T. Williams | " | Oscar Wilson |
| " | W. A. Wilson | " | John Wells |
| " | Jake Winkler | " | Ben Winkler |
| " | ____ Winters | | |

Claiborne Light Infantry- later mounted (1)

Independant at Port Hudson, later C. A 24th Cav. Bat'n. Army Miss.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Capt. and Major-----A.J. Lewis | | Lieut. | C.L. Barrot |
| Lieut. | W.T. Jefferies | " | W.B. Fulkerson |
| Sergt. | Robt. M. Hastings | Sergt. | G.W. Sevier |
| " | J.K. Reed | Ord'ly | L.W. Bisharoon |
| Corp. | Z.B.Butler,later Sergt. | " | B.F. Booth |
| " | T.B. Gay | " | W.B. Parks |
| " | David Walters | Corp. | B. Williams |
| ". | T.J. Bridewell | " | W.B. McClean |

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co.,Miss. War 1861-1865 Pages 35-39 compiled by F.H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Claiborne Light Infantry (cont.)

Corp. Joseph Lee
Private O. F. Ashton
" E.N. Butler
" I. G. Burke
" H.C. Baldwin
" Chester A. Bridewell
" John Linden
" Emerson Brooks
" John W. Clark
" H. R. Englemore
" M.Flakerty (some say "Pat")
" John Fuget
" Bass Fife
" Wm. Fife
" Wm. Foster
" J. Frank Foster
" Wallace Foster
" R. F. Gordon
" Larry Grant
" Samuel Milliken
" T. Marshal Miller
" A. P. Miller
" Nick Miller
" Henry Myer

Private _____Antoni
" E.Charles Bobo
" David Bond
" Evan Barland
" T.J. Brown
" W.A. Bridewell
" Richard Loury
" John Lutz
" Wm. Lupro
" Alex Lupro
" Fred Laugenbucher
" John Lischer
" ____McDimmit
" ____McNamara
" Charles N. McCardle
" ____McDaniel
" Patrick McManns
" Dr. W.C. McCaleb-Promoted Asst.Surgeon
" LarryGoelzer
" Alex Hutchinson
" T. Sid Hawkins
" Richard Hudson
" _____Hynum
" B. Harwood





Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

Claiborne Light Infantry (cont.)

Private Thomas Jones
" W. S. Jones
" W. H. Jones
" Nat Jefferies
" Paul Kohler
" Patrick Kelledy
" Frank Lowe
" T.Y. Richmond
" Robt. K. Shreve
" S. Suffle
" W.F. Turnipseed
" Ned Trim
" Bud Trim
" J.H. Vaughn
" L.H. Wilkenson
" Joseph Walters
" M. Welsch

Private Sam Nuson
" Samuel Orr
" F.U. Parramore
" John B. Rockhold
" Thomas Roberts
" Henry Reeder
" Joseph A. Rankin
" Elisha Robbins
" Albert Sager
" N.C. Smith
" E.J. Smith
" John A. Smith
" B.W. Scarborough
" J.M. Sandusky
" Joseph Solari
" N.C. Sigal
" J.M. Wilson

Magruder's Partisan Rangers, Co. A. Wilbourne Batt'n (1)

Co. C. 4th Miss. Cav. Regt. Army of Miss.

Capt. J. M. Magruder
Lieut. Wm. M. Martin(Capt.killed-Promoted as Capt.)
" C. E. Buck-Promoted Capt.

Private Wm. Crawford
" Levi Crow
" Geo. Darden

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, pages 47-52, compiled by F.H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Magruder's Partisan Rangers (cont.)

Lieut. Dan B. Humphries
" James P. Parker
Sergt. John Weeks-Orderly
" Abe Archer
" John A. Cato
" T. G. Spindle
" M. McC. Martin
Corp. Alonzo Crawford
" Charles Reeves
" Isaac Reeves
Private Stephen Archer
" L. John Butler-Promoted Lieut. of Engineers of Gens.French,Polk and Forrest
" R.W. Bethea
" Sampson Bridgers
" C.H. (Paul) Barrot
" Walter Broughton
" Amos Burnet
" Calvin Chambliss
" Nat Jefferies
" Thomas H. Jones
" Wm.S. Jonoy
" Henry Lauder
" D.V. McAlpin
Private Wm. Dunnigan
" John S. Daniels
" Geo. English
" Isaac Fife
" Daniel Foley
" C.W. Foster
" J.M. Frankinbush
" D.B. Genasci
" Hames Russell Gage
" Samson B. Humphreys
" D. Geo. Humphreys-later Sergt-Major
" David Humphreys (known as D)
" W.P. Humphreys
" Thomas Holiday
" Wm.Hughes-Ordnance Sergt.
" Mose Higgins
" W.H.B. Healy
" W.H. Russum
" J. J. Russum
" John Rhinebold
" Charles Routh
" Curtis Ritchie
" Henry Segrist





Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Magruder's Partisan Rangers (cont.)

Private H.F. McPhail (or James)
" Wm. McCaleb-Surgeon of Div.
" Peter McFarland
" David McCaa
" J.F.McCaleb-15 yrs.when enlisted
" John McRea
" J.D. Magruder
" John T. Morrison
" James R. Moore
" Italy Nesmith
" Daniel O'Neil
" John Powel
" Bennie Potts
Private Thomas Segrist
" Stephen Van Voris
" Wm. A. Walker
" David T. Weeks
" W.F. Worsham
" S.C. Montgomery
" Ed. B. Moore
" C.Henry Martin
" B.H. Morehead-Adjutant
" S.J. Osborne
" Isaac W. Pipes
" Perry A. Parks
" Frank Patterson

---

McLean's Company-Co.D.4th Miss. Cavalry Regiment (1)

Army of Miss. and Tenn.

Col. Henry Hughes organized this company and was Captain-Died in 1862

Capt. Geo. P. McLean
Lieut. John R. Harring
Sergt. Charles Aby
" Theo M. Warrell
Private Wm.Ewell
" Aleck Emerick
" Hiram Fisher
" Josiah D. Flowers

---

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co.,Miss. War 1861-1865, pages 53-57-compiled by F.H. Foote

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

McLean's Company (cont.)

Sergt. Wm. H. McCardle
Corp. John Calvert
Private Richard Adair
" Noah Anderson
" Pat H. Brown
" John Brown
" Henry Bradford
" C. Ralston Byrnes
" Geo. W. Barrett
" Wm. Boyd
" Samuel Bagnell
" James Cook
" Wm. Cook-Corporal
" Wm. Carter
" Wm. Cooper
" James P. Clarke
" Wm. Daniels
" J. Broten
" Henry Womack, Sr.
" Henry Womack, Jr.
" James Warner
" H. Weotah
" Wm. Young
" John T. Patterson
Private Otto Geiger
" Hal H. Goings
" Gus Gillette
" Glascoe
" Joseph Greeb
" Joel Greeb
" Evan W. Griffith
" Louis Holt
" Orlando F. Harris
" John J. Harper
" John B. Harvey
" Erastus W. Lum
" Geo. B. Lemons
" Ed. M. Long
" Wm. C. Long
" Geo. W. Long
" Wm. B. McLean
" James McCoy
" Dan M. Martin
" Wyatt Mathews
" Joseph L. Maganos
" W. Parkhill
" James H. Patterson
" James H. Pipes

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Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

McLean's Company (cont.)

Private Isaac H. Pipes
" James Prater
" Wm. Puckett
" "Buck" Reed
" T.Y. Richmond
" Avaters Shields
" James Taylor
" Wm. Thornton
Private Charles E. Parker
" Uriah B. Powers
" Perry Parks
" Thomas Rundell
" James P. Sisson
" Wm. R. Sugg
" Preston Turner
" _____Tier

---

Davenport's Cavalry Company, Co. D, 24th Miss. (1)

Cav. Battalion: Co.F. Moorman's Battalion

Capt. J.W. Davenport
Lieut. Scott W. Russum
" H.E. Shelby Jefferies
" Joseph N. Brashear
Sergt. G.W. McGinnis also Sergt-Major
" John J. Russum
" S.C. Montgomery
" Ben Kimke
" James D. Wood (commissary
Privates: Elijah J. Foster
Joseph Hite
Samuel Harris
John Harold
Nat Jefferies
Arch Lemons
Daniel Lemons
Richard Loury
Richard McGee

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1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, pages 58-61, compiled by F.H. Foote

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Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Davenport's Cavalry Company (cont.)

Privates: John Moore
Aleck Owens
John Peoples
Thomas Barland
Stewart Ballou
_____ Bradshaw
Sylvanus Collier
Jessie Cooper
John W. Clark
H.C. Drexler
E.J. Davenport
E.Shelby Davenport
John Davenport
Robert K. Shreve
Berry Thompson
G.W. Wheeless
John P. Wilson

Privates: D.C. Perkins
J.W. Andrews
Henry Porter
Alex Roberts
Andrew Richards
Benjamin Richards
C.W. Russum
Thomas Russum
Geo. Stevens
F.Marion Stevens
Wallace Stevens
J.Oscar Stevens
Richard Scott
Charles Shreve
James Williams
Wm.W. Winters

---

(1)
Warren and Claiborne Guards, Company F, later I. Wirt Adams Cavalry Regiment-Enlisted Jointly in Warren and Claiborne Counties. Army of Tenn. and Miss.

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1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865, pages 62-68--compiled by F.H. Foote



Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Warren and Claiborne Guards (cont.)

Lieut. A.J. Carhahan promoted Captain
Lieut. Russ W. McLean
" Geo. P. McLean
" John R. Harring
Sergt. D.H. McIntyre
Corp. G.F. Camp
Privates: J.H. Anderson
Hiram T. Adams
R.B. Brown
W.E. Brown
J.W. Berberet
Samuel Boyd
O.E. Brien
Wm. Boyd
Wm. Cooper-Sergt.
J.E. Skinner
S.B. Hatcher
Peter Hennessey
Jacob Hunter
Richard Ingram
Wm. Laughlin, Adjutant
James Little
James Ladell
H. B. Lewis

Privates: W.L. Cooper
S.J. Cooper
Wm. Deaton
E.G.Elton or Eaton
S.M.Favor-later Sergt.
Joseph Graff
Wm. Garland
Wm. Greer
T.J. Hutchins
Wirt Hutchins
Richard T.Hutchins
(Judge)John T. Hutchins
L. L. Hudson
J. J. Hudson
Robt. Hall
Morris Skinner
C.F. Stiles
W.H. Stead
D.C. Sims
F.Steve Smith
A.Gus Stampley
Lee Stevens
Lee A. Thompson
Thodan Thompson

Civil War

Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

Warren and Claiborne Guards (cont.)

Privates: W.H. Land
John Lavally
Geo. A. Lake
John B. McCaleb
F.S. Mattison
W.A. Poreau (or Perrin)
T.O. Payne-Sergt.
A.L. Price
Geo. Richard
Geo. Reed
Wm. Reynolds
Isaac(Buck) Smith

Privates: J.W. Turner-Lieut
J.P. Wilkerson
Joshua Wilkerson
A. Wilmuth
Wm. Watts
J.J. Woll
L. Wright
James Waller
Wm. Walker
G.P. Reynolds
H.P. Ridge
B.C. Simmons

---

(1)

Abbay's Battery-Company K: 1st Miss. Light Artillery
Army of Miss.

Capt. Geo. F. Abbay
Lieut. Wm. A. Green
" Wm. H. Buck
" John R. Davis
" Sid M. Abbay

Privates: Henry Sevier-gunner
James Ballou-teamster
Moses Brock
J.C. Clements
"Judge" Capers

---

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. War 1861-1865 ,pages 40-46--compiled by F.H. Foote





Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Abbay's Battery (cont.)

Sergts: Pat McCabe-Orderly
A.K. Shaifer-gunner
H.S. Wheeless
A.J. Spring
John N. Girault
W.D. Bean-Quartermaster,also Corp.
Joseph Clark-gunner

Privates: Henry Hartley-teamster
Jasper Hynum
A.H. Horner
J.W. Henry
H. Hammerscam
James Irving
Prentiss Ingraham-Cadet Lieut. C.S.N. attached
A.E. Ingram
W.T. Jefferies
Thomas Kavanaugh
Walter McDougal
H.T. McGuyard
Rush McClutchie
Robt. McCluthie
E.V. Miller, Cadet Lieut.C.S. Navy attached
A.N. Marchalk

Privates: Wm. Day-Bugler
H.T. Ellett, Jr.-Cadet Lieut. C.S. Navy attached
Crocket Foster
G.C. Gradick
J.W. Gradick
Louis Gobb
M.A. Girault
Jack Roan
Wm. Reardon
Robt. Scott
Geo. Scott
Alex Stampley
G.W.(?) Sevier
David Sink
Sam M. Thomas
John T. Worsham
W.F. Worsham
Louis White
D.Boone Westrope
John B. Winters
W.A. Wells
T.U. Miller
Barney Moreland

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Hausson

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Abbay's Battery (cont.)

Privates: Frank Mayberry
James P. Parker
Mel M. Perkins
J.C. Quinby

Privates: G.W. Hausson-Color Sergt
A. Perry Parks
Henry Person
A.M. Quinby

---

"Claiborne Soldiers who served in commands not organized in Claiborne County;" (1)

Major Gen. Earl Van Dorn: Division Commander in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi; Assimilated at Springfield, Tennessee, 1864.

---

Twenty-First Miss. A.N.Va.

Capt. Colonel-Brig.Gen. B.G. Humphreys-wounded in Virginia and at Knoxville, Tenn.

Adjutant James M. Kennard, promoted as Lieut.Col. of Ordnance Department army of Tenn.

Capt James F.Maury, Staff of Gen. Humphreys; captured and exchanged.

Lieut. Edward Archer, killed July 1, 1862.

Lieut.Henry G.Bridewell

T. S. Gibson, Surgeon

Privates: W.K. Kennard, Sampson Humphreys, James Ragsdale, Frank Raglan, W.H. Moore, Will Moreland, J.W. Thompson, J.W. Beaty.

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Thirty-Sixth Miss., Army of Miss. and Tenn.

Lieut. Eugene D.Jones-served in Brown's Battery: also ~~Lieut. Eugene D.~~

1. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co., Miss. ~~for 1861-1862,~~ Compiled by F.H. Foote

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

Claiborne Soldiers who served in commands not organized in Claiborne County: (cont.)

Lieut. Frank Garrison Killed 1863.

Privates: Dr. Dudley W. Jones — Dr. _____Patterson
Dr. Z. Y. Scott — John Darden
D. B. Turnipseed — J.P. Wilson. W.P. Colon
Robert Greenlee — James R. Moore
Wm. Daugherty — James Boyce
Julian Halbert — J.D. Wilson
Peter Hedrick — J.D. Beard

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Moody's Battery, "Madison T'ps" La. A.N.Va.

Captain G. V. Moody promoted Lieut-Col. or Major

Lieut. Geo. F. Abbay, resigned and raised a company

Lieut. James P. Sillers, Sergeant High T. Adams, T. A. Adams, Robert Watt.

---

Cowan's Battery, Warren County
Army of Miss. and Tenn.

Sergt. Joe R. Willis — James G. Spencer
Horatio N. Spencer — T. D. Willis
John Neely — San Neely
Joe C. Jones — Wm. C. Butler-died
Eugter McDougal — Gabe West
Ben T. West, Capt. and A.D.C. Staff of Gen. Dockery, Ark. Brigade
Sergt. J.W. Conklin — Sergt. Thomas Miller

Claiborne County

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Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Measson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont)

Claiborne Soldiers in Other Commands (cont.)

Owen's Scouts-Army of Miss. Powers Regiment.

Organized in 1863 at Clinton, La. Enlisted men from Claiborne, Jefferson, Copiah and Hinds Counties.

Capt. R. A. Owen

Lieut. R. T. Owen, detached from Co. K, 12th Miss.

Lieut. ? L. S. Dicharcon

Privates: J.C. Bertron
C.M. Barrot
D. B. Benasci-Detached from Magruder's Co.
E. B. Moore
J. H. Patterson
T. Y. Richmond
E. P. Briscoe
J. H. Vaughn
Wm. Young
J. P. Briscoe
Charlie Boothe
Joseph Lee
J. T. Patterson
Wm. W. Winters
Wm. Daugherty
J. W. Thompson

---

Harrison's La. Cavalry, Army of Tenn.- Trans. Miss.

Sergt.-Major Leigh Briscoe, killed 1861 Denmark, Tenn.

Elijah Conklin
Archie Bland
Edgar Griffing
"Tony" Muir
Frank Griffing

---

In Other Louisiana Commands

Charles Aby, Dreaux's Battalion. A.N.Va., Sergt.Co. D. 4th Miss. Cav.

Sam H. Aby " " ; also Lieut. of state troops.

Theodore Worrell " " ; also Sergt. Co. D 4th Miss. Cav.

Byran Hulbert, Orleans Cadets. Escort. Gen. Polk

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Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Conversers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Claiborne Soldiers in Other Commands (cont)

Robert Hodge, 14th La. Regiment.

Capt. Wm. B. Murdoch, Staff of Gen. Hebert

Lieut. John Murdoch, Staff--; also Harvey's Scouts.

Saxon Fife, 14th Louisiana Artillery.

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Louisiana

L. D. Suggs; also Scott's Cav. La.

Sam H. Mackey; cavalry

Chas. E. Mackey "

John Peoples; cavalry

Prentiss Ingraham; "

Lieut. Aaron Vertner, Lake Providence Cadets, Killed 1862.

Lieut. Edward Coleman, 4th La. Battalion. Georgia dept.

Lieut. "Pet Stowers " " " " "

Wm. Moreland " " " " "

Joseph E. Barret . 17th " Regiment Miss. and trans. do.

---

Tenner's Battery

James W. Person

John D. Renard

Wm. M. Renard

Ned Holden, La. regt.

---

Capt. S. Marshal Spencer of Cobb's Kentucky and Miss. Battery
Army of Tenn.

Lieut.-Col. Selden Spencer, Chief of Artillery of French's Division
Army of Tenn.

Major L.O. Bridewell, Quartermaster Department of Georgia

Marcus Bernheimer, Georgia Cadets and Q.M. Department

Lieut.Col.Charles A. Bridewell, Ark.

Lieut. L John Butler, Engineer Corps of Staff of Gen's. French and
Forrest, Army of Tennessee.

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Claiborne Soldiers in Other Commands (cont.)

Virginia

Capt. Wm. Denny, Quarter Master 2nd Texas-killed May 5, 1862

Capt. F.C. Englesing, Subsistence Depart. Miss.

Capt. Ed Kearney, Staff of Gen. Beauregard

Capt. Rufus Shoemaker " " "

Capt. James E. Martin, Co. I 2nd Miss. Battalion A.N.Va.
Killed Sept. 17, 1862

Capt. Caleb Lobdell, Co. H. 1st Miss. Cav.

Major W.H. McCardle- Staff

Robert Scott, Co. D. 12th Miss. A.N.Va.

Sergt. E. B. Hoopes, reinlisted in Jackson's Co. 10th regt.

Lieut. W.H. Shroeder, reinlisted in another Co. D. 10th "

Sergt. Barney McCabe " " " " ", Killed Sept.20,1863

Lieut. Charley F. Conklin, joined Brandon Co.D. Killed

Ed Conklin, 22nd regiment Army of Tenn.

Capt. E.Bryant Willis, Raines' Cav. and commanded a company from Attala County.

Capt. F.O. Claiborne, Maryland Artillery. Killed in Vicksburg 1863.

A.J. Fife, Seven Star's Artillery, Copiah Co.

W.R. Trim " " " " "

Ferris A. Fife " " " " "

John W. Thompson, C.S.A. telegraph operator

C.D. Wharton, 3 month hospital service, 1865

Chamblis Calhoun---------Clem Davis----------O.T. Howard

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

III. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)
(a) Records and Exploits

"The achievements of Mississippi soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia may be read in the story of every hard fought field from Manassas to Appomattox. It was the devotion and courage of the soldiery from the Magnolia State that enabled "Stonewall" Jackson, J.E.B. Stuart, John B. Hood, William Barksdale, Benjamin G. Humphreys, Winfield S. Featherston, John M. Stone, and Carnot Posey to achieve military fame. These tropps were with Jackson in his great campaign in the valley of the Shenandoah, they led the advance in his rout of the Union army at Chancellorsville and they held the entire force of the enemy at bay at Fredericksburg. At the "Bloody Angle" of the Spottsylvania line, where some of the most terrific fighting of the war was done, they saved the day for Robert E. Lee. They were with Pickett at Gettysburg and with Longstreet at Chickamauga and Knoxville, and heroically went to death at the Crater and Fort Gregg. After the terrible days in the trenches at Petersburg, they marched with Lee to Appomattox and begged to the last to be led against the enemy. They fought and endured as much as any in the armies, and when the war was over returned to their homes not as a demoralized horde but ready and willing to engage in the restoration of the stricken South, a stupendous task in which they were triumphant. The Mississippi Soldiers enlisted in the Army of Tennessee were not surpassed in gallantry and devotion by those of any other army in the service of the Confederate States. At Shiloh, Franklin, Chickamauga, Atlanta, and Vicksburg they displayed the same patriotism and valor that marked the service of their brothers in the Army of Northern Virginia, and under Johnston, Bragg and

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

111. Names of Enlisted Men (cont)

(a) Records and Exploits (cont.)

Hood sustained the cause of the Confederacy with the like heroism and fortitude that characterized the soldiers of Lee, Jackson, and Stuart. The Army of Tennessee developed such illustrious Mississ-ippi commanders as E.C. Walthall, Earl Van Dorn, James R.Chalmers and M.P. Lowrey."(1)

Court House records show that Claiborne County soldiers other than Earl Van Dorn and Benjamin G. Humphreys served in the Army of North Virginia and in the Army of Tennessee, taking part in the a-chievements mentioned above.(2)

(b) 155th Regiment

A careful search for mention of Claiborne County in the histo-ry of the 155th Regiment (formerly First Miss.) reveals only a nota-tion that B. F. Hynum of Claiborne County, after the disbanding of the Port Gibson Rifles of which he was a member, reinlisted in the First Mississippi Regiment.(3)

IV. LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Copy of a letter to Thomas Freeland, Rodney, Miss. from H.C. Warmoth, New Orleans, La. Aug. 2, 1871:

"Executive Department

State of Louisiana

New Orleans, Aug. 2d, 1871"

"Dear Sir:-

1. Heart of the South, Vol.1, page 840---Dunbar Rowland
2. Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne Co.,Miss. F.H. Foote
3. " " " " "

Civil War

IV. Letters From the Front (cont.)

"Your letter of the 28th July 1871 is just received.

"I remember the beautiful little mare I gobbled from you in our campaign against Vicksburg in the spring of '63 - and I remember "little Tommy" I believe we called him, his large eyes and surprise when I rode her over to his mother's house. Tommy had become very friendly with me and I think it hurt him to see that I had plundered his uncle of his splendid mare. I rode her until I was wounded at Vicksburg when I turned her over to the Quarter Master and had his promise that he would keep her for me until I returned, when he could have her appraised and I would byy her of the govment. I was greived when I did return to find that one of the Q.M. clerks had ridden her to Jackson with Genl Sherman's army, & had ruined her. I am told she was of no more service after that campaign.

"I said to Major Banks that I would be glad to see you and that I had no doubt you had suffered severly by the war & that I would reimburse you for the mare for she was worth a good deal to me the ten days I rode her.

"I will be glad to see you when you come to the city and gladly contribute what you think she was worth.

Yours Very Respectfully,

H. C. Warmoth " (1)

Thomas Freeland, Esq.

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Copy of another letter to Thomas Freeland from W.C. Warmoth, Dec.22d, 1871.

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1. Letter now in possession of Mrs. Hannah Freeland, Port Gibson, Miss.

Assignment Five Canvassers:

Miss Mary Neeson
Mrs. S. T. Hamilton

Civil War

IV. Letters from the Front (cont.)

"Executive Department

State of Louisiana

New Orleans, Dec. 22d, 1871

"My Dear Sir:

I take pleasure in enclosing you a check for Three Hundred Dollars, in payment of "One Horse gobbled by me during the war." I had her 20 days, when I turned her over to the Q.M. & he soon ruined her by letting his clerks ride her.

I will be pleased to see you if you ever find it convenient to call on me when you are in the city.

Yours Very Truly,

H. C. Warmoth (1)

Copy

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1. Letter now in possession of Mrs. Hannah Freeland of Port Gibson, Miss.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

IV. Letters from the Front and from War Prisons

The following article from a local paper,[1] while it does not come strictly under the heading above, is still such an interesting and colorful bit of local history that we submit it for your consideration: together with the letter from Mrs. Z. B. Allen[2] written in answer to it.

"Quite Fishy"

"Is the Story Told by a So Called Federal General!

"A Bit of Unrecorded History That Isn't True."

"The following article is taken from a Washington paper:

"I was mixed up in one little unrecorded event of the Civil War; said General B., 'that was interesting from its very unusualness, and which as I look back upon it, seems strangely picturesque. We were attached to what was known as the Marine Brigades, a little fleet of twelve 'tin clad' river steamboats that plied up and down the Mississippi after the surrender of Vicksburg. The term 'tin clad;' by the way, is somewhat misleading, as it is not remotely connected with the white matal but signifies rather boats heavily planked with oak for the purpose of protecting them somewhat from the ravages of bullets.

'One day our little battalion of four companies was ordered to steam down the river, disembark at Rodney, march to Port Gibson, and there consult sealed orders in regard to further proceedings. Imagine

#1. "Port Gibson Reveille" - June 15, 1899
1. Letter in possession of Mrs. Marian B. Person of Port Gibson.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

Letters from the Front and from War Prisons (cont.)

our surprise upon reading the instruction to find that we were expected to capture and carry back to Vicksburg as prisoners fifty of the most aristocratic confederate young women in the city. However we had served long enough to obey orders without question, and provided with guides familiar with the town, we set about our bizarre and not too agreeable task. We first established headquarters at the residence of a prominent confederate judge.

'Then different squads were sent out to call at the houses of the young women and escort them to the place of rendezvous. The instructions were that they must report at headquarters within two hours on penalty of their family residence being burned to the ground. The only information we could give them (the whole transaction was as much a mystery to us as to them) was that they were to be taken to Vicksburg as prisoners of war, but were on no account to suffer any discomfort or indignity.

'Of course, there was great weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth from tender mothers, loving sisters, and irate fathers and brothers. But the incident had to be accepted as belonging to the fortunes of war, and at the end of two hours forty-nine of the fifty, attended by anxious friends and relatives, were at the rendezvous. Mercy was implored for the one delinquent. An additional hour was granted, and at their own suggestion several of the young women were dispatched to her home to persuade her to follow their example in gracefully submit-

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (cont.)

Letters from the Front and from War Prisons (cont.)

ting to the inevitable. The result was that before the hour was up the last fair prisoner put in an appearance though in a very defiant mood.

Our troubles, however, by no means onded here. Indeed, they were hardly fairly begun. The next question was how to transport our beautiful captives to Rodney, a distance of some miles, over roads that were in frightful condition from the devantations of war and consequent neglect. All the good horses, too, like all the good men, were off to the war and as for carriages, they had most decidedly fallen into a state of innocuous desuetude. There was obviously nothing for us to do, therefore, but to gather together all the broken-down old horses and dilapidated vehicles in the vicinity, which we somehow managed to hitch together with plow harnesses, bits of rope, straps, etc. With these improvised coaches crawn up into line, began the process of loading on our victims; and when they were all stowed away, it was a motley looking procession, I can assure you. Even the sound of farewell and the sight of weeping eyes could not blind us to the humorous aspect of the scene. You must remember that we were all pretty young fellows in '63. The Civil War was fought by men whose average age was only twenty-three. Well, we made our way slowly, amid tears and laughter, to Rodney, where we embarked for Vicksburg. Upon arriving here the young women were taken before the provost marshal, who put them on parole, confining them to the limits of the

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Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (cont.)

IV. Letters from the Front and from War Prisons

town. Most of them had friends in town with whom they chose to remain, and suitable quarters were found for the rest.

The reason for the whole transaction then transpired. It seemed that some Northern young women school teachers had been taken prisoners by the Confederates and were at that moment in their camps, where they were forced to wash and mend for the soldiers and perform other menial services. These confederate young women were therefore to be held as hostages until the Northern womennwere released.

There was little delay in the exchange and we had our fair visitors in Vicksburg only thirty-days. They were, however, delightful days. Yankee officers and Confederate maidens intermingled socially, and the acquaintance so rudely forced upon the beautiful Southerners proved in some instances a mutual pleasure. I could, indeed, point to more than one romantic marriage that was the direct outcome of our raid upon Port Gibson.'

This writer,who chooses to call himself Gen. B., undoubtedly sails under a nominal title for no officer is likely to give his imagination so much play. There is about as much truth in the statement that fifty young ladies were held as hostages as there is in the absurd falsehood that Northern school teachers were required to do menial service for Confederate soldiers. The facts, as given by the old residents of Port Gibson are these. A few old men and two or





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Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (cont.)

IV. Letters from the Front and from War Prisons (cont.)

three middle aged ladies were taken to Vicksburg and held a short time as hostages; but, so far as we can learn, not a single young lady was arrested. The General found himself compelled to justify such an arrest, so he winds up his fairy tale by telling something that was never known in the South until this self constituted "General" saw proper to enlighten us.'"

"Just such cranks as the writer of the above article keep alive the smouldering fire of sectional hatred."

---

Below is the letter in reply to the above article. The "Globe-Democrat" is, we presume, the Washington paper referred to by the editor of the"Reveille":

Port Gibson, Miss.,
June 15, 1899.

"Mr. Marcus Bernheimer,
St. Louis, Mo.

"Dear Friend Marcus:-

- In reply to slip, or clipping, from the "Globe-Democrat" of June 4 inclosed to your brother J., I wish to state that you are mistaken about it "all" being a falsehood. I being the only one of those "Fair prisoners of war" living, feel that I must set the newspapers straight on this one subject, trusting that you, a Southern man, and

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (cont.)

LV. Letters from the Front and from War Prisons (cont.)

a lover of all Southerners, will see that my statements, corrections, etc. are given to the public.

"Before I answer this article, I must say I do not remember this "Gen. B." spoken of, nor do I know who this writer is who signs herself "Delia T. Davis" or I would address my communication to her or him.

"Then again, Mrs. G. Fulkerson, President of our C.Co. "Daughters of Confoderacy" has asked me to assist her in giving a true statement to the world. I shall give her the names, dates, and a few facts of the event, she is to write the article. I do not know when or where it will be published.

"I do not request the publishing of this letter to you, unless you think best.

"I am sorry to say, we Southern people are always misrepresented when "written up" by Yankees/

"The 'unrecorded and amusing' event of the Civil War related by Gen. B. published in many papers recently, signed "Delia T. Davis", might have been to the thriving, desolating men of "Elletts Marines" quite a joke, but to us (who lived in the small town of Port Gibson, Claiborne Co., Miss.) it was a sad reality! ! !

"We knew not the hour or day of their coming, and when the cry

a "lover of all Southerners"

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (cont.)

IV. Letters from the Front and from War Prisoners (cont.)

came 'The Yankees are coming", it caused a stampede even from prayer-meeting or divine service! We knew,if we did not get to our homes before the raiders did, we would not have one comfort left in our homes, which had already been stripped of every movable article when Grant's Army came through on its march to Vicksburg, the day after the Battle of Port Gibson May 1863.

Some of us had our bare houses left us, no fences, no animals, no chickens, turkeys, fowl of any kind, and scarcely a pet rat left in town! All of our business was suspended, fathers, sons, husbands and brothers gone in the Army. No way to get any money unless we stole cotton and sold to the United States government, as some of our citizens did! No provisions, no growing crops, all such having been destroyed and fed to the Yankee horses, mules, and soldiers. We had only corn meal, corn meal parched for our coffee, and home made molasses.

So! When this eventful day came when four battalions of Ellett's Marines came to our town, we wondered what they wanted.. All day long the privacy of our homes was broken by visitations of rude, ill mannered soldiers, one of them had a real fight with our one remaining servant woman. He attempted to take all the milk we had; she fought for it as it was all she had.to feed her five small children on. She conquered, he left without any milk!(except on his uniform)

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Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (cont.)

IV. Letters from the Front and from War Prisons (cont.)

"Many of us were very saucy to them, ordering them out of our houses. So when the summons came at two o'clock in the morning for us 'to report at headquarters in an hour, or our homes would be burned', we could only guess it was because of our saucy tongues! For surely we knew there were no 'Yankee school marms' south of Mason and Dixon Line, since the first whiper of war went over the land.

----------( Page is missing here) ----------

and several widows of years ago, while only two young ladies were summoned beside myself. I regret to say I was the 'missing'one, the fiftieth, I believe, in his narrative.

"I was a young girl, very delicate, just recovering from a serious illness. It was almost certain death for me to venture out in the night air; my mother went to save our home. They did order me brought to headquarters but our friend, Mrs. L.N. Baldwin, at whose house they made headquarters, interceded in my behalf, telling the general, or major, that I was very delicate and just recovering from a serious illness, so he countermanded his order 'to bring her at all hazards'.

"It was all true, about the manner of transporting their 'fair aristocratic young prisoners' to Rodney where they were crowded onto a transport, taken to Vicksburg, marched up those hills in the middle of the streets under guard or 'escort of soldiers', put into a prison behind iron bars, kept there thirty days, fed on parched meal, coffee and wormy hard tack, no comfortable beds, not even a decent toilet





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Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (cont.)

IV. Letters from the Front and from War Prisons (cont.)

for our delicate mothers and fathers, turned out after thirty days, put on a transport, turned loose at the landing which was once the town of Grand Gulf, eight miles from home, no conveyance, no money, left to get to their homes as best they could. Did not even have the politeness to tell them why they had been so rudely treated.

"I have a picture of my mother, Mrs. E.E. Briscoe, and one of Mrs. Laura Bobo Gordon taken while in this prison in Vicksburg. But for the kindness of my old school mate and friend, Mrs. Charlie Wright of Vicksburg, my mother and others would have suffered for food and clothing. (Remember they were taken away without any packing of trunks or stachels even. It turned very cold while they were away, so it must have been in the Fall of the year, as far as I can remember.

"As for the 'romantic marriages' following this imprisonment, I am at a loss to remember them. As my mother died a widow in '91, Mrs. Henry died a widow, Mrs. Gordon married Long Berry, one of our noted scouts, and she died in Texas years ago. The only one of our P.G. girls who married a Yankee was Miss R. Coleman; she married Col.York after the war.

"My mother spoke of their talking to their guards and spoke of them as being very kind and sympathetic. These prisoners were forced to take the oath of allegiance to the U.S. government but were never allowed the freedom of the city, 'social intercourse' etc.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (cont.)

IV. Letters from the Front and from War Prisons (cont.)

"My brother John was a prisoner in V. at the same time. I was left at home with a ten year old brother, and but for the kindness of a Methodist minister, Mr. Booth, we would have been without even bread, while our mother was away! May I not venture to say 'there were others'?

"I must confess to being a very 'defiant' girl, for I refused to go with them, telling the second squad who came afterme that they would have to tie me hand and foot and carry me if they took me at all. Truth to tell, they hadn't time to waste on a refractory, unruly woman. They knew, at daylight our Cavalry boys would swoop down on them and recapture their prisoners, they had to hasten away, the town was not theirs to hold and never was.

"I would advise Gen. B. and his 'amused' friend, Delia T. Davis, to get a few reliable facts together before they attempt to write articles for publication. And what is more, may not some of us put in a claim for false imprisonment yet ?

"The 'sealed orders' must have been opened before reaching P.G. for Mr. Forbes and Mr. Dan Dohan, residents of the county, heard of the coming of 'the Marines', started for home out the Sims Road, crossed over to Rodney Road, and were captured several miles from town.

"Hoping I have not taxed your patience too severely, I remain

Truly your friend

Lucie Briscoe Allen (Mrs. Z.B. Allen

"( See what Reveille says!)"

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Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Civil War (continued)

IV. Letters from the Front and from War Prisons:-(cont.)

"Camp Poltus, Oct. 9, 1862

Adjutant's Office"

"My dear Annette:-

"I wrote you a letter a short time ago giving you a description of my trip to this hilly place, Mill Dale, but as I wrote you a short letter owing to our being so much confused and fatigued from our march from Vicksburg, I will occupy a short time by again writing you a short letter. However I have no news to write at present except the defeat of our army at Corinth last Sunday. -------the fight commenced on last Friday. We drove the enemy from every position, drove them into their entrenchments on Saturday night, but they were reinforced during the night and the result is we were badly whipped on Sunday losing 7000 men." (1)

---

"Camp near Silver Creek

"Dear Annette: July 20, 1864"

"We are camped 9 miles from Monticello on the east side of Pearl River. We are guarding Col. Dillon's ordinance train. I do not know how long we will stay here. You wrote me to send something home to plow. I do not want you to undertake to make anything for I am going to bring Nels with me in camp. The Yanks will have full control of that part of the country soon and they will let us make nothing. You spin and weave and that will keep

1. Extract from a letter now in possession of Mrs. C. D. ~~Brown~~ HOWARD of Port Gibson, daughter of "Annette".

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Subject: Wars Civil War (cont.)

IV. Letters from the Front (continued)

Nance busy. I have 2 fine horses but I am afraid to send one of them home for I know the Yanks will get it, so I think the best thing I can do is to keep Nels and the horses with me. Do the best you can until I come home the Captain is coming home in a day or two and as soon as he comes back, I will come home. I am sorry to hear that "----is so sick. I send 3 yds of calico to make me a fancy shirt puff the bosom. Do your best on it have it done when I get home.--- ----------

Yours truly

Frank." (1)

---

1. Extract of a letter now in possession of Mrs. C.D. Howard of Port Gibson, Miss., daughter of "Annette".

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Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Nansson
Mrs. S. T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

IV. Letters from the Front (continued)

Extracts from Diary of J. W. Nansson,(1) Veteran of the Civil War.

" July 1, 1863

Thank God we are not in the hands of the enemy yet. What if we do suffer a little? We will get doubly paid for it in the satisfaction of gaining our independence. This is what we are fighting for and what we will suffer in the extreme for. Brave hearts will accomplish it; our success is certain. "

"My heart aches for this part of the country. It will be left to the mercy of the enemy unprotected but thank high Heaven we are not whipt nor shall we give up this glorious contest untill our Southern Baner floats triumphantly over Southern States. Then and not till then will we say enough."

"I can say this much to the credit of the Yankees that they have treated us very much like gentlemen they have treated us well."

"July 16th, 1863

"We are doing pretty well. We suffer for the want of medical care. Dr. Baset is drunk most of the time he draws the wiskey for the sick and drinks it himself he came this morning to dress our wounds and he was so drunk that he could not do it. This is an outrage to humanity. We live pretty well, the federals are better to us than our own men this speaks well for them."

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56 1. Now in possession of his daughter, Miss Mary Nansson of Port Gibson.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

IV. Letters from the Front (continued)

Extracts from Diary of G. W. Naasson (continued)

"Sunday, 26th, 1863. Aboard the Yankee steamer Chessman on our way up the river."

"Monday 27th. I have fared better today as I came across some brother Yankee Masons from the state of Maine going home to their families they treated me like brothers they gave me crakers and tea, meat and bread."

"Mobile, Ala. Thursday 10th, 1865. Our company slept under the roof of the depot, and a good sleep it was, soldiers can sleep any where and make themselves at home in any place however hard the fare. I bought some bread this morning one dollar and a quarter per loaf four loaves for five dollars."

The following are prices quoted from the above diary:

"July, 1862. Provisions brought in."

1/2 bushel potatoes-------75 ¢

Bread ----------$1.50

Goose---------- 1.50

25 roasting ears------- .25

Vegetables---------- 2.75

20 fish ---------- 1.00

"May, 1864: 1 5/8 dozen eggs--------$8.00
12th 2 gal. molasses- 3.00
13th 4½ doz. eggs----- 7.00





State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

V. Interviews

(a) With Veterans

With Mr. Percy Shaifer

Mr. Shaifer was a small boy in 1861 living with his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. A.K. Shaifer in their country home, which happened to be directly on the road which Grant chose for his march from Bruinsburg to Port Gibson, this same location being also the scene of the famous Battle of Port Gibson on May 1, 1863.

While many of the events of the period have faded from his memory, Mr. Shaifer recalls some things told him by his father, one of these being the terror which seized his grandmother and mother on the night of April 30 when the Union soldiers surprised them just as they were ready to step into their carriage drawn by mules and waiting at the door steps. The Union soldiers were coming up the road in a column, evidently not expecting to meet the Confederates. Seeing the Shaifer house lighted upstairs and down, they thought it to be filled with soldiers. At about the same time, they were fired on by Confederates who were stationed near by in the woods. The Union men returned the fire with a volley, instantly killing the mules hitched to the carriage, whereupon the occupants of the carriage ran to the hollow back of the house and crept through the woods to the Wheeless home, where they spent the rest of the night, proceeding to Port Gibson the following morning.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

V. Interviews (a) With Mr. Persya Shaifer (continued

Mr. Shaifer points out the exact spots in the front yard where crude tables served as the only operating facilities. His father said to him: "Son, many a leg and arm were amputated in this yard and many a pitiful moan heard here."

He shows with pride to a portrait of his grandmother, which has never been moved from its place on the wall since the Battle of Port Gibson. Embedded in its frame is still a bullet from that battle, the wall back of the picture still showing the hole where it came through. Just opposite the portrait of his grandmother hangs one equally handsome of his grandfather, who was for many, many years sheriff of Claiborne County.

Union soldiers were nursed back to recovery in this home; and judging from the warm friendships formed with this family, they must have received some very tender care while there. On the mantel is a photograph of Union soldiers, bearing the inscription: "All survivors of the Battle of Port Gibson." These Union veterans wrote back to Mr. Shaifer for flowers from the battle field to wear at their reunion and in their photograph.

Mr. Shaifer states that his father was planning to build a large home when the war came on and shattered this plan forever, as he never overcame the ravages of war sufficiently to carry out such an ambitious undertaking. The present house is being preserved principally for sentimental reasons and to house the war relics mentioned in this inter-

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State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

V. Interviews (a) With Veterans (continued) With Mr. Shaifer (cont.)

view.

Here are being preserved several old bayonets and war weapons. The most unusual and interesting article in the house is the chair presented to Mr. A. M.Shaifer by his devoted Union friend, Mr. Dufner. On this chair, which Mr. Dufner constructed himself, he painted from memory the complete march of the Federal soldiers through the county, outlining it with tacks; and an accurate job he made of it, as those capable of judging say. On the back of this old chair, there is portrayed thus an telling picture of the Battle of Port Gibson, even old landmarks in their proper places, with the predominating color of green adding naturalness to the whole.

(b) With relatives of Veterans

With B.F. Hynum; son of B.F. Hynum, Civil War veteran

"My father, Mr. B.F. Hynum, was born at Shankstown, Miss. in 1842. He joined the Port Gibson Rifles in 1861 and was in the war until the surrender of Port Hudson.

"The soldiers were enlisted for a term of one year and after serving eight or ten months the company was disbanded. Some of the soldiers remained with Capt. McKeever and kept the name of Port Gib-

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton
Miss Mary Naasson

Subject: Wars

Civil War (cont.)

V. Interviews (b) With relatives of Veterans (continued)

son Rifles while others joined other companies. My father reenlisted in the First Mississippi Infantry, which afterward became the 155th.

"He was at Port Hudson when it surrendered after the fall of Vicksburg, and I have often heard him tell of an unfortunate incident which he witnessed here. The fighting had ceased,and a bugle sounded. There was a cry of "peace" from some of the soldiers but doubt expressed by others as to its reality. "Look out and see", said one soldier to another. "Do it yourself", was the reply. He complied and had his head blown off."





Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

VI. Brief History with War Record of Any Distinguished Individuals

Benjamin Brubb Humphreys (1)

"Benjamin Grubb Humphreys was born August 26, 1808, at the Hermitage, the family home on Bayou Pierre, in Claiborne County, Mississippi. His father was George Wilson Humphreys, son of Ralph and Agnes (Wilson) Humphreys. Ralph Humphreys was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution, and was descended from a family that came to America from the northern part of Ireland. He settled in the Natchez District at Grindstone Ford in 1788."

"On the death of his mother in 1817, he was sent to the home of his grandfather, Major David Smith of Christian County, Kentucky where he attended school during his childhod. In 1821 he was sent to a New Jersey school, where he remained until 1824. In 1825 he returned to Port Gibson, Miss., and secured employment as a clerk. In the same year, he received an appointment to West Point, and entered the class with Robert E. Lee. In 1827 he was dismissed from the Academy with a number of other students for a breach of discipline, after which he returned home and assisted his father in the management of his plantation. On March 15, 1832, he married Mary McLaughlin, daughter of Dougald McLaughlin, and made a plantatinn home on the Big Black River in Claiborne County. His wife died in 1835. In 1839 he represented Claiborne County in the lower house of the Legislature, as a Whig, and in the Senate, 1841-44. He married Mildred Hickman, daughter of J.H. Maury, of Port Gibson, Decem-

1. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908) pages 153-154

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

VI. Brief History with War Record of Any Distinguished Individuals (cont.)

Benjamin Humphreys (cont.)

ber 3, 1839. In 1846 he removed to Sunflower County and established his home on Roebuck Lake. From 1846 to 1861 he lived the life of a planter."

War Record:- " In 1861 hereorganized the Sunflower Guards, proceeded at once to Virginia and joined the Confederate Army. He was commissioned Captain May 18, 1861, and on September 11 was made Colonel of theTwenty-first Mississippi Regiment. After the death of General William Barksdale, at Gettysburg, he was promoted to Brigadier-General, and was commissioned August 14, 1863. He took an active part in all the great campaigns of the Army of Northern Virginia, giving gallant service until he was wounded at Berryville, Va., in September 1864. After hisrrecovery he was assigned in February, 1865, to duty in South Mississippi, where he served until the close of the war."

Earl Van Dorn

Christian Van Dorn, born 1699, Monmouth Co., N.J. (1)
Died Middlebush, Somerset Co.,N.J. July 20, 1781

Jacob Van Dorn (son of Christian), born 1724; married (1) Phoebe Van Deveer and (2) Jane Ditmar. Died 1811. (1)

1. "Family Tree of the Van Dorn Family" by Honeyman





Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

VI. Brief History With War Record of Any Distinguished Individuals(cont.)

Earl Van Dorn (cont.)

Aaron Van Dorn (son of Jacob) Born 1744, Died 1830. (1)

Married Ghacy Schenck

Peter A. Van Dorn (son of Aaron) Born at Peapack, N.J. Sept.1773 (1)
Died Feb. 2, 1837

Married second wife Aug. 18, 1811, Sophie Donaldson, whose mother was a sister of Mrs. Andrew Jackson.

Earl Van Dorn (son of Peter A.) Born Sept.17, 1820.

Earl Van Dorn was born in Port Gibson, Mississippi Sept. 17, 1820. "The blood of a noble Holland ancestry and patriot fathers of the American Revolution coursed through his veins, and he was destined to become an American warrior in more than one of the nation's battles, in Mexico, and in Texas against the savage Comanches, and in the War between the States.

"In his early youth he chose the profession of arms for his life work, and at the age of sixteen unprompted and unaided by an older head, addressed a letter to Ex-President Jackson, at the Hermitage in Tennessee, stating his desire to become a military man; and at length, after waiting several months, while sitting under a tree on the playground near Baltimore, feeling melancholy and homesick, the principal of the

1. Family Tree of the Van Dorn Family by Honeyman

Civil War

VI. Brief History With War Record of Distinguished Individualy(cont.)

Earl Van Dorn (cont.)

academy appeared holding up a large official envelope with a big official seal, and called for Earl Van Dorn. It proved to be a commission to enter West Point, obtained by General Jackson, and with hurried eagerness he packed his trunks and was on his way soon to the Military Academy. There he remained for the four years' course.---- Earl Van Dorn thus became a military man, devoting his whole life to the study of military tactics, living in U.S. garrisons and forts, and became cosmopolitan in his citizenship as an officer educated for the army. Subsequently, when his native state had need for his services, he became an officer of the Confederate Army. ------- He was first assigned to duty at Fort Pike on the Gulf of Mexico, and from there to Mount Vernon, Alabama, where at the early age of twenty-three he married the only daughter of Colonel Godbold, an osteemed citizen of that neighborhood.---------Soon after the marriage of General Van Dorn, war was declared between this country and Mexico, and he left his bride for the field of war. In the campaigns in Mexico, his name was frequently mentioned for gallantry in action.------ After the close of the war withMexica Major Van Dorn visited his native place and received cordial congratulations and encomiums from all sides. The legislature of the state, citizens of Port Gibson, and Claiborne County presented him with costly swords in honor of his achievements in Mexica.---- In a subsequent visit to Port Gibson the citizens presented him with a handsome silver service in recognition of his gallantry in Texas against the Indians. During the

Civil War (cont.)
EARL Van Dorn (cont.)

Civil War Mrs. Van Dorn managed to save this figt of silver, but the swords were captured or abstracted from her home by Union Soldiers. ----- Still another sword was presented to General Van Dorn during the Civil War by the State of Mississippi, for "his noble defense of Vicksburg". ----- Gen Van Dorn was shot in his own room at Spring Hill, Tenn., by a citizen of the neighborhood. His untimely death brought to a close one of the greatest military careers in southern history. ---- The family burial spot at Port Gibson was at the time of Gen. Van Dorn's death in the lines of the enemy, and the remains could not be taken to that place, which would have been the proper one for their sepulture beside his father and mother. But many years after, the sacred remains were removed to his native place and laid there."(1)

War Record of Van Dorn

Made on of the Brigadier-Generals of the Confederate Army in Jan.23, 1861.(2)

In charge of the defeated Confederate forces at the Battle of Corinth, Oct. 3 and 4, 1862, after which he was relieved of chief command in Mississippi.(3)

"Of the Battle of Corinth, history will say it was not only a victory. In all the elements of military science--conception, plan of attack and execution of design--it reflects the highest credit

1. A Soldier's Honor by His Comrades--pages 12-33
2. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908), p. 183
3. Heart of the South, Vol. 1, p.864

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Conveners:
Miss Mary Masson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

VI. Brief History with War Record, etc. (cont.)

War Record Earl Van Dorn (cont.)

on the general who commanded the forces, and it covered with glory the subordinate generals, officers and men engaged in the terrific struggle. On the close of the contest on the night of the first day (Friday), General Van Dorn received the congratulations of every general officer under his command; and, in the hearts of his men, lying prostrate, parched by thirst, and weary from excess of valor, there was but one feeling--pride that they served under a commander who had taught them, that day, his capacity to command and guide the currents of a wide-spread battle-field."(1)

Confederate cavalry under Forrest and Van Dorn captured Holly Springs December 20, 1862, seizing or destroying immense stores of Grant.(2)

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1. Soldier's Honor by His Comrades, page 152
2. Heart of the South Vol.1,p. 865 by Dunbar Rowland

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Reasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

VII. Stories of Raids upon Homes

Greenwood

"Greenwood", the beautiful old home of the Shelby Jefferies family, located in the eastern part of the county, wasraided by the Federal soldiers. Mrs. J. J. Mann, a daughter of the family, tells the following story of the raid:

The house was handsomely furnished. The floors were covered with lovely velvet carpets, handsome furniture was in every room, fine portraits hung on the walls, and the dining room was well supplied with imported china and glass. The soldiers rushed in, damaged the portraits, broke the china, took of what silver had not been hidden, and tore up from the floor and burned the carpets.

The smoke house with its great stores of meat was burned, and barrels of molasses were knocked in, the contents being allowed to run in streams over the ground except as it could be caught up in pans by the negroes.

The family had already turned over to the government 400 bales of cotton valued at $100 per bale to satisfy tax claims. Now these Federal raiders demanded the unginned cotton they found on the place. In their inexperienced efforts to gin the cotton, they set fire to the gin, destroying both it and the cotton.

White Hall

The plantation home, White Hall, of Mr. Joseph Jones, located

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Measson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

VI. Brief History with War Record, etc. (cont.)

War Record Earl Van Dorn (cont.)

on the general who commanded the forces, and it covered with glory the subordinate generals, officers and men engaged in the terrific struggle. On the close of the contest on the night of the first day (Friday), General Van Dorn received the congratulations of every general officer under his command; and, in the hearts of his men, lying prostrate, parched by thirst, and weary from excess of valor, there was but one feeling--pride that they served under a commander who had taught them, that day, his capacity to command and guide the currents of a wide-spread battle-field." (1)

Confederate cavalry under Forrest and Van Dorn captured Holly Springs December 20, 1862, seizing or destroying immense stores of Grant. (2)

1. Soldier's Honor by His Comrades, page 152

2. Heart of the South Vol.1,p. 365 by Dunbar Rowland





State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Measson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

VII. Stories of Raids upon Homes

Greenwood

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White Hall

The plantation home, White Hall, of Mr. Joseph Jones, located

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

VII. Stories of Raids upon Homes

White Hall (continued)

near St. Elmo, a station on the Natchez & Jackson Railroad, was raided by the federal soldiers as they passed through this county en route to Vicksburg. These soldiers were evidently more interested in cattle and horses, for nothing in the homes was touched but all farm stock was driven away except a pony.

H. N. Spencer Home

This home was raided for its silver. Horses and cattle were driven off, and some of the slaves were taken.





Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: War

Civil War (continued)

VIII. Home Conditions During War

Though the desolated homes to which soldiers returned after the war must have been enough to fill the stoutest hearts with despair, let us not forget the women who remained behind during those four long years, who saw their homes ruined in many cases, who suffered hardship, hunger and danger in these homes, women many of whom had been accustomed to ease and luxury.

"When Grant's army landed at Bruinsburg, their route to Vicksburg traversed the entire length of Claiborne County. All homes on this route were sacked and pillaged, the store houses left emptied. Cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats were driven away, leaving the owners destitute. Then it was that the loyalty and attachment of many of the slaves was demonstrated. Some of the more intelligent traded with the Yankee soldiers, managing to secure provisions for their owners. Prior to the coming of Grant's army, every Saturday wagons were sent to the Confederate lines, loaded with all available food for the army." (1)

Hear what the records say, and the memories of those still living recall as to home conditions of this period:

Spinning wheels and looms worked overtime in those days to provide not only for those at home, but for the men at the front. Raw wool was washed, carded, made into thread and dyed; then woven into cloth on a loom, of which nearly every neighborhood was the possessor. Cotton thread was also made at home, the cotton being first formed into balls, soaked in soapy water and then dried. (2)

1. Mr. H.H. Crisler, editor of Port Gibson Reveille
2. Mrs. Mary Richmond of Carlisle, a small child during the war.

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

VIII. Home Conditions During This War (continued)

A local diary records the pleasure of a soldier at receiving a suit made at home, from thread to completed outfit.(1) Carpets were cut up to make blankets for the horses of the soldiers, and when carpets gave out, wool and cotton blankets were also woven at home. Shoes were fashioned from bits of carpet, leather, or canvass, or parts of old shoes were remade into a semblance of new; or old stores of this necessary article of apparel were drawn from the attic and worn with pride. Some plantations were so fortunate as to have negroes trained in the making of shoes built according to the proper last from leather tanned on the place.(2)

Food was scarce and its price high. Union soldiers raided pantries. They entered homes demanding to be fed and then departed carrying the family silver away with them. In the midst of this pillage, "there is sometimes discerned a touch of humor as when my mother is pictured swinging on to the coat tails of a Yankee running down the steps with her table silver."(3)

That necessity is the mother of invention was proved over and over again by these brave confederate women. For coffee, they found a substitute of parched sweet potatoes or of parched corn. For sugar, they used sorghum or cane syrup. Salt often had to be procured by treating the soil dug from the floor of smoke-houses. A satisfactory substitute for soda came from the sifted ashes of burned corn cobs. Cornmeal was sifted through muslin cloth to make flour for cakes and bread with(4)

1. Diary of G.W.Naasson in possession of daughter Miss Mary Naasson
2. Mrs. Mary Richmond of Carlisle, a small child during the War.
3. Miss Mary Magruder, writer of pioneer family. 4. Mrs. Mary Richmond





Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

VIII. Home Conditions During This War (continued)

such excellent results that soldiers wrote home of their delight over the delicious cakes sent them.(1)

Up to the time Grant's Army passed through the county, the slaves were content to work, but on being told they were free by the soldiers of this general, some of the slaves became dissatisfied.(2) However,"the major portion of them remained on the plantation even after the war was over. There seemed to be a lasting bond of affection between them and their 'white folks', as they termed them. All through the weary period of that fatricidal strife, the faithful slaves strove with might and main to protect those at home and provide substance for them. Various were the ways and means by which this was done. Crops were handicapped for lack of teams to work them. Horses and mules had been turned over to the soldiers. Oxen were used for plowing. Blacksmiths were busily engaged in shaping lead for bullets. Yet somehow the negroes managed to find something to eat. 'Old Mistis and dem chillun' shouldn't suffer. If the fat yearlings had been sacrificed to the needs of the army, there were fat shoats to roast, and 'My! Didn't he look nice all brown and crusty on de big dish, wid er red apple in his mouth'. 'Den dar wuz the big hogs for sausage and bacon, Mars Tom had er plenty of dem'. One day the soldiers came and carried off a wagon load of bacon and ham and what they couldn't use, they destroyed, even

1. Diary of G.W. Naasson now in possession of daughter, Miss Mary Naasson of Port Gibson.
2. Mrs. Mary Richmond of Carlisle, a small child during the war.

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

VIII. Home Conditions etc. (continued)

pouring the pans of milk out on the ground and smashing up the things in the diary. There were no revolving churns in those days- they were made of wood or stone. There were both pans and crocks for milk vessels- since then the latter have been abolished, fearing poison from bacteria. Pshaw! Nothing of that talk then, and today there's a lingering sweetness of the taste of butter made in the old stone churn. There are several cracked ones in the old attic now, reserved for some purpose, for the elders of that day never threw anything away. Often these lines recurred to us: 'Imperial Caesar, dead and turned to clay, might stop a hole to keep the wind away'." (1)

"Exploring upstairs in childhood we found many strange things. 'What's this?' we asked, holding up a tin object like a bunch of rounded elongated breadsticks doubled. 'Why, that's a candle mold; we used to make them of tallow during the war'. Of course we burned lard oil in a few lamps of glass, but generally used candles. 'But there are only eight in this mold- it must have been a slow process!' 'There were others' came the answer. I noticed too they were longer than those of the present day." (1)

That the faithful slaves were often the sole dependence of families from which all men had gone to war is well known. An instance is recalled of a mother and two small daughters who were kept well sup-

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1. Miss Mary Magruder of pioneer family, from an article written on request for this history.

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: wars

Civil War (continued)

VIII. Home Conditions (continued)

plied with food secured from the Yankee camps by such means. He not only found the food and brought it home, but also prepared it for the family. One day a Yankee officer, in the house at the dinner hour, was invited to dine. On his commenting on the excellent food and being told its source, he said: "Send the old man for more; we have plenty."(1)

Another recalls how these faithful creatures "foraged for their masters' families, hunted 'possum and taters', wove and spun that we might be clothed." "Often", she says, " I have watched Aunt Nellie and Aunt Mindy, or Aunt Maria spin. And there once lived with us a dear old lady, who, from a habit of knitting socks for the soldiers in gray, continued to knit for her two boys, one son and a son-in-law, both managers of my father's plantations. Her son's wife now lived in New Orleans, and her great granddaughter was Queen of the Carnival. I am glad Fortune has favored them, for they went through with many hardships during the Civil War. Told of parching meal for coffee and sometimes substituting sweet potato parings. Of losing a beautiful home in Grand Gulf, when it was fired by the troops, and all their possessions 'gone to the wind', also of a few who prospered by forming a friendship with the 'Blockade Runners', which most loyal Southerners were too proud to do."(2) Though instances are known of ladies in hoopskirts running the blockade and returning with various articles hung to the framework

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1. Mrs. Maggie Musgrove, of pioneer family and a writer of Port Gibson.
2. Miss Mary Magruder, of a county pioneer family, from an article written by request for this history.

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

VIII. Home Conditions (continued)

of their voluminous skirts,(1) and of young girls being sent into the camp of the enemy for food.(2)

The attachment of the colored race for the white is revealed in such incidents as the following: "On one occasion my father was taken out of bed in his night clothes and might have been killed as a traitor, so declared, had not a negro in Port Gibson interceded for him before the Union officers, told of my father's goodness and liberality towards the race, for which he was noted, and the officer released him. My father showed his appreciation by presenting the negro with a house and land. Many stories of those troublous times replete with sadness and gloom are related by some, while others more optimistic state there were little rifts of sunshine amid the clouds. There was one wedding in this neighborhood- Miss Archer of 'Anchuca' to a Virginian, the fair bride at a loss for a wedding gown was lent ten dollars by Uncle Maurice Cox, their gray haired negro butler, with which to purchase a white swiss."(3)

Aside from suffering and hardships, the women of the confederacy were haunted by fear. They lived not only in a world of privation and want, but in their very homes were subjected to danger. Homes were shelled, horses shot from carriages waiting to bear women and children to safety.(4) Palatial mansions went up in smoke, or their contents

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1.Mrs. Maggie Musgrove of pioneer family. Writer of Claiborne County
2.Mrs. Mary Richmond " " " , a child during the war.
3.Miss Mary Magruder " " " from an article written on request.
4.Mr. Peacy Shaifer " " " Claiborne County

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Civil War (continued)

VIII. Home Conditions (continued)

were wantonly destroyed: mattresses ripped open, mirrors thrust with bayonets. Women with their little ones fled to the woods to hastily constructed camps while their homes were being raided and burned. In one such instance, a mother was fleeing with her children when the horseswhich wcrecarrying her to safety wersetaken by the enemy, along with her carriage. Upon her appeal to General Grant, however, these were restored to her, and she was given letters of protection.(1) Not so fortunate was another matron who, on remonstrating with General Grant over the destruction being wrought on her home by his soldiers, received the reply, "Madam, I did not bring my soldiers here to protect rebel property".(2)

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1. Mrs. Mary Richmond of Carlisle, of pioneer family of the county
2. Mrs. Marian B. Person as told her by her mother, pioneer citizen of the county.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

Special:-

The following exchange material was sent us from Warren County. We have been unable to find anything further along this subject, but enclose it as interesting in itself.

"THE CONTEMPLATED FIELD OF JOHN BROWN'S OPERATIONS"
(From the Norfolk Southern Augus, Dec.28)

Among the papers of the late John Brown found upon the Kennedy farm after his capture were maps of eight of the United States, viz: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee. These maps are such as are to be found in Morse's large bound atlas. They were entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1842 by Sidney E. Morse and Samuel Breese, in the Clerk's office of the Southern District of New York. Each of the maps had a table of the population of every county of the state, taken fron the census of 1850 pasted on its side. Andrew Hunter, Esq., of Charlestown, Acting Attorney for the Commonwealth, kindly gave us permission to inspect these maps, and we examined them minutely. We give below the fruits of our examination. It would be well for our Southern exchanges to give circulation to this article, prepared with great care for the Southern Argus:

Mississippi---We find marked localities in nine counties in this State. A brother of C.P. Tidd, who was one of the insurgents at Harper's Ferry, traveled through Mississippi, and kept Brown and company posted in regard to the disposition of the slaves.

We give the exact localities, marked by John Brown upon his

Civil War (cont.)

II. (b) 155th Regiment Information

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Civil War

Special (continued)

maps. From letters to Brown seen by us, we come to the conclusion that the localities marked were those which had been visited by Abolition emissaries and were found to contain slaves ready for insurrection. It would be well for the magistrates residing in these localities in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina to keep a strict lookout upon all suspicious strangers, and cause the immediate departure of all characters who cannot give a good account of themselves. Peddlers, mercantile drummers, book agents and teachers in search of situations should be watched. Let not the lesson taught by fanatic Brown be forgotten by the South. Let the militia be thoroughly and effectively organized in every Southern state. Eternal vigilance is the price of our peace and happiness.

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Claiborne County ---Marked locality in eastern part, between Port Gibson, Willow Spring, Rock Spring, and Burtonton in Copiah County. Pupulation: Whites 3,449; free colored 32; slaves 11,440. Total 14,921.

Reference: Weekly Vicksburg Whig, January 11, 1860





Parole now in possession of John Snodgrass.

No. 730

I, the undersigned, Prisoner of War, belonging to the Army of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana, having been surrendered by Lieut. Gen. R. Taylor, C.S.A., Commanding said Department, to Maj. Gen. E. R. S. Canby, U. S. A., Commanding Army and Division of West Mississippi, do hereby give my solemn parole of honor, that I will hereafter not serve in the Armies of the Confederate States, or in any military capacity whatever, against the United States of America, or render aid to the enemies of the latter, until properly exchanged in such manner as shall be mutually approved by the respective authorities.

Done at Gainesville, Ala. H. C. Snodgrass, 2nd Lieutnm.
this 12th day of May, 1865. Co. H, 4th Miss. Cav. Regt.

Approved W. H. Jackson, Brig. Gen. C.S.A.
E. S. Dennis, Brig. Gen. U.S.A. } Comms.

The above named officer will not be disturbed by United States authorities, as long as he observes his parole, and the laws in force where he resides.

E. S. Dennis
Brig. Gen. U. S. Vols.
and ~~Prov.-Mar.-Gen.~~
Cmr. for U. S.



Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne Co. Super.

Claiborne County
Revised Assignment #5-----Wars

SUPPLEMENT

5

Civil War

Among "the six hundred Confederate officers who were placed upon Morris Island, South Carolina, under the fire of their own guns shelling that point, and subsequently starved upon 10 ounces of rotten corn meal and pickle at Hilton Head and Fort Pulaski, Georgia, by order of the United States authorities, 1864-1865," (1) are the following from Claiborne County:

W.G. Herrington, Lieut.25th Inft. Captured Cox' Farm, July 12,1864
Residence Hermanville, Miss. (2)

A.J. Lewis, Capt.P.Cav.,Captured Claiborne Co.,Feb.1864
Residence Port Gibson, Miss. (3)

J.L. Purgason,Capt.32nd Inft. Captured Corinth May 1863
Residence Port Gibson,Miss. (3)

Chas.L. Barrett,Lieut.P.Cav.,Captured Port Hudson,Va.1863
Residence Port Gibson, Miss. (3.)

Wm.T.Jefferies,Lieut.P.Cav.,Captured Clayborne,Miss.Feb.1864
Residence Port Gibson, Miss. (3)

"The order for government of our prison at Morris Island is the most drastic ever made by men authorized by a government claiming civilization. (4) Daily menus: "Breakfast-4 rotten hardtack crackers; Dinner-½ pint sandy soup; Supper-all the wind one could inhale." (5) Medical treatment was the height of cruelty administered by a "red headed cow doctor, whose only remedy, no matter what your complaint,was an opium pill, or a dose of jamaica ginger." (6) Acute dysentery wrought havoc.

1. The Immortal Six Hundred by Major J.Ogden Murray(Roanoke,Va.1911),p.320
2. " " " " , page 328
3. " " " " , page 341
4. " " " " , page 101
5. " " " " , page 107
6. " " " " , page 104
7. " " " " , page 107

Claiborne County
Revised Assignment #5---Wars

SUPPLEMENT

Civil War

In the records that were the source of information for the War Between the States[1], there is no mention of W. G. Herrington and J. L. Purgason. It is known that the former lived in this county[2] but nothing can be found of the latter.

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond, County Supervisor

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1. "Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne County, Miss." Compiled by Frank H. Foote and found in vaults of court house.

2. Miss Lizzie Herrington, a daughter, is now living at Hermanville.

## References

Arnold, Mrs. Marie Owen — Port Gibson, Miss.
Crisler, H. H. — Port Gibson, Miss.
Daniel, S. C. — Port Gibson, Miss.
Kennedy. J. W. Major — Port Gibson, Miss.
Magruder, Miss Mary — Port Gibson, Miss.
Musgrove, Miss Maggie — Port Gibson, Miss.
Montgomery, Sylvester — Port Gibson, Miss.
Minute Book American Red Cross — Port Gibson, Miss.
Person, Mrs. Marion B. — Port Gibson, Miss.
Person, W. W. — Port Gibson, Miss.

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Murry, Major J. Ogden — The Immortal Six Hundred pp-320-328-341-101-107-104-107. (Roanoke, Va. The Stone Printing and Mfg Co.


Should be Lee



5

Subject: Wars — Civil War

SUPPLEMENT


Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton


### Battles and Skirmishes in Claiborne County

The following is interesting as a woman's account of a skirmish:(1)

"Port Gibson, Miss.,
July 7, 1864

"My Beloved Son,

"We have had an exciting time today as the Yankees made their appearance very unexpectedly this morning from Grand Gulf. We had only about fifteen men here, but one yankee was killed and John Briscoe mortally wounded another. The Yankees, I suppose, imagined we had a large force at hand as they did not stay in town more than half an hour, when they retired, leaving their wounded comrade behind. He is being cared for at Mr. Harding's.

A fight took place last Monday, 4th inst., near Mr. Israel Coleman's, in which the Yankees lost a major (who was buried by Mr. Coleman), and forty-one negroes, and were driven back to their boats. They had landed at Rodney on the previous Saturday evening and came out to Oakland fifteen hundred strong, three hundred of whom were cavalry and the others negro infantry. On Sunday they came out to Mr. Coleman's and ordered him to vacate his house, Gen. Ellett(who was in command) saying that he would occupy it for ten days. A courier was immediately despatched to Col. Wood who had his command in Copiah County forty miles distant. They arrived at 2 o'clock Monday when the fight began, continuing till 8 P.M. when they were completely routed-..... We lost five men. This victory was a great relief to us here as the enemy were on their way to this place. How horrible would have been our

1. Memoir of Dr. Richard Goode Wharton by his daughter Kate W. Grafton page 30

Claiborne County
Assignment #18

Subject: Wars

SUPPLEMENT

Battles and Skirmishes (continued)

situation if those negroes had been turned loose upon us! They did a great deal of harm to people on the road as they came up, but when they went back they were too badly frightened to stop.....

[illegible]

"Port Gibson, July 18, 1862

"My dear Son,

.....We have had no mails for ten or twelve days on account of the recent raids of the Yankees.....I was thankful enough when the Yankees were here that you were out of their reach. I will now try to give you some account of their doings whilst among us. Gen. Slocomb and Gen. Ellett left Vicksburg July 14 in command of about 2000 cavalry and 6000 infantry, whites and negroes. They advanced in the direction of Rocky Springs, thence to Utica, taking it very leisurely along the way and doing all the damage possible except that they did not burn anything. I have heard of some of our friends on that road who were completely stripped of everything, not having even a change clothing left them. Dr. Maury was absent from home with his family, and they literally ruined everything, even tearing up clothing and bedclothing. They captured several of our boys but released them all except John Derrah. The citizens generally suffered very little damage from them, but some few individuals lost very heavily. Mr. Shreve lost about $10,000 in tobacco, sugar, and medicines. They commenced breaking open stores on Front Street about 8 P.M. and kept it up till 3.30 A.M. Burton lost about $12,000 in tobacco. Vert McAlpine one or two thousand in flour. It was altogether by white soldiers, the negroes being encamped near the Fair Grounds and not allowed to enter town until next morning. Then they did comparatively little damage but were



Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Wars
Civil War

Battles and Skirmishes in Claiborne County (continued)

Letter from Mrs. Wharton (continued)

very insolent indeed. We lost nothing but a little horse, H's saddle, and Wade(a negro boy), who went off with them. His mother followed them to Grand Gulf and tried to find him but failed.

Our insolent foes remained here from 12 M. Thursday till 6 P.M. Friday. About 3 o'clock Friday they began leaving in the greatest hurry; through town they went at such speed that their wagons (about 120) got jammed up in the streets and it was a long time before they got started again. From the speed they were making we thought our men were fight upon them and we should have some fighting in town. There was a little skirmish near the covered bridge beyond Mr. Archer's, in which twenty-seven Yankees were taken prisoners and they took three of our men; noone was hurt on either side. Our men, not wishing to press them too closely in town where there were so many non-combatants, suffered them to pass through but chased them towards Grand Gulf and skirmished with them till they reached the creek, taking back our three men. By this time it was night and the fight was discontinued till next day, Saturday. Their whole force crossed the bayou Friday night, making good their escape to Grand Gulf. Light skirmishing was kept up all day Saturday between this place and the Gulf. Gen. Adams had but 800 men and could only harass them. On Sunday morning fighting commenced again about three and a half miles from the Gulf. At 3 o'clock we discovered that they were advancing in the direction of Willow Springs, but Adams sent a force around which turned them back and they proceeded to Vicksburg. Our whole loss was two killed, two wounded and three missing. Gen. Slocomb told Mrs.

Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Civil War

Battles and Skirmishes in Claiborne County (continued)

Letter from Mrs. Wharton (continued)

Hamilton that his men were a set of cowardly thieves, but he intended to get some men who would fight and give Gen. Adams another chance."

"Both the Spencers are very much broken up. Mr. I. Spencer lost seven negroes, and Mr. H. N. Spencer lost Leroy, Nat, Bill, George, and Frank. Leroy was taken off by force. He also lost all his mules, horses, ten sheep and some hogs besides various other things. Mr. Price lost his negro girl. They took off a good many young negro men about town but they all succeeded in making their escape except Leroy. They plundered Mrs. Bridewell's house, even stripping the clothes from the beds and leaving her without anything to eat. They drove all about a hundred of the finest cattle about town when they passed through on Friday morning, but on their retreat the cattle escaped and came back to their homes. Gen. Ellett said he would never suffer his men to burn the town, but it would be done before this war is over. I was so much afraid they would do it that I sat up all night Thursday night."

..... .. ,,,,,,,,,. .....

"My Beloved Son, "Port Gibson, Oct. 3, 1864

".....it is with a sad heart indeed that I seat myself to address you this morning. The Yankees made another raid out here last Friday (30th ult.), coming up the Rodney road, and we had not five minutes notice before the town was alive with the. They carried on pretty much as they always do, stealing everything they could lay their hands on, but oh! these losses were trifles compared with what some of us had to suffer that night. At midnight they arrested a number of our citizens, ladies and gentlemen, and among the latter was your own dear

Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Civil War

Battles and Skirmishes (continued)

Letter from Mrs. Wharton (continued)

father- and they would give no reason, but carried them off with the army at 6.30 next morning. From childhood I have been accustomed to affliction, but this is the heaviest blow I ever had.....A captain and four men came to our door at 1 o'clock and battered away as if they would beat it down. We were all lying down but none of us were asleep. Your father went down (followed by his family) as quickly as possible, and on opening the door the captain read this order, "You are ordered by Gen'l, etc., to report to head-quarters at Judge Baldwin's at half-past three o'clock in the morning, prepared with a change of clothing and means of transportation. A failure to report will involve the destruction of your home." Your father asked what the charge against him was, and the captain said he did not know. .....~~So he started to go~~ The time to report came but a picket stationed at our corner would not allow him to go. What agony I endured no one knows. I expected every moment that our house would be fired and my helpless little ones turned into the wet street. Well, as he could not go, he remained with us till 5 O'clock when the same captain and men came back "to execute the balance of the order", they said,"which was to burn the house. Your father and all of us explained the cause of the delay and they seemed satisfied. The captain told the men to go and said he would escort your father to Judge B's.....So your poor dear father went off with the other unfortunates, twenty in all, at half-past six.(1)"

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1. Mrs. Grafton in the "Memoir" states that no reason was every assigned for the arrest and imprisonment of these people.
Evidently same incident referred To in letter by Mrs. Lucia Briscoe Allen.

Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Civil War

Battles and Skirmishes in the County (continued)

Letter from Mrs. Wharton (continued)

(1)

The preceding letters written by Mrs. Wharton were to a son Charles Dabney, who held a position in a hospital in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Wharton was a ppominent pioneer citizen of Claiborne County, having located first at Grand Gulf in the 1830's.

The following excerpts from the same source as the letters above give some further light on:

Home Conditions During the War Between the States

"Port Gibson, July 25, 1864 (2)

"We have very few clothes and I cannot see how we shall get along through the winter."

.....

"I am truly distressed about our children being so long out of school. Your father undertook to teach them but he has very little time (has been very busy lately), and .....I haven't time even to teach the little ones."

"We sent for a sack of flour last week but do not yet know what it will cost. Should it be very high, we will let some one else take it as money is getting to be very scarce."

"Watermelons are very abundant now and very cheap, twenty-five cents. At first they sold for five and six dollars apiece, Confederate money."

"The people here are getting very long faces on account of the

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1. All from "Memoir to Richard Goode Wharton, M.D." by his daughter, Mrs. Kate Wharton Grafton.
2. Page 349 " " " " " "

Subject: Wars

Civil War

Home Conditions (continued)

enormous taxes. Your Pa and Grandma together will have to pay about $700."

"Mr. I. Spencer has been offered fifteen dollars a gallon for his sorghum molasses. Some of the country people are making molasses of watermelons, and it is said to be very good indded. It takes thirty melons to make a gallon."

.....

"Port Gibson, Oct. 13, 1864(1)

"My paper is nearly all out and I don' know where I shall get any more. Miss Carrie Hogg gave me a few sheets like this."

"Dr. Torrey promised your father enough leather for two pair of shoes and I will try to send you half of it."

"Port Gibson, Oct. 16, 1864(1)

"Since your father was taken our friends cannot do enough to show their sympathy. Scarcely a day passes but what some one sends me fresh meat, potatoes, hominy, corn, etc."

"I send you a bundle containing the following articles: one pair pantaloons, one cloth talma, one pair gloves, one pair slippers, one comfort, besides a little box containing a cap. I value them at $300, and you could not buy them here for that amount. Confederate grey cloth sells at $150 per yard."

.....

"Port Gibson, Nov. 4, 1864(1)

"Mr. Spencer has returned from his place bringing a lot of good things, such as coffee, sugar, cheese, etc., which his dear good wife has divided with me."

1. Memoir to Dr. Wharton, page38

Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Wars

Civil War

Home Conditions (continued)

"Port Gibson, Jan.20, 1865 (1)

(Referring to a trip to Vicksburg) "We could not get a permit to buy anything, but through our friends we got a good many articles. I made into a skirt (and wore it) some goods for a couple of fatigue shirts for you."

"Port Gibson, Jan. 27, 1865 (1)

"Everything is very scarce; the planters will not sell anything for our money, it is so worthless, but for greenbacks some things can be bought. Corn is five dollars per bushel and scarce at that; our fare is of the plainest kind."

.....

"Port Gibson, Feb. 9, 1865 (2)

"I do not collect much money but am trying to get provisions. I have five hogs and more promised, besides half a barrel of lard. We generally have plenty of butter; corn is scarce but we get enough. When I take Confederate money for my services I charge ten dollars per visit in town, and ten dollars per mile. I owe some greenbacks, $250, borrowed for my trip to Vicksburg, and am very anxious to sell cotton to pay it. .....We cannot use flour as it is worth $300 per sack. Jeans sells at $30 to $35 per yard.

"Port Gibson, Feb. 15, 1865 (3)

"Within two weeks a good many negroes have gone to the Yankees.

1. Memoir of Dr. R. G. Wharton-letter from Mrs.Wharton to her son-p.41
2. " " " " " Dr. Wharton to his son-p.43
3. " " " " " Mrs.Wharton to her son-p.43



Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Civil War (continued)

Home Conditions (continued)

Letter of Feb. 15, 1865 (continued)

Our negroes all do well and seem pretty sell satisfied except Gus. He does just as he pleases. We have a houseful of free negroes just across the street who will be a great nuisance I fear."

Port Gibson, March 1, 1865 (1)

"Mr. H. N. Spencer met with quite a loss last night. His two negro women and their three children left in the night for Yankeedom. We all thought they were worthy of confidence. Several other women left last night and I believe there will soon be no negroes in this part of the country. Ours are greatly demoralized.

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond
County Historian

1. Memoir of Dr. R. G. Wharton, p. 43

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: The Civil War

I. Battles and Skirmishes in the County

Grand Gulf (1)

Grand Gulf "was the scene of two conflicts between the Federal fleet and the Confederate batteries planted on the lofty hills in the rear of the town; the first between a portion of Farragut's advance fleet, after the fall of New Orleans- and a battery of artillery commanded by Capt. James A. Hoskins, of the Confederate Army, in which the latter inflicted considerable damage upon the former but was finally compelled to fall back. The Federal officer in command, in retaliation for Capt. Hoskins audacity, afterwards bombarded and burned the little town, without giving notice to the inhabitants, a cruel act, to say the least of it. The second conflict was between the fleet cooperating with Grant when he crossed over to the Mississippi side of Bruinsburg, to made his successful attack upon Vicksburg from the rear, and a battalion of artillery under the command of Col. Wade of Bowen's Division of Missourians. Nothing serious resulted from this conflict other than the killing of the gallant Wade. The battalion fell back on Vicksburg with the retreating army." (2)

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond, Historian

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1. Feeling that we perhaps slighted Grand Gulf in our War Assignment, we send in this supplementary material.
2. "Random Recollections of Early Days in Mississippi" by H.S.Fulkerson Capter on the Duel.

Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: The Civil War

Battles and Skirmishes in Claiborne County (1)

"A Reminiscence of 1864"

"The following account of a Federal raid upon Port Gibson is abridged and adapted from the Montgomery Mail of October 15, 1864. Of the twenty citizens whose capture and imprisonment are here related, eight still survive, viz: Mrs. Ellett, Memphis; Mr. Butler, wife and daughter, Warrenton, Va.; Dr. Wharton; Miss Cora Moore; Mrs. Laura Gordon, now Mrs. Laura Stem of Corsicana Texas; J.M. Parker, New Orleans; Caleb Perkins; L. deN. Evans, La; Stanley Snodgrass. We quote:

"' On Saturday, September 30,(1864) about 500 or 600 Yankee troops, white and black, landed from the gunboats at Rodney and marched up the road towards Port Gibson. A few Confederate soldiers happened to be in town when the enemy arrived that afternoon, and there was a skirmish in the streets, our men losing one man killed, and the Yankees two or three. Immediately on taking possession of the town they began a system of pillage and arrested a number of country people who happened to be in town. About one o'clock A.M. a squad went around to several residences, roused the inmates and ordered them to be ready to march with them that morning under penalty of having their houses burned. These citizens were guiltless of any offense, nor were any charges brought against them; but being in the enemy's power, they were forced to yield!"

---

1. Port Gibson Reveille of July 6, 1892

N.B. This is another version of the skirmish referred to by Mrs. Richard Goode Wharton in the Supplement we sent you recently, the skirmish in which her husband was taken prisoner. We are confident now that we were mistaken in identifying this incident with that referred to in the letter by Mrs. Lucie Briscoe Allen, when a group of women only were taken.

Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: The Civil War

Battles and Skirmishes in Claiborne County

"A reminiscence of 1864"(continued)

"'The names of the victims were Hon. H. T. Ellett and wife; Prof. George G. Butler, wife and infant daughter; Mrs. Emily Briscoe, Mrs. _____Henry; Mrs. Laura Gordon, Jas. A. Gage, Dr. R. G. Wharton, Dr. A. H.Peck, A. Sink, Wm. Smith, all from town and the following from the country: Miss Cora Moore, S. Forbes, Dan Dohan, Caleb Perkins, Jno. M. Parker, S.S. Snodgrass, L. DeN. Evans. The families of these hapless citizens are greatly distressed by their capture, not knowing what fate may await them. Mr. Ellett had just gotten back home after an absence of twenty months, having been driven away by the approach of Grant's army after the battle of Port Gibson, May 1, 1863. The prisoners were humiliated by being put in charge of an escort of negro troops on the march back to Rodney. They were put aboard a gunboat, taken to Vicksburg and thrown into jail, some of the gentlemen being put into cells with common criminals of the vilest type-theives, burglars, and the like. Nobody can assign any plausible reason for this outrange.'

"A later issue of the Mail, Nov. 18, contained the following additional intelligence:

'Soon after the capture of the Port Gibson citizens, arrangements were entered into between our authorities at Jackson and the Yankees at Vicksburg in order to effect an exchange. This resulted in sending a flag of truce to the latter point on the 16th of October. We sent thirteen Yankee plantation-lessees and one soldier; but as they held more than that number of our citizens, six or seven Port Gibson gentlemen still remain in prison. All the ladies were exchanged and

Claiborne County
Assignment #18

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: The Civil War

Battles and Skirmishes in Claiborne County

"A reminiscence of 1864" (cont.)

reached Port Gibson about Nov. 1. Several of the citizens were made ill by the damp and unwholesome air of the prison, but on applying to the authorities, they were permitted to receive medical treatment.

'The Southern people in Vicksburg did all they could for the comfort of the prisoners, sending them provisions, money, bedding, clothing, and whatever could alleviate their distresses. One of the kindest of these kind friends was Mrs. Delia Wright. The names of theose who have not been exchanged are Drs. Peck and Wharton, H.S. Fulkerson, John Parker, Geo. Butler, A. Sink, and Caleb Perkins.

'These remaining prisoners were leased one and two at a time and by the end of December all had regained their liberty except Mr. Sink and Mr. Fulkerson, the latter of whom was an agent of the confederate government. Dr. Sprott, another citizen of Claiborne County, was also in confinement at Vicksburg at that time and was not released till some weeks after the others.'"

Enid Richmond

Enid Richmond, Historian

## Foot-note on Frank H. Foote

"Record of Confederate Soldiers Claiborne County, Mississippi

War 1861-1865"

Compiled by F. H. Foote, Port Gibson, Mississippi

Filed Nov. 3, 1920- B.H. Morehead, Clerk.

"In the year 1872 I began this labor of compiling these Annals of Claiborne County, Miss. Citizen Soldiers of the War of Secession, of the years 1861-1865 inclusive.

"Muster rolls, diaries, letters and remembrances of survivors have culminated in this record as presented in the following pages. That it was a vast undertaking, seemingly thankless at times and one that needed much patience to persist in is evidenced by this roster of names of Volunteer soldiers who responded to the call of their mother state and took up arms at her bidding to defend her rights and integrity .

(Above book filed in vaults of courthouse)

COMPILATION

Enid Richmond

for history 2nd copy

Claiborne County

Chapter VII

WARS

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## WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

In the years before 1860 there were many questions on which the North and South differed. Many of these questions had to do with slavery. The people of of the South felt that they were being mistreated and many southern leaders began to believe that the only way to have peace was to separate from the North.

The National affairs of the country in 1860 were in a critical condition. The constitutional rights of the states became more and more the subject of discussion. A disposition on the part of the northern leaders to interfere in the domestic affairs of the state was indicated in many ways. The election of Lincoln to the presidency was believed to be the signal of the coercion of the Southern States, and for the war. Military companies were organized in Mississippi at the rate of seven or eight a week. The problem of arming and equipping this large number of troops was a serious one. Churches gave bells to be used in making cannons. Citizens from all parts of Mississippi placed their money at the disposal of the state. The women, no less patriotic began to spin thread and weave cloth with which to clothe the soldiers.

The sacrifices, hardships, and losses incurred by the people of the South, in contending against the resources of the United

States has been unequalled in history. The troops of Claiborne County were distributed throughout the armies of the Confederacy and fought on the soil of nearly every Confederate State.

It is an interesting part of history to state that Claiborne County supplied more soldiers for the Confederate army than it had voters.

## Fighting Units

Prior to the War between the Nothern and Southern states in 1861, the PORT GIBSON RIFLES figured at Port Gibson as a local company of the State Militia. War being declared on March 28, 1861, this company left Port Gibson about forty-eight strong for Jackson, Mississippi, picking up recruits in Vicksburg and Jackson to the number of fifteen or twenty men.

At Pensacola, Florida, they became Company C of the 10th Regiment and saw light service then for eight or ten months. Their term of enlistment was, for the state of Mississippi, one year, which expired, and the regiment and companies underwent a reorganization.

The Rifles practiaally disbanded, none of the original officers being reelected, though Captain McKeever managed to retain a few, which gave him command, and was with him at Shiloh Battle, April 6, 1862, after which he resigned. The company meantime had recruited from other companies and being without officers, private W.R. Daniels of Company D. Jackson, Mississippi, was ~~XXXXXX~~ assigned as First Lieutenant and took command. The company was now F of the regiment. A little later Lieutenant Daniels was made Captain



and retained command until the surrender of Johnson's Army in North Carolina in April, 1865. This company served with the company in the Western Army, or Army of Tennessee under Generals Bragg, Hood, and Johnson, and their record is good as soldiers imbued with a cause, which they dared defend even at life's limit.

The second unit organized in the county, known as the CLAIBORNE GUARDS, was mustered into service of the Confederate States on April 29, 1861, and left that date for Union City, Tennessee, where they became part of the 12th Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers, and enrolled as H Company. Their Captain, Henry Hughes, was elected Colonel of the regiment and was succeeded as Captain by W. H. Hastings. This regiment arrived one day too late to take part in the Battle of Manassas, July 21, 1861. They went into camp at Centerville, Virginia, and in April reached Yorktown, Virginia, and upon reorganization of the regiment was known as K Company. This ~~regiment~~ company with its regiment bore a brilliant part on the Battle of Seven Pines. In June, 12, 19, ~~XXX~~20, the th th th battalions formed Featherstones Brigade, In July the 16th Regiment was added. From this date, their ~~XXXXXXX~~ history and ~~XXXXXXX~~ campaigns are part of the Army of Nobthern Virginia. The brunt of the battles, privations of camp, the necessities made them into uncomplaining soldiers, devoted th their cause and southland. They, a few, returned to desolated homes, ruined of all aave honor, which they builded anew, never loosing sight of the fact that they were cofederate soldiers, fighting for a just

principal and taking with them to the grave the consciousness of duty well done and with no regrets or apoligies to any.

The third company, FAIRVIEW RIFLES, afterward changed to CLAIBORNE RIFLES, was organized in May, 1861, and left about the 15th for the seat of war in Virginia, and became G Compnay of the 16th Mississippi Regiment. With the regiment it served unedr Stonewall Jackson in the celebrated Valley Campaign, and was the only Mississippi Regiment in Jackson's army. In July, 1862, they were assigned to Featherston's Brigade, completing the game, and as follows: 2nd Batallion, 12th, 16th, and 19th regiments and with the brigade took part in all the battles fought in Virginia by General R. E. Lee to the end of Appomattox, April 10, 1865.

This company, too, when the great war drama was closed, returned to ruined homes, commenced life anew, and with commendable pride established themselves as good citizens, as they were soldiers, and to the end of their allotted time retained a pardonable pride in their fellow commander, of the times that requifed all the devotion, courage, and loyalty that they could command to overcome the privations of a suffering and starving army.

CLAIBORNE VOLUNTEERS was the fourth company organized and sent to the war by Claiborne County in 1861. It was organized in June and left for Virginia September 12. A short lay over at Iuka was had and in November it became Company F, 2nd Mississippi Battallion, in December became part of Magruder's Army at Yorktown, Virginia. Here under vigorous management, marches in mud and rain, digging and building breastworks, they builded the



the foundation of real soldiers that stood them so well the gruelling ordeals that ensued later in the war. At Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Seven days of Richmond, in fact in all the campaigns and battles of the army of Northern Virginia, they bore themselves well, and proved to be brave and devoted soldiers, ending their services at Appomattox C. H. April 10, 1865.

Being good soldiers, they became good citizens, worthy and well qualified, of the County, and though but a few living today, they retain a loyal memory of the days of 1861-1865.

This Batallion was completed into a regiment in November, 1862, and henceforth known as the 48th, the last assigned regimental number of Mississippi's quota of infantry.

The VAN DORN GUARDS, an infantry company of Claiborne County, was made up in the neighborhood of Rocky Springs, Grand Gulf, and Brandywine in March, 1862. This company organization consisted mainly of middle aged men of families. They were a sturdy set, well ordered, brave, and obeyed orders as became soldiers enrolled for a principle. In April they became Company B, of the 38th Regiment and soon afterwards participated in the Corinth and Iuka campaigns.

They served at Snyders Bluff, Mississippi, and soon after in Vicksburg camp and trenches. Their serving in these trenches and battles was harrowing, but undaunted they assisted in beating off each assault of the enemy. After surrendering, they were paroled home. When exchanged they reported to duty and were given leave to again return home, obtain a horse and report again for mounted infantry duty with Mabry's Brigade. With this command, they were in many engagements and suffered many

losses at Harrisburg. They rode with Forest in Tennessee and Nobthern Alabama Campaigns, and again in Mississippi, demeaning themselvws as became men and patriots inbued with love of liberty and native land.

CLAIBORNE LIGHT INFANTRY was the 6th infantry company from Claiborne County. Very little matter is obtainable in regard to this organization, its fortunes were varied and unfortunate, being bodily captured twice and the officers therewith. First at Port Hudson in 1863, and sent to prison North. After a long confinement they were exchanged and returned to their homes, called again to colors, they assembled in the county and by gross carelessness they were surfounded and captured and again sent North where they remained to the close of the war. Some who escaped capture enrolled themselves in other commands. This company was enrolled early in 1862, and saw first service in August, 1863, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, three hundred and eighty five strong, under the command of Lieutenant C. L. Babbott. They served in the defense of Port Hudson, prisoners being sent North.

Captain A. J. Lewis, being exchanged, was promoted as major and assigned to command of the 24th Battalion of cavalry, the men as mounted infantry. This Battalion was surrnedered at Gainsville, Alabama by Major Lewis, May, 1865, being third and final surrender. Lack of authority enforced, no dicipline, and unmilitary methods are always fraught with disaster and has been done since man waged war.

MAGRUDER'S PARTISAN RANGERS, a cavalry company, was organized in May, 1862 and on June 14 they were mustered into Confederate



service. For several months they were with Miles' XXXXXXXXXXXX Legion aroung Grand Gulf. From there they reported at Port XXXXXXX Hudson, Louisiana, being the first tropps to camp there, doing condiderable scout and patrol duty. Later they were ordered to Fayette, Mississippi and with five other companies formed Wilburn's Battalion of Cavalry, being Company A of same. The Battalion marched to Port Hudson, doing duty for General Gardner, then fortyfying this stronghold, were in action at Plains Store on reproach of General Banks, United States of America, May, 1863, and fell back to the interior, when with other command under General Logan they did great injury and loss to the Union Army investing Port Hudson. Soon after the fall of this place the battalions of Major Stockdale and Lieutenant Colonel Wilburn were consolidated and formed the famous 4th Mississippi Cavalry Regiment under Wilburn as Colonel. The company was numbered C and so remained. They served in the brigade of Wirt Adams, Mabry's and later in Starkss. They saw a good deal of active duty in several states and later rode with Forest, rising to distinction, and on close of war by surrender, were given high praise by him. On their battle flag/~~xxxx~~ were lettered many noted battlefields, in all of which they rode, charged, and ~~xxx~~fought as became men imbued with lofty ideals of state and cause, and Claiborne County lost no nobler men than those who in this company gave all--life,

MCLEAN'S COMPANY ~~XXXXXXX~~ was made up in Claiborne County in May 1862, by Henry Hughes, late Colonel of the 12th Mississippi Infantry, having a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel to organize a Legion of Cavalry, Infantry, and Artillery with Lieu-

tenant George P. McLean. Colonel Hughes sickened and died, Lieutenant McLean succeeded as captain raised and equipped the company. The Legion plan was abandoned. The company was with Wilburn's Battalion in rearvof Port Hudson, operating on the rear of the Union Army. After the fall pf Port Hudson, they were sent to North Mississippi to campaign, and thence became part of the 4th Cavalry Regiemnt, being Company 15. Later they were returned to the county to recruit and remount and while there participated in the fight of Coleman Crossroads, Jefferson County.

With the 4th Cavalry, they saw much hard service with Forest and other celebrated officers. They were paroled at Gainesville, Alabama, May 22, 1865 and dropping the saber for the plow, they helped to restore their stricken homes and lands and were in no time merged into good and useful citizehs, never forgetting the days they were the Gray and sturdily contended for justice and xxxxxx principle.

Davenport's Cavalry was organized in the summer of 1863 by J. W. Davenport, Captain; Scott Russum, 1st Lieutenant; E. S. Jefferies, 2nd Lieutenant and Joseph N. Brashear, 3rd Lieutenant. The roster shows that, out of ninety five names obtained, sixty are of Cla borne County, twenty nine from Copiah, and six from Jefferson County. No list of deaths, wounded or any matter affecting an organization is available.

The Company was in action at Coleman Crossroads, July,1864, and later in thewar rendered valuable service in North Mississippi and Alabama.



The data given is by Lieutenant Shelby Jefferies and from letters from former members, and to tell the truth this company was looked upon xxxxx as a "joke" and was jocularly known as "Joe Davenport's Army". Some of the company was parolled at Gainesville, Alabama, May 1865, others at Jackson, Mississippi.

WARREN AND CLAIBORNE GUARDS, xxxxxxxxxxx later known as BARNES CAVALRY COMPANY, was raised jointly in Warren and Claiborne Counties and mustered into service at Warrenton in 1861. About seventy of the company are from Claiborne County, and its officers were mainly also from the same county. It was early ordered into service and belonged as Company I to Wirt Adams' regiment and its total enrollment is given at one hundred seventy two men, many of them joining near the close of the war. The regiment joined General Hardee in Kentucky in xxxxx September 1861 and were in battle at Shiloh April 6, 1862, particippting in many raids on Union communications and rendered conspicuous service at the Corinth Battle, saw much service in Mississippi and Tennesseee and also Alabama, defeated Sheridan's Cavalry Company I, and was highly complimented by Colonel Adams for splendid conduct in the Vicksburg campaign impending Sherid an's march to Jackson, taking prisoners and inflicting much loss to him. They assisted in the capture of the U. S. Gunboat Patrol in the Yazoo River, and were in battle at Clifton tn. In 1865, they rode with Forest in his final campaign and surrendered near Ramsay's Station, Alabama, May 4, 1865. Others surrendered at Gainesville, Alabama, May 12, 1865.

ABBAY'S BATTERY was the only artillery company organized in Claiborne County, though many men of the county served in such

companies from adjacent counties. This battery was organized early in 1862 and went from Port Gibson to Jackson, Mississippi/ and became Company K of the First Mississipppi Light Artillery regiment. From Jackson, they were sent to Vicksburg and were ~~ex~~ under fire of the U ion fleet, which tried to enforde a surrender of this city, which demand was refused by the authorities by the curt answer, "Come and take it".

Ordered to Corinth in October, 1862, theyndid not arrive in time for part in the battle there. Upon the retreat of the C.S.A. forces, they were ordered to Holly Springs and soon after ordered to Port Hudson, Louisiana, participated in that seige; captured and parolled on the fall of this place; the men to camp at Enterprise, Mississippi, and the officers interned at camp on Johnson's Island, Ohio.

Exchanged, they were ordered to Selma, Alabama, thence to Mobile Bay, where they were again captured at Blakely, April, 1865, and sent as prisoners to Ship Island for several weeks, thence to Big Black River brigge, where they were parolled. This company made quite a reputation as artillerymen and were reckoned sturdy fighters and when at home at last engaged in building anew the waste places, showing the same indomitable pluck that became such men ~~as~~ and mak es such desirable citizens.

What later became the ~~XXXXX~~ 155TH REGIMENT was, during the period of the War Between the States, known as the FIRST MISSISSIPPI REHIMENT. This regiment was completed in August and ordered into camp of instruction at Iuka. The field officers were elected September 10, 1861. The first one of the four regiments sent by Governor Pettus to Kentucky to reinforce General



Albert Sidney Johnston. The camp bear Hopkinsville, Kentucky, on October 17.

A careful search of mention of Claiborne County in the history of the First Mississippi Regiment reveals only a notation that B. F. Hynum of this county was transferred from the Port Gibson Rifles to the first Mississippi Regiment. Mr. Hynum served during the duration of the War Between the States. He died March 20, 1934.

Names of Enlisted Men From County (See Addenda).

The RECORDS AND EXPLOITS OF LOCAL HEROES recorded in the Court House of Claiborne County show that soldiers other than Earl Van Dorn and Benjamin G. Humphreys, served in the army of Northern Virginia and in the army of Tennessee, taking part in the achievements mentioned in the following article.

The achievements of Mississippi soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia may be read in the story of every hard fought field from Manassas to Appomattox. It was the devotion and courage of the soldiers of the Magnolia State that enabled "Stonewall" Jackson, J. E. B. Stuart, John B. Hood, William Barksdale, Benjamin G. Humphreys, Winfield S. Featherston, John M. Stone, and Carnot Posey to achieve military fame. These troops were with Jackson in his great campaign in the valley of the Shenandoah, they led the advance in the route of the Union army at Chancellorville and they held the entire force of the enemy at bay at Fredericksburg. At the "Bloody Angle" of the Spottsylvania line, where some of the most terrific fighting of the war was done, they saved the day for Robert E. Lee. They were with Pickett at Gettys-

burgxxx and with Longstreet at Chickamauga and Knoxville, and heroically went to death at the Crater and Fort Gregg. After the terrible days in the trenches at Petersburg, they marched with Lee to Appomattox and begged to be the last to be led against the enemy. They fought and endured as much as any in the armies, and when the war was over they returned to their homes not as a demoralized horde, but ready and willing to engage in the restoration of the stricken South, a stupendous task in which they were triumpant. The Mississippi Soldiers enlisted in the Army of Tennessee were not surpassed in gallantry and devotion by those of any other army in the service of the Condederate States. At Shil h, Franklin, Chickamauga, Atlanta, and Vicksburg they displayed the same patriotism and valor that marked the service of their brothers in the Army of Northern Virginia, and under Johnston, Bragg, and Hood sustained the cause of the Confederacy with the like heroism and fortitude that characterized the soldiers of Lee, Jackson, and Stuart. The Army of Tennessee developed such illustrious Mississippi commanders as E. C. Walthall, Earl Van Dorn, James R. Chalmers, and M. P. Lowery. (1)

## Battles And Skirmishes

The BATTLE OF PORT GIBSON was fought May 1, 1863, between the Federal Army, commanded by General U. S. Grant, and a small force of Confederates, under Brigadier General John S. Bowen of Missouri. Though not xxxxx among the greater battles of the war this engagement was one of no slight importance. A defeat inflicted upon the Union Army here would have saved Vicksburg, thereby

(1) Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi the Heart of the South. Vol 1 p840



putting new heart into the Confederacy, and altering the entire aspect of the stuggle.

In January, 1863, a few xxxx weeks after Sherman's repulse st Vicksburg, General Grant took command of the army on the Mississippi, with the purpose of renewing the attempt on their for fortress. Judging it impracticable to make his approach on the north side, he xxxxxxxxxx determined to land at Grand Gulf, thirty miles below, and attact from that direction.

On April 29 the fleet endeavored to destroy the Confederate works at Grand Gulf, where General Bowan wasiin command. A prolonged cannonade by the gunboats failed to silence the batteries, but that night Admiral Porter renewed the bombardment, under cover of which his transports slipped by unharmed. Though unable to land here, Grant had discovered that Bruinsburg Plantation, ten miles lower down the river, he might affect a landing, and this he immediately proceeded to do.

The town of Port Gibson, which lay upon the line of Grant's projected march, is eleven miles east of Bruinsburg; but by the only practicable route the distance is about sixteen miles. The road follows a tolerably level ridge until, within five miles of Port Gibson, it crosses a streamlet called Widow's Creek, and there climbs a long, xxx steep hill, into which it has worn deeply, forming a narrow defile where resolute troops might check an enemy fourfold as numerous.

The entire western part of Claiborne County, the theater of the Federal march, has a remarkable uneven surface. Originally level, then deeply sculptured by ancient erosion, it now presents a bewildering labyrinth of loamy, fertile hills, with narrow valleys between. In his report General Grant said; "It is

the most broken county I ever saw. The whole county is a series of irregular ridges, divided by impassable ravines grown up with heavy timber, undergrowth and cane".

Early on April 30 the transports began the work of ferrying the Union troops from the Louisiana side, and before the dawn of May 1 the entire army was ashore at Bruinsburg and on the march. Its numerical strength in not revealed in the official reports, but 30,000to 35,000 men of all arms seems a fair estimate. "The Return of Casualties" names fifty-three regiments present at the battle, together with eleven batteries of artillery. There were also thirty companies of ~~XXXX~~ cavalry and light tropps not actively engaged. The large force was organized into five divisions, comprising eleven brigades.

About twelve thirty A.M. May 1, Colonel Stone's leading brigade crossed Widow's Creek without opposition, the strong bluffs there being undefended by so much as an outpost. Half a mile beyond Stone encountered a picket and fired, killing one man, and then retiring to Magnolia Church, the Condederate position, a few hundred yards to the rear. At that country meeting-house was stationed Brigadier General Martin E. Green with three regiments and one battalion of infantry, and one battery, 775 men in all, according to his official report.

Before describing the engagement that followed it will be necessary to acquaint the readers with Bowen's plans and preparations. After the fleet had passed Grand Gulf Bowen anticipated ~~XXX~~ an attack from some point below, and on April 30 he sent Green to guard the roads entering Port Gibson from the southwest. Green had the Fifteenth and Twenty First Arkansas, the Twelfth Arkansas Battalion, and the Sixth Mississippi



together with one battery. He made a personal reconnaissance along the Magnolia Church Road; but, instead seizing the formidable heights at Widow's Creek, he prepared to give battle at the church, a position of far less strengthh.

The same afternoon, ~~XXXXX~~ when Bowen had got definite information of the Federal advance from Bruinsburg, he went to inspect Green's preparations at the church. Satisfied with the choice of this spot, Bowen hurried back to Grand Gulf - ten or twelve miles distant - and that night dispatched reinforcements to his positions on Big Black and Bayou Pierre, those streams, both navigable at that season, being ~~XXXXXX~~ threatened with the ascent of gunboats. In this service he employed four regiments, two battalions and three batteries of artillery, a total of about 1,500 men. The defense of Grand Gulf he entrusted to his batteries, supported by the Third, Fifth and Sixth Missouri Infantry. These dispositions were doubtless justified by the emergency, but could these scattered troops have been concentrated at Magnolia Church, Grant might have been checked until confronted by an army as strong as his own.

Meanwhile, in response to Bowen's dispatches, Pemberton was getting reinforcements in motion from Vicksburg and vicinity. At dusk on the 29th General Edward D. Tracy, with the Twentieth, Twenty-third, Thirtieth and Thirty-first Alabama, left Warrenton for Grand Gulf; and the next afternoon when within four miles of that port, he was ordered to Port Gibson crossing on Bayou Pierre, the jaded ~~XXXXX~~ troops, who had marched all day with out food, prepared to cook their rations, but a second courier from Bowen ordered an immediate advance to support General Green. Tracy

reached the field at ten P.M. with troops exhausted by a march of forty miles in twenty-four hours. So many had broken down enroute that he brought only 1,500 men into action.

This brigade formed the right wing of the Confederate line, being stationed near the Andrews farmhouse which was not on the Magnolia Road, but on a plantation road diverging therfrom just in front of Green's position, The two roads forming a rude ellipse, unite again one mile from Port Gibson. Thus, Greens weak force was divided for the defense of two almost parallel roads, between which communicatiom was slow and difficult.

Brigadier General William E. Baldwin was also hurrying to Bowen's aid with the Seventeenth and Thirty-first Louisiana and the Fourth and Forty-sixth Mississippi. This brigade left Vicksburg at nine P.M. on the 29th dag at one P.M. the next day, halted at Big Black for instructions. About sunset they were ordered to Magnolia Church, and by marching half the night ~~XXX~~ they reached that locality at eleven A.M. May 1, and at once went into action with 1,014 men. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Such was the strength and such the preparations of the Confederates.

On being fired into by the Confederate picket at one A.M. May 1, the Federals continued to advance, but were greeted, says Colonel Stone, "by a tremendous volley of musketry." The Confederates then opened at short range with their battery, which was answered by an Iowa and an Indiana battery. Stoness report says: "The fire of the Rebel batteries was accubate, and disabled many of our men and horses. The darkness, the bursting of shells, the rattle of grape through fences and timber rendered the scene one of terrific grandeur."

Finally, according to this officers the Confederate guns were "driven from the field and silenced", but his report else where admits that "the enemy held their position during the night". This contradictiom of his former statement agrees with report of General Green, who says that "after two hours' hard fighting, the enemy ceased firing and withdrew a short distance, we held our position."

At sunrise, in response to urgent messages from Green, Tracy sent him the Twenty-third Alabama, and two guns. This small reinforcement, which gave Green a total of 1,000 men and six guns, reached him at eight oclock, two hours after the attack had ree opened. The Federal attack was led by the two brigades of Carr's Division, embracing eight regiments. One brigade [illegible] was posted on and about the road near Green's position; the other, which formed the Federal right, was posted in the woods and fields east of the road. The latter brigade was soon strengthened on the extreme right by the nine regiments (two brigades) of Hovey's Division, and later in the forenoon by a brigade of A. J.Smith's Division. These twenty one regiments were supported by six batteries, but this large force was probably nat all engaged at the same time, some regiments being withdrawn and rested while fresher troops replaced them.

Aided by strong positions, Green, with his five regiments and six guns, obstinately held his groung, repulsing repeated attempts to dislodge him. At eleven o'clock, however, flanked in heavy force on their left, the Confederartes yielded to a charge of Hovey's Division and retreated, losing many prisoners and two guns, and their horses had nearly all been killed. General Hovey claims that over two hundred prisoners were taken here.

After falling back a mile and a half Green met Baldwin's brigade coming to his assistance, accompanied by General Bowen. Green's wearied brigade was sent to the Andrew's road, where Tracy's men were struggling against hopeless odds; while with Baldwin's four regiments and the Third and Fifth Missouri, just arriving from Grand Gulf, and bringing additional artillery, in all about 2,400 men, Bowen undertook to check the Federal advance.

The rugged nature of the country, and the effective service of his guns, enabled Bowen to maintain himself until four o'clock in the afternoon. Perceiving then that his left flank was about to be turned, he charged the enemy's right with the two Missouri regiments. According to his report the enemy's first line (four regiments) was routed, but the rear line "held its place and forded us, after a protracted contest, to retire."

This episode is thus described by the Federal General, McClernand: "Discovering that the enemy was massing a formidable force to turn my right flank, I ordered General A. J. Smith to send a brigade to support that flank. Burbridge moved forward, while General Hovey massed his artillery and opened a destructive fire. The effect of these movements was to force the enemy back with considerable loss." The desperate charge of the Missourians saved Bowen's troops from capture and held the enemy in check until preparations could be made for the retreat which began about sunset.

Tracy's brigade, posted on the Andrews Road about two miles from the church, had likewise been all day engaged in unequal contest. At six thirty A.M. General Osterhaus attacked with his first and soon after his second brigade, ten regiments in all;

and this force was strengthened at midday by General J. E. Smith's Brigade numbering five regiments. General Tracy was killed early in the action and Colonel I.W. Garrott assumed ~~XXXXXX~~ command. His weak like made a brave resistance, in which it was greatly aided by Johnston's four guns, posted at the center. Captain Lamphere, whose battery, Seventh Michigan, was opposed to Johnson's , says in his report: "For two hours and a half my battery worked under ~~heavy~~ a most galling fire from the enemy's artillery, their guns being worked with great skill." But by ten o'clock Johnson's position had become untenable and he was forced to retire, abandoning two guns which had been disabled. At this juncture, as Garrott reports, "the enemy attempted to charge this position,(center and right) but as soon as they emerged from cover they were repulsed." McClernand, who described the operations in this quarter, said: "General Osterhaus pressed forward until obstacles in the nature of the ground and its exposure to the fire of the enemy arrested his progress." He added that afterwards "Smith's Brigade came up and attempted to carry the position by such ~~xxx~~ an attack ~~(front attack.)~~ but failed to do so."

At one o'clock Garrott was reinforced by Green's Brigade from the other road and by a fresh regiment from Grand Gulf, the Sixth Mississippi, four hundred strong, under Colonel Eugene Erwin. Taking position on Garrott's left Erwin charged, forced the enemy back a quarter of a mile, recaptured Johnston's two disabled guns, and established himself in the position thus won. General Green, now in command, was unable to advance the rest of his line but succeeded in holding his ground until six P.M., when he got orders

to retreat through Port Gibson.

Colonel Ewin was not informed of this order and his regiment from its advanced position narrowly escaped capture, but these brave troops showed a bold front and finally regained their retreating comrads without serious loss. Pursuit was checked by the rapid and accurate fire of two guns which says Lieutenant Kimball of the first Wisconsin Battery, were brought to bear on us with great effect from an open field about a mile off. Green's retreat began a little earlier than Baldwin's, the latter bringing up the rear. The enemy did not venture to follow them, and by nine P.M. the little Condederate army had crossed Bayou Pierre at points two miles apart, burning two bridges behind them. Stubborn resistance of the Confederates greatly misled the enemy as to their numbers, thus saving these exhausted troops from pursuit and almost certain capture. General Benton, for instance, whose brigade was engaged with Green's left wing near the church, reported that "for at least two hours, single-handed, the First Brigade fought three brigades of the enemy"- a ridiculous exaggeration, as the Confederate force on that road consisted of but four regiments and one battalion. In like manner Colonel Merrill of the Twenty-first Iowa, the leading column at the time of the midnight artillery duel, says; "Our column received the fire of the enemy's batteries, seven in number," whereas in reality Green had only one.

Bowen's official report states that on both roads he had but 5,164 men engaged. Bowen admitted a loss of sixty-eight killed, three hundred eighty wounded, three hundred eighty four missing; total, eight hundred thirty two. But this did not

include the casualities in the Twenty-third Alabama, Sixth Mississipni and some of the batteries, which would doubtless swell the totals to upwards of ninehundred. It should be added that Grant reported the capture of five hundred prisoners. If this is correct, the Confederates losses were probably little short of one thousand two hundred.

The Federal losses, as officially reported, were one hundred thirty one killed, seven hundred nineteen wounded, twenty five missing; total, eight hundred seventy five.

Among the Confederate officers prominent in the engagement was Colonel Francis M. Cockerell, now United States Senator from Missouri; General Green and Colonel Ewin, also Missourians, who distinguished themselves on this hard fought field, were killed a few weeks later at the siege of Vicksburg.

In this report, General Grant stated: "The move by Bruinsburg undoubtedly took the enemy by surprise. General Bowen's defense was a very bold one and well carried out. My force, however, was too heavy for his." This was a just tribute to the defeated Confederates, who had sustained themselves manfully from sunrise to sunset agianst an enemy far superior in numbers and equipment. Their achievement is the more remarkable in view of the exhausted condition in which Tracy's and Baldwin's men arrived on the field after a very severe forced march." (1)

On May 4, 1865, the formalities of the capitulation were conducted between General Taylor and General E.R.S. Canby. Before the result was known, a raid into Port Gibson by some companies of the ninth Indiana regiment resulted in the killing of one man and the capture of two prisoners.

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, August 19, 1926

Colonel Adams was promoted as Brigadier-General September 25, 1863. Part of his regiment and part ofmStark's under Lieutenant-Colonel Wood, were engaged in a skirmish at Ingraham's plantation, near Port Gibson, October 10, 1863, with the cavalry expedition that was sent out before McPherson's movement on Canton.

During the period of the Federal expedition which brought on the battle of Harrisburg in Northeast Mississippi, another expedition under Ellet and Karge, brought down by river from Memphis, invaded General Adams' territory from Vicksburg and there were skirmishes at or near Utica, July 13, and Port Gibson, July 14, and a considerable fight at Grand Gulf July 16. Karge reported that Major Shorey was driven back to camp near Utica, and near Port Gibson twenty-six men were captured from a foraging party of the First New Jersey.

In September a raiding party out of Natchez reported part pf Wood's regiment on the Homochitto. Later in the month Osband from Vicksburg paided from Haynes' Bluff to Deer Creek, and about October 1 from Bruinsurg to Port Gibson, gathering cattle and destroying property.

"GRAND GULF was the scene of two conflicts between the Federal fleet and the Confederate batteries planted on the lofty hills in the rear of the town; the first ~~xxxxxx~~ between a portion of Farragut's advance fleet, after the fall of New Orleans - and a battery of artillery commanded by Captain James A. Hoskins, of the Confederate Army, in which the latter inflicted considerable damage upon the former but was finally compelled to fall back. The Federal officers in command, in retaliation for Captain ~~for Captain~~ Hoskins audacity, afterwards ~~xxxxxxxx~~ bombarded and burned ~~the~~



the little town, without giving notice to the inhabitants, a cruel act, to say the least of it. The second conflict was between the fleet cooperating with Grant when he crossed over to the Mississippi side of Bruinsburg, to make his successful attact upon Vicksburg from the rear, and a battalion of artillery under the command of Colonel Wade of Bowen's Division of Missourians. Nothing serious resulted from the conflict other than the killing of the Gallant Wade. The battalion fell back on Vicksburg with the retreating army. (1)

The following is a woman's account of several skirmishes:

Port Gibson, Miss.,
July 7, 1864

"My Beloved son,

We have had ~~xxxxxx~~ an exciting time today as the Yankees made their appearance very unexpectedly this morning from Grand Gulf. We had only about fifteen men here, but one Yankee was killed and John Briscoe mortally wounded another. The Yankee, I suppose, imagined we had a large force at hand as they did not stay in town more than half an hour, when they retired, leaving their wounded comrad behind. He is being cared for at Mr. Harding's.

A fight took place last Monday, ~~xxxxx~~ 4th inst., near Mr. Israel Coleman's, in which the Yankees lost a Major ( who was buried by Mr. Coleman), and forty-one negroes, and were diven back to their boats. They had landed at Rodney on the previous Saturday evening and came out to Oakland fifteen hundred strong, three hundred of whom were cavalry and the others negro infantry. On Sunday they came out to Mr. Coleman's and ordered him to vacate his house, General Ellett ~~he~~

(1)

(who was in command) saying that he would occupy it for ten days. A courier was immediately despatched to Colonel Wood who had his command in Copiah County forty miles distant. They arrived at 2 o'clock Monday when the fight began, continuing till 8 P.M. when they were ~~XXXXX~~ completely routed-,,,,,.. We lost five men. This victory was a great relief to us here ~~XXXXXXX~~ as the enemy were on their way to this place. How horrible would have been our situation if these negroes had been turned loose upon us! They did a great deal of harm to people on the road as they came up, but when they went back they were too badly frightened to stop".....

Port Gibson, July 18, 1864

"My dear son,

..... We have had no mails ~~XXXXX~~ for ten or twelve days on account of the recent raids of the Yankees..... I was thankful enough when the Yankees were here that you were out of their reach. I will not try to give you any account of their doings whilst among us. General Slocomb and General Ellett left Vicksburg July 14 in command of about 2000 cavlary and 6000 infantry, whites and negroes. They advanced in the direction of Rocky Springs, thence to Utica, taking it very leisurely along the way and doing all the damage possible except that they did not burn anything. I have heard of some of our friends on that road who were completely ~~XXXXX~~ stripped of everything, not having even a change of clothing left them. Dr. Maury was ~~XXXXX~~ absent from home with his ~~XXXXX~~ family, and they literally ruined everything, even tearing up clothing and bed clothing. They captured several of our boys but released them all except John Dorrah. The citizens generally suffered very little damage from them, but some individuals lost very heavily. Mr. Shreve lost about

$10,000 in tobacco, sugar and medicines. They commenced breaking open stores on Front Street about 8.P.M. and kept it up till 3.30 A.M. Butnet lost about $12,000 in tobacco. Vert McAlpine one or two thousand in flour. It was altogether by white soldiers, the negroes being encamped near the Fair Grounds and not allowed to enter town until/next morning. Then they did comparatively little damage but were very insolent indeed. We lost nothing but a little horse, H's saddle, and wade (a negro boy), who went off with them. His mother followed them to Grand Gulf and tried to find him, but failed.

Our insolent foes remained here from 12 A.M. Thursday till 6 P.M. Friday. About 3 o'clock Friday they began leaving in the greatest ~~XX~~ hurry; through town they went at such speed that their wagons (about 120) got jammed up in the streest and it was a long time before they got started again. From the speed they were making, we thought our men were right upon them and we should have some fighting in town. There was a little skirmish near the covered bridge beyond Mr. Archer's, in which twenty-seven Yankees were taken prisoners and they took three of our men; none was hurt on either side. Our men, not wishing to ~~XX~~ press them too closely in town where there were so many non-combatants, suffered them to ~~XXXXX~~ pass through but chased ~~XXXXXXXX~~ them towards Grand Gulf and skirmished with them till they reached the ~~XXX~~ creek, taking back our three men. By this time it was night and the fight was discontinued till next day, Saturday. Their whole force crossed the bayou Friday night, making good thier escape to Grand Gulf. Light skirmishing was kept up all day Saturday between this ~~XXXX~~ place and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the Gulf. Gen. Adams had but 800 men and could only harass them. On Sunday morning fighting commenced again about three and a half miles from the Gulf. At 3 o'clock

we discovered that they were advancing in the direction of Willow Springs, but Adams sent a force around which turned them back and they proceeded to Vicksburg. Our whole loss was two killed, two wounded and three missing. General Slocomb told Mrs. Hamilton that his men were a set of cowardly thieves, but he intended to get some who would fight and give General Adams another chance.

Both the Spencers were very much broken up. Mr. I. Spencer lost seven negroes, and Mr. H. N. Spencer lost Leroy, Nat, Bill, George, and Frank. Leroy was taken off by force. He also lost all his mules, horses, ten sheep, and some hogs besides various other things. Mr. Price lost his negro girl. They took off a good many young negroes men about town but they all succeeded in making their escape except Leroy. They plundered Mrs. Brodewell's house, even stripping the clothes from the beds and leaving her with out any thing to eat. They drove about a hundred of the finest cattle about town when they passed through on Friday morning, but on their retreat the cattle escaped and came back to their homes. General Ellett said he would never suffer his men to burn the town, but it would be done before this war is over. I was so much afraid they would do it that I sat up all night Thursday night."

..... ..... .....

Port Gibson, Oct.3, 1864

My Beloved son,

" .....it is with a sad heart indeed that I seat myself to address you this morning. The Ynakees made another raid out here last Friday (30th ult.), coming up the Rodnay road, and we had not five minutes notice before the town was alive with them. They carried on pretty much as they always do, stealing everything they could lay their hands on, but oh! these losses were trifles compared with

what some of us had to suffer that night. At midnight they arrested a number of our citizehs, ladies and gentlemen, and among the latter was <u>your own dear father</u>- and they would give no reason, but carried them off with the army at 6.30 next morning. From childhood I have been accustomed to affliction, but this is the heaviest blow I ever had..... A captain and four men came to our door at 1 o'clokk and battered away as ff they would beat it down. We were all lying down but none of us wera asleep. Your father went down (followed by his family) as quickly as possible, and on opening the door the captain read this order, "you are ordered by Genêl, etc., to report to head-quarters at Judge Baldwin's at halfpast three o'cloak in the morning, prepared with a change of clothing and means of transportation. A failure to report will involve the destruction of your home." Your father asked what the charge against him was, and the captain said he did not know..... The time to report came but a picket stationed at our corner would not allow him to go. What agony I endured no one knows. I expected every moment that our house would be fired and my helpless little ones turned into the wet street. Well, as he could not go, he remained with us till 5 o'clock when the same captain and men came back to execute the balance of the order, they said, which was to burn the house. Your father and all of us explained the couse of the delay and they seemed satisfied. The captain told the men to go and said he would escort your father to Judge B's..... So your poor dear father went off with the other unfortunates, twenty in all, at half-past six." (1)

(1) Kate W. Grafton, <u>Memoir of Dr.Richard Goode Wharton</u> Page 30

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## Home Conditions During The War

Though the desolate homes to which soliers returned after the war must have been enough to fill the stoutest heart with despair, let us not forget the women who remained ~~xxxhxxx~~ behind during those four long years, who saw their homes ruined in many cases, who suffered hardships, hunger, and danger , many of whom had been accustomed to ease and luxury.

"When Grant's army landed at Bruinsburg, their route to Vicksburg traversed the entire length of Claiborne County. All homes on this ~~XXXX~~ route were sacked and pillaged, the store houses left ~~xxd~~ emptied. Cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats were driven away, leaving the owners destitute. Then it was the loyalty and attachment of many of the slaves was demonstrated. Some of the more intelligent traded with the Yankee soldiers, managing to secure provisions for their owners. Prior to the coming of Grant's army, every Saturday wagons were sent to the Confederate lines, loaded with all avaiable food for the army." (1)

Hear what the records say, and what the memories of those still living recall as to home conditions of this period;

Spinning wheels and looms worked overtime in those days to provide for not only those at home, but for the men at front. Raw wool was washed, carded, made into thread and dyed, then woven into cloth on a loom, of which nearly every neighborhood was the possessor. Cotton thread was also made at home, the cotton being first formed into balls, soaked in soapy water and then dried.

A local diary records the pleasure of a soldier at receiving a suit made at home. Carpets were cut up to make blankets for the horses of the soldiers, and when carpets gave out, wool and cotton blankets were a also woven at home. Shoes were ~~XXXXXXX~~ fashioned from bits of carpet,

(1) H. H. Crisler, Port Gibson, Mississippi



leather, or canvass, or parts of old shoes were remade into a semblance of new; or old stores of this necessary article of apparel were drawn from the attic and worn with pride. Some plantations were so fortunate as to have negroes trained in the making of shoes built according to the proper last from leather tanned on the place.

Food was scarce and its price high. Union soldiers raided pantries. They entered homes demanding to be fed and then departed carrying the family silver with them. In the midst of this pillage, "there is sometimes discerned a touch of humor as when my mother is pictured swinging on to the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ coat tails of a Yankee running down the steps with her table silver."(1)

That neseccity was the mother of invention was proved over and over again by these brave Confederate women. For coffee, they found a substitute of parched sweetppotatoes or of parched corn. For sugar, they used sorghum or cane syrup. Salt often had to be procured by treating the soil dug from the floor of smoke-houses. A satisfactory substitute for ~~xxx~~ soda came from the sifted ashes of burned corn cobs. Cornmeal was sifted through muslin cloth to make flour for cakes and bread with such excellent results that soldiers wrote home of their delight over the delicious cakes sent them.

Up to the time Grant's Army passed through the county, the slaves were content to work, but on being told they were free by the soldiers of this general, some of the slaves became dissatisfied. However, "the major portion of them remained on the plantation even after the war was over. There seemed to be a lasting bond of affection between them and their 'white folks', as they termed them. All through the weary period of the war, the faithful slaves strove with might and main to protect those at home and provide substance for them.

(1) Miss Mary Magruedr, Port Gibson, Mississippi

Various were the ways and means by which this was done. Crops were handicapped for lack of teams to work them with. Horses and mules had been turned over to the soldiers, oxen were used for plowing, and blacksmiths were busily engaged in shaping lead for bullets. Yet somehow the negroes managed to find someting to eat. 'Old Mistis and dem chillun' shouldn't suffer. If the fat yearlings had been sacrificed to the needs of the army, there were fat shoats to roast, and 'My! Didn't he look nice all brown and crusty on de big dish, wid er rod apple in his mouth'. 'Den dar wuz the big hogs fer sausage and bacon, Marse Tom had er plenty of dem'. One day the soldiers came and carried off a wagon load of bacon and ham and what they couldn't use, they destroyed, even pouring the pans of milk out on the ground and smashing up the things in the dairy. There were several cracked stone churns in the old attic, reserved for some purpose, for the elders of that day never threw anything away. Often these lines recurred to us: 'Imperial Caesar, dead and turned to clay, might stop a hole to keep the wind away'.

"Exploring upstairs in childhood we found many strange things. 'What's this?' we asked, holding up a tin object like a bunch of xx rounded elongated breadsticks doubled. 'Why, thatss a candle mold ; we used to make them of tallow during the war'. Of course we burned lard oil in a few lamps of glass, but generally used candles. 'But there are only eight in this mold- it must have been a slow progress!' 'There were others'came the answer. I noticed too, they were longer than those of the present day." (1)

That the faithful slaves were often the sole dependence of families from which all men had gone to war is well known. An instance is recalled of a mother and two small xxxxxxx daughters who were kept

(1) Miss Mary Magruder, Port Gibson, Mississippi



well supplied with food secured from the Yankee camps by such means. He not only found the food and brought it home, but also prepared it for the family. One day a Yankee officer, in the house at the dinner hour, was invited to dine. On his commenting on the excellent food and being told its source, he said; "Send the old man for more; we have planty." (1)

Another recalls how these faithful creatures "foraged for their masters' families, hunted 'possum and taters' , wove and spun that we might be clothed." Often", she says, "I have watched Aunt Nellie and Aunt Mindy, or Aunt Maria spin. And there once lived with us a dear old lady, who, from a habit of knitting socks for the soldiers in gray, continued to knit for her two boys, one son and a son-in-law, both managers of my father's plantations. Her son's wife now lived in New Orleans, and her great granddaughter was Queen of the Carnival. She told of parching meal for coffee and sometimes substituted sweet potatoe parings, of xxxxing losing a beautiful home in Grand Gulf, when it was fired by the troops, and all their possessions 'gone to the wind'. Also of a few who prospered by forming a friendship with the 'Blockade Runners', which most loyal Southerners were too proud to do." (2) Though instances are known of ladies in hoop-skirts running the blockade and returning with various articles hung to the framework of their voluminous skirts, and of young girls being sent into the camp of the enemy for food.

The attachment of the colored race for the white is revealed in such incidents as the following: "On one occasion my father was taken out of bed in his night clothes and might have been killed as a traitor, so declared, had not a negro in Port Gibson interceded for him before the Union officers, told of my father's goodness and liberality towards the race, for which he was noted, and the officer

(1) Miss Maggie Musgroves Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Miss Mary Magruder, Port Gibson Miss.

released him. My father showed his appreciation by presenting the negro with a house and land. Many stories of those troublous times peplets with sadness and gloom are related by some, while MXMXX others more optimistic state there were little rifts of sunshine amid the clouds. There was one wedding in this neighborhood-- Miss Archer of 'Anchuka' to a Virginian, tha fair bride at a loss for a wedding gown was lent ten dollars by Uncle Maurice Cox, their gray haired negro butler, with which to purchase a white swiss." (1)

Often the faithful body servants carried their masters on their backs in sacks, and when asked what they had, would reply "potatoes, etc." Whereupon they were allowed to pass on.

Aside from the suffering and hardships, the women of the Confederacy were haunted by fera. They lived not only in a world of privation and want, but in their very homes were subject to danger. Homes were shelled, horses shot from carriages waiting to bear women and children to safety. Palatial mansions went up in smoke, or their contents were wantonly destroyed. A matron who, on remonstrating with General Grant over the destruction being wrought on her home by his soldiers, received the reply, "Madam, I did not bring my soldiers here to protect rebel property". (2)

The proceding letters written by Mrs. Wharton were to a son Charles Dabney, who held a position in a hospital in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Wharton was a prominent pioneer citizen of Claiborne County, having located first at Grand Gulf in the 1830's

The following excerpts from letters written during the war give further light on home conditions at that time.

"Port Gibson, July 25, 1864

"We have very few clothes and I cannot see how we shall get along through the winter."

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(1) Miss Mary Magruder, Port Gibson, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Marian B. Person, Port Gibson, Miss.



" I am truly disbressed about our children being so long out of school. Your father undertook to teach them but he has very little time (has been very busy lately), and .....I haventt time even to teach the little ones."

"We went for a sack of flour last week but do not yet know what it will cost. Should it be very high, we will let someone else take it as money is getting to be very scarce."

" Watermelons are very abundant now and very cheap, twenty-five cents, At first they sold for five and six dollars apiece, Confederate money."

"The people here are getting very long faces on accou t of the chormous taxes. Your Pa and Grandma together will have to pay about $700."

" Mr. I. Spencer has been offered fifteen dollars a gallon for his sorghum molasses. Some of the country people are making molasses of watermelons, and it is said to be very good indeed. It takes thirty melons to make a gallon."

"Port Gibson, October 13,1864

" My paper is nearly all out and I don't know where I shall get any more. Miss Carrie Hogg gave me a few sheets like this."

"Dr. Torrey promised your father anough leather for two pairs of shoes and I will try to send you half of it."

"Port Gibson, Oct.16, 1864

"Since your father was taken our friends cannot do enough to show their sympathy. Scarcely a day passes but what some one sends me fresh meat, potatoes, hominy, corn, etc."

" I send you a bundle containing the following articles;

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one pair pantaloons, one cloth talma, one pair gloves, one pair slippers, one comfort, besides a little box containing a cap. I value them at $300, and you could not buy them here at that amount. Confederate grey cloth sells at $150 per yard."

" Port Gibson, November 4, 1864

"Mr. Spencer has returned from his place bringing a lot of good things, such as coffee, sugar, cheese, etc., which his dear good wife has divided with me."

"Port Gibson, Jan.20, 1865

(Referring to a trip to Vicksburg) "We could not get a permit to buy anything, but through our friends we got a good many articles. I made into a skirt (and wore it) some goods from a couple of fatigue shirts for you."

"Port Gibson, Jan.27,1865

"Everything is very scarce; the planters will not sell anything for our money, it is so worthless, but for greenbacks somethings can be bought. Corn is five dollars per bushel and scarce at that; our fare is of the plainest kind."

"Port Gibson, Feb.9,1865

"I do not collect much money but am trying to get provisions. I have five hogs and more promised, besides half a barrel of lard. We generally have plenty of butter; corn is scarce but we get enough. When I take Confederate money for my services I charge ten dollars per visit in town, and ten dollars per mile. I owe some greenbacks, $250, borrowed for my trip to Vicksburg, and am very anxious to sell cotton to pay it. ..... We cannot use flour as it is worth $300 per sack. Jeans sells at $30 to $35 per yard."



"Port Gibson, Feb.15, 1865

"Within two weeks a good many negroes have gone to the Yankees. Our negroes all do well and seem pretty well satisfied except Gus. He does just as he pleases. We have a houseful of free negroes just across the street who will be a great nuisance I fear."

"Port Gibson, March 1, 1865

" Mr. H, N, Spencer met with quite a loss last night. His two negro women and their three children left in the night for Yankeedom. We all thought they were worthy of confidance. Several other women left last night and I believe there will soon be no negroes in this part of the country. Ours are greatly demoralized."

"Greenwood" the beautiful old home of the Shelby Jefferies family, located in the eastern part of the county, was RAIDED by the Federal soldiers. Mrs. J. J. Mann, a daughter of the family, gave the following story of the raid:

The house was handsomely furnished. The floors were covered with lovely velvet carpets, handsome furniture was in every room, fine portraits hung on the walls, and the dining room was well supplied with imported china and glass. The soldiers rushed in, damaged the portraits, broke the china, took all what silver had not been hidden, and tore up from the floor and burned the carpets.

The smoke house with its great stores of meat was brained, and barrels of molasses were knocked in, the contents being allowed to run in streams over the ground except as it could be caught up in pans by the negroes.

The family had already turned over to the government 400 bales of cotton valued at $100 per bale to satisfy tax claims. Now these Federal raiders demanded the unginned cotton they found on the place. In their inexperienced efforts to gin the cotton, they set fire to the gin, destroying both it and the cotton.

White Hall

The plantation home ~~, first, White Hall,~~ of Mr. Joseph Jones, located near St Elmo, a station on the Natchez & Jackson Railroad, was RAIDED by the Federal soldiers as they passed through this county enroute to Vicksburg. These soldiers were evidently more interested in cattle and horses, for nothing in the homes was touched but all farm stock was driven away except a pony.

H. N. Spencer's home was RAIDED for its silver, but horses and cattle were driven off, and some of the slaves were taken.

Brief History, War Records of Distinguished Individuals

Benjamin Grubb Humphreys was born August 26, 1808, at the Hermitage, the family home on Bayou Pierre, in Claiborne County, Mississippi. His father was George Wilson Humphreys, son of Ralph and Agnes (Wilson) Humphreys. Ralph Humphreys was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution, and was decended from a family that came to America from the northern part of Ireland. He settled in the Natchez District at Grindstone Ford in 1788.

On the death of his mother in 1817, he was sent to the home of his grandfather, Major David Smith of Christian County, Kentucky where he attended school during his childhood. In 1821 he was

sent to a New Jersy school during his childhood. In 1825 he returned to Port Gibson and secured employment as a clerk. In the same year he received an appointment to West Point, and entered the class with Robert E. Lee. In 1827 he was dismmissed from the Academy with a number of other students for a breach of discipline, after which he returned home and assisted his father in the management of his plantation. On March 15, 1832, he married Mary McLaughlin, daughter of Dougald McLaughlin, and made a plantation home an the Big Black River in Claiborne County. His wife died in 1835. In 1839 he represented Claiborne County in the lower house of the Legislature, as a Whig, and in the Senate, 1841-44. He married Mildred Hickman, daughter of J. H. Maury, of Port Gibson, December 3, 1839. In 1846 he removed to Sunflower County and established his home on Roebuck Lake. From 1846 to 1861 he lived the life of a planter.

In 1861 Benjamin Humphreys organized the Sunflower Guards, proceeded at once to Virginia and joined the Confederate Army. He was commissioned Captain May 18, 1861, and on September 11 was made Colonel of the Twenty-first Mississippi Regiment. After the death of General William Barksdale, at Gettysburg, he was promoted to Bigadier-General, and was commissioned August 14, 1863. He took an active part in all the great campaigns of the Army of Northern Virginia, giving gallant service until he was wounded at Berryville, Virginia in September 1864. After he recovered he was assigned in February, 1865, to duty in South Mississippi, where he served until the close of the war.

EARL VAN DORN was born in Port Gibson, Mississippi September 17, 1820. "The blood of a noble Holland ancestry and patriot fathers of the American Revolution coursed through his veins, and he was destined to become an American warrior in more than one of the

nation's battles, in Mexico, and in Texas against the savage Comanches, and in the War Between the States.

"In his early youth he chose the profession of arms for his life work, and at the age of sixteen unprompted and unaided by an older hand, addressed a letter to Ex-President Jackson, at the Hermitage in Tennessee, stating his desire to become a military man; and at length, after waiting several months, while sitting under a tree on the playground near Baltimore, feeling meloncholy and homesick, the principal of the academy appeared holding up a large official envelope with a big official seal, and called for Earl Van Dorn . It proved to be a commission to enter West Point, obtained by General Jackson, and with hurried eagerness he packed his trunks and was on his way to the Military Academy, There he remained for the four years' course------- Earl Van Dorn thus became a military many devoting his whole life to the study of military tactics, living in U. S. garrisons and forts, and became cosmopolitan in his citizenship as an officer educated for the army. Subsequently, when his native state had need for his services, he became an officer of the Confederate Army-------

He was first assigned to duty at Fort Pike on the Gulf of Mexico, and from there to Mount Vernon, Alabama, where at the early age of twenty three he married the only daughter of Colonel Godbold, an esteemed citizen of that neighborhood------- Soon after the marriage of General Van Dorn, war was declared between this country and Mexico, and he left his bride for the field of war. In the campaigns in Mexico, his name was frequently mentioned for gallantry in action-------After the close of the war with Mexico Major Van Dorn visited his native place and received cordial congratulations and encomiums from all sides. The

legislature of the state, citizens of Port Gibson, and Claiborne County presented him with costly swords in homor of his achievemnets in Mexico.-----In a subsequent visit to Port Gibson the citizens presented him with a handsome silver service in recognition of his gallantry in Texas against the Indians. During the War Betwwen the States Mrs. Van Dorn managed to save this silver service, but the swords were captured or abstracted from her home by Union soldiers.-----Still another sword was presented General Van Dorn during the war by the State of Mississipni, for "his noble defense of Vicksburg".-----

General Van Dorn was shot in his own room at Spring Hill, Tennessee, by a citizen of the neighborhood. His untimely death brought to a close one of the greatest military careers in southern history.-------- The family burial spot at Port Gibson was at the time of General Van Dorn's death in the lines of the enemy, and the remains could not be taken to that place, which would have been the proper one for their sepulture beside his father and mother. But many years after, the sacred remains were removed to his native place and laid there." (1)

Van Dorn was made one of the Brigadier-Generals of the Confederate Army January 23, 1861. He was in charge of the defeated Confederate forces at the Battle of Corinth, October 3 and 4, 1862, after which he was relieved of chief command in Mississippi.

"Of the Battle of Cornith, history will say it was not only a victory. In all the elements of military science--conception, plan of attact and execution of design--it reflects the highest credit on the general who commanded the forces, and it covered with glory the subordinate generals, officers and men engaged in the terrific strug-

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(1) A Soldiers Honor by His Comrades, Pp. 12-33.

gle. On the close of the contest on the night of the first day (Friday), General Van Dorn received the congratulations of every General officer under his command; and, in the hearts of his men, lying prostrate, parched by thirst, and wesry from excess of valor, there was but one feeling--pride that they served under a commander who had taught them, that day, his capad ty to command and guide the currents of a wide-spread battle-field." (1)

Confederate cavalry under Forrest and Van Dorn captured Holly Springs December 20, 1862, seizing or destroying immense stores of Grant's,

Letters from the Front and War Prisons

"Camp Peltus,Oct.9,1862
Adjutant's Office"

"My dear Annette:-

"I worte you a letter a short time ago giving you a description of my trip to this hilly place, Mill Dale, but as I wrote you a short letter owing to our being so much confused and fatigued from our march from Vicksburg, I will occupy a short time by again writing you a short letter. However I have no news to write at present except the defeat of our army at Corinth last Sunday.-----the fight commenced last Friday. We drove the enemy from every position, drove them into their entrenchments on Saturday night, but they were reinforced during the night and the redult is we were badly whipped on Sunday loosing 7000 men."

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"Camp near Silver Creek
July 20, 1864"

"Dear Annette:

(1) a Soldiers Honor by His Comrads p 152



"We are guarding Colonel Dillion's ordinance train. I do not know how long we will stay there. You wrote me to send someting home to plow. I do not want you to undertake to make anything for I am going to bring Nels with me in camp. The Yanks will have full control of that part of the country soon and they will let us make nothing. You spin the weave and that will keep Nancy busy. I have two fine horses but I am afraid to send one of them home for I know the Yanks will get it, so I think the best thing I can do is to keep Nels and the horses with me. Do the best you can until I come home. The Captain is coming home in a day or two and as soon as he comes back, I will come home. I am so sorry to hear that -------is so sick. I send three yards of calico to make me a fancy shirt, puff the bosom. Do your best on it and have it done when I get home.----------

Yours truly

Frank."

The above are extracts from letters now in possession of Mrs. C. D. Howard, of Port Gibson Mississippi.

Following are extracts from the diary of G. W. Naasson, Veteran of the War Between the States.

"July 1, 1863

Thank God we are not in the hands of the enemy yet. What if we do suffer a little? We will get doubly paid for it in the satisfaction of gaining our independence. This is what we are fighting for and what we will suffer in the extreme for. Brave hearts will accomplish it; our success is certain.

"My heart aches for this part of the country. It will be left to the mercy of the enemy unprotected but thank high Heaven we are not

whipt nor shall we give up this glorious contest until our Southern Banner floats triumphantly over the Southern States. Then and not till then will we say enough."

"I can say this much to the credit of the Yankee that they have treated us very much like gentlemen and they have treated us well."

"July 16th, 1863

We are doing pretty well. We suffer for the want of medical care. Dr. Basset is drunk most of the time he draws the whiskey for the sick and drinks it himself he came this morning to dress our wounds and he was so drunk that he could not do it. This is an outrage to humanity. We live pretty well, the federals are better to us than our own men this speaks well of them."

"Sunday, 26th, 1863. Aboard the Yankee steamer Chessman on our way up the river."

"Monday 27th. I have fared better today as I came across some brother Yankee Masons from the State of Maine going home to their families they treated me like brothers they gave me crackers and tea, meat and bread."

"Mobile, Ala. Thursday 10th, 1865. Our company slept under the roof of the depot, and a good sleep it was, soldiers can sleep any where and make themselves at home in any place hpwever hard the fare. I bought some bread this morning one dollar and a quarter per loaf four loaves five dollars."

The following are prices quoted from the above diary:

"July, 1862. Provisions bought in."

1/2 bushel potatoes---------75¢



Bread ----------$1.50

Goose----------1,50

25 roasting ears----------.25

Vegetables----------2.75

20 fish----------1.00

"May, 1864: 15th 5 dozen eggs------$8.00

12th 2 gal. molasses--- 3.00

13th 4½ dozen eggs----- 7.00

## A Reminiscence of 1864

"The following account of a Federal raid upon Port Gibsson is abridged and adapted from the Montgomery Mail of October 15, 1864. Of the twenty citizens whose capture and imprisionment are here related, eight still survive, viz: Mrs. Ellett, Memphis; Mr. Butler, wife and daughter, Warrington, Virginia; Dr. Wharton; Miss Cora Moore; Mrss. Lanza Gordon, now Mrs. Lanza Stem of Corsicana Taxas; J. M. Parker, New Orleans; Caleb Perkins; L deN. Evans, La; Stanley Snodgrass. We quote;

"On Saturday, September 30, (1864) about 500 or 600 Yankees troops, white and black, landed from the gunboats at Rodney and marched up the road toward Port Gibson. A few Confederate soldiers happened to be in town when the enemy arrived that afternoon, and there was a skirmish in the streets, our men loosing one man killed, and the Yankees two or three. Immediately on taking possession of the town they began a system of pillage and arrested a number of country

people who happened to be in town. About one o'clock A. M. a squad went around to several residences, roused the inmates and ordered them to be ready to march with them that morning under penalty of having their houses burned. These citizens were guiltless of any offense, nor were any charges ~~XXXX~~ brought against them; but being in the enemy's power , they were forced to yield!"

"The names of the victims were Honorable H. T. Ellett and wife; Prof. George G. Butler, wife and infant daughter; Mrs. Emily Briscoe, Mrs._____Henry; Mrs. Laura Gordon, James A. Gage, Dr. R. G. Wharton, Dr. A. H. Peck, A. Sink, William Smith, all from the town and the followingfrom the country: Miss Cora Moore, S. Forbes, Dan Dohan, Caleb Perkins, Mohn M. Parker, S. S. Snodgrass, L. DeN. Evans. The families of these hapless citizens are greatly distressed by their capture, not knowing what fate may await them. Mr. Ellett had just gotten back ~~XXXX~~ home after an absence of twenty months, having ~~XXXXXX~~ been driven away by the approach of Grant's army after the Battle of Port Gibson, May 1,1863. The prisoners were humilated by being put in charge of an escort of negro troops on the march back to Rodney. They were put aboard a gunboat, taken to Vicksburg and thrown in jail, some of the gentlemen being ~~XXXX~~ put into cells with common criminals of the vilest type-thieves, burgulars, and the like. Nobody can assign any plausible reason for this outrage.

"A later issue of the Mail, November 18, containing the follow-ing additional intelligence:

"Soon after the capture of the Port Gibson citizens, arrangements were ~~XXXXXXXX~~ entered into between our authorities at Jackson and the Yankees at Vicksburg in order to effect an exchange. This resulted



in sending a flag of truce to the latter point on the 16th of October. We sent thirteen Yankee plantation -lessees and one soldier ; but as they held more than~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ that number of our citizens, six or seven . Port Gibson gentlemen still remain in prison. All the ladies were exchanged and reached Port Gibson about November 1. Several of the citizens were made ill by the damp and unwholesome air of the prison, but on applying to the authorities, they were permitted to receive medical treatment.

"The Southern people in Vicksburg did all they could for the comfort of the prisoners, sending them provisions, money, bedding, clothing, and whatever could alleviate their distresses. One of the kindest of these kind friends was Mrs. Delia Wright. The names of those who have not been exchanged are Drs. Peck and Wharton, H. S. Fulkerson, John Parker, George Butler, A. Sink, and Caleb Perkins.

"These remaining prisoners were leased one and two at a time and by the end of December all had regained their liberty except Mr. Sink and Mr. Fulkerson, the latter of whom was an agent of the Confederate governmoent. Dr. Sprott, another citizen of Claiborne County, was also in confinement at Vicksburg st that time and was not released till some weeks after the others." (1)

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, July6,1892

The following article was taken from a Washington paper and published in the Port Gibson Reveille, June 15, 1899:

"I was mixed up in one little unrecorded event of the War Between the States; said General B., that was interesting from its very unusualness, and which as I look back upon it, seems strangely picturesque. We were attached to what was known as the Marine Brigades, a little fleet of twelve 'tin clad' river steamboats that plied up and down the Mississippi after the surrender of Vicksburg. The term 'tin clad' by the way, is somewhat misleading, as it is not remotely connected with the white metal but signifies rather boats heavily planked with oak for the purpose of protecting them somewhat from the ravages of bullets.

"One day our little battalion of four companies was ordered to steam down the river, disembark at Rodney, march to Port Gibson, and there consult sealed orders in regard to futher proceedings. Imagine our surprise upon reading the instructions to find that we were expected to capture and carry back to Vicksburg as prisoners fifty of the most aristocratic confederate young women in the city. However we had served long enough to obey orders without question, and provided with guides familiar with the town, we set about our bizarre and not too agreeable task. We first established headquarters at the residence of a prominent confederate judge.

"Then different squads were sent out to call at the homes of the young women and escort them to the place of rendezvous. The instructions were that they must report at headquarters within two hours on penalty of their family residence being burned to the ground.



The only information we could give them (the whole transaction was as much a mystery to us as to them) was that they were to be taken to Vicksburg as prisoners of war, but were on no account to suffer any discomfort or indignity.

"Of course, there was great weeping, wailing, and gnashing of tee teeth from tender mothers, loving sisters, and irate fathers and brothers. But the incident had to be accepted as belonging too the fortunes of war, and at the end of two hours forty-nine of the fifty, attended by anxious friends and relatives, were at the rendezvous. Mergy was imposed for the one delinquent. An additional hour was granted, and at their own suggestion several of the young women were dispatched to her home to persuade her to follow their example in gracefully submitting to the inevitable. The result was that before the hour was up the last fair prisoner put in an appearance in a very defiant mood.

"Our troubles, however, by no means ended here. Indeed, they were hardly fairly begun. The next question was how to transport our beautiful captives to Rodney, a distance of some miles, over roads that were in frightful condition from the devastations of war and consequent neglect. All the good horses, too, like all the good men, were off to war and as for marriages, they were most decidedly fallen into a state of innocuous desuetude. There was obviously nothing for us to do, therefore, but to gather together all the broken-down old horses and dilapidated vehicles in the vicinity, which we somehow managed to hitch together with plow harnesses, bits of roap, straps, etc. With these improvised coaches drawn up into line, began the process of loading on our victims; and when they were all stowed away, it was a motley looking processinn, I can assure you. Even the sound of farewell and the sight of weeping

eyes could not blind us to the humorous aspect of the scene. You must remember that we were all pretty young fellows in '63. The War Between the States was fought by men whose average age was only twenty-three. Well, we made our way slowly, amid tears and laughter, to Rodney, where be embarked for Vicksburg. Upon arriving here the young women were taken before the provost marshal, who put them on parole, confining them to the limits of the town. Most of them had friends in town with thom they ~~xxxxx~~ chose to remain, and suitable quarters were found for ~~xxxxxx~~ the rest.

"The reason for the whole transaction then transpired. It seemed that some Northern young women school teachers had been taken prisoners by the Confederates and were at that moment in their camps, where they were forced to wash and mend for the soldiers and perform other menial services. These confederate young women were therefore to be held as hostages until the Northern women were released.

"There was little delay in the exchange and we had our fair visitors in Vicksburg only thirty-days. They were, however, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ delightful days. Yankeee officers and Confederate maidens intermingled socially, and the acquanitance so rudely forced upon the beautiful Southerners proved in some instances a mutual pleasure. I could, indeed, point to more than one romantic marriage that was the direct outcome of our raid upon Port Gibson."

"This writer, who chooses to call himself General B., undoubtedly sails under a nominal title for one officer is likely to give his imagination so much play. There is about as much truth in the statement that fifty young ladies were held as hostages as there is in the absurd falsehood that Northern school teachers were required to do menial services for Confederate soldiers. The facts, as given by

the old residents of Port Gibson are these. A few old men and two or three middle aged ladies were taken to Vicksburg and held a short time as hostages; but, so far as we can learn, not a single young lady was arrested. The General found himself compelled to justify such an arrest, so he winds up his fairy tale by telling something that was never known in the South until this self constituted "General" saw proper to enlighten us.

" Just such cranks as the writer of the above article keep alive the smouldering fire of sectional ~~xxxxxxx~~ hatred."

Below is the letter in reply to the above article , now in possession of Mrs. Marian Briscoe Person, of Port Gibson.

Port Gibson, Mississippi

June 15, 1899

"Mr. Marcus Bernheimer,

Saint Louis, Missouri

"Dear Friend Marcus ;-

In reply to slip, or clipping, from the "Globe Democrat" of June 4 inclosed to your brother J., I wish to state that you are mistaken about it "all" being a falsehood. I ~~xxxxx~~ being the only one of these "Fair prisoners of war" living, feel that I must set the newspapers straight on this one subject, trusting that you, a Southern man, and a lover of all Southerners, will see that my statements, corrections, etc. are given to the public.

"Before I answer this article, I must say I do not remember this "Gen.B." spoken of, nor do I know who this writer is who signs herself "Delia T. Davis" or I would address my communications to her or him.

"Then again, Mrs. G. Fulkerson, President of our Claiborne County

"Daughters of Confederacy" has asked me to assist her in giving a true statement to the world. I shall give her the names, dates, and a few facts of the event, she is to write the article. I do not know when or where it will be published.

" I do not request the publishing of this letter to you, unless you think best.

" I am sorry to say, we ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Southern people are always misrepresented when "written" up by Yankees.

"The unrecorded and amusing event of the War Between the States related by General B. published in many papers recently, signed "Delia T. Davis", might have been to the thriving, desolating men of "Elletts Marines" quite a joke, but to us (who lived in the small town of Port Gibson, Claiborne County Mississippi) it was a sad reality!!!

"We knew not the hour or day of their coming, and when the cry came "The Yankees are coming", it caused a ~~XXXXXXXX~~ stampede even from ~~XXXXX~~ prayermeetings or devine service! We knew if we did not get to our homes before the raiders did, we would not have one comfort left in our homes, which had already been stripped of every movable article when Grant's Army came through on its march to Vicksburg, the day after the Battle of Port Gibson May 1863 .

"Some of us had our bare houses left us, no fences, no animals, no chickens, turkeys, fowl of any kind, and scarcely a pet rat left in town! All of our business was suspended, fathers, sons, husbands and brothers gone in the Army. No way to get any money unless we stole cotton and sold to the United States government, as some of our citizens did! No provisions, no growing crops, all such having been destroyed and fed to the Yankee horses, mules and soldiers. We



had only corn meal, corn meal perched for our coffee, and home made molasses.

"So when this eventful day came when four battalions of Ellett's Marines came to our town, we wondered what they wanted. All day long the privacy of our homes was broken ~~into~~ by visitations of rude, ill mannered soldiers, one of them had a real fight with ~~XXXXXXXX~~ our one remaining servant woman, He attempted to take all the ~~XXX~~ we had; she fought for it as it was all she had to feed her five children on. She conquered, he left without any milk! (except on his uniform)

" Many of us were saucy to them, ordered them out of our houses. So when the summons came at two o'clock in the morning for us to report at headquarters in an hour, or our homes would be burned, we could only guess it was because of our saucy tongues! For surely we knew there were no Yankee school marms south of the Mason Dixon Line, since the first whiper of war went over the land.

----------Page of letter missing here)----------

and several widows of years ago, while only two young ladies were summoned beside myself. I regret to say I was the missing one, the ~~XXXXXX~~ fiftieth, I believe, in his narrative.

"I was a young girl, very delicate, just recovering from a serious illness. It was almost certain death for me to venture out in the night air; my mother went to save our home. They did not order me brought to headquarters, but our friend, Mrs. L. N. Baldwin, at whose house they made headquarters, interceded in my behalf, telling the general, or major, that I was very delicate and just recovering from a serious illness, so he countermanded his order

to bring her at all hazards.

"It was all true, about the manner of transporting their fair aristocratic young prisoners to Rodney where they were crowded onto a transport, taken to Vicksburg, marched up those hills in the middle of the streets under guard by escort of soldiers, put into a prison and held behind iron bars, kept there thirty days, fed on parched meal, coffee and wormy hard tack, no comfortable beds, not even a decent toilet for our delicate mothers and fathers, turned out after thirty days, put on a transport, turned loose at the landing which was once the town of Grand Gulf, eight miles from home, no conveyance, no money, left to go to their homes as best they could. Did not even have the politeness to tell them why thay had been so rudely treated.

" I have a picture of my mother, Mrs. E. L. Briscoe, and one of Mrs. Laura Bobo Gordon taken while in this prison in Vicksburg. But for the kindness of my good old school mate and friend, Mrs. Charlie Wright of Vicksburg, my mother and others would have suffered for food and clothing. (Remember they were taken away without any packing of trunks or sachels even) It turned very cold while they were away, so it must have been in the Fall of the year, as far as I can remember.

"As far the romantic marriages following this imprisonment, I am at a loss to remember them. As my mother died a widow in'91, Mrs. Henry died a widow, Mrs. Gordon married Long Berry, one of our noted scouts, and she died in Texas years ago. The only one of our Port Gibson girls who married a Yankee was Miss B. Coleman; she married Colonel York after the war.

"My mother spoke of their talking to their guards and spoke



of them as being very kind and sympathetic. These prisoners were forced to take the oath of allegiance to the United States government but were never allowed the freedom of the city, social intercourse etc.

" My brother John was a prisoner at the same time. I was left at home with a ten year old brother, but for the kindness of a Methodist minister, Mr. Booth, we would have been without even bread, while our mother was away! May I not venture to say there were others.?

"I must confess to being a very defiant girl, for I refused to go with them, telling the second squad who came after me that they would have to tie me hand and foot and carry me if they took me at all. Truth to tell, they hadn't time to waste on a refractory, unruly woman. They knew at daylight our Cavalry boys would swoop down on them and recapture their prisoners, they had to hasten away, the town was not theirs to hold and never was.

"I would advise General B. and his amused friend, Delia T. Davis, to get a few reliable facts together before they attempt to write articles for publication. And what is more, may not some of us put in a claim for false imprisonment yet?

"The sealed orders must have been opened before reaching Port Gibson for Mr. Forbes and Mr. Dan Dohan, residents of the county, heard of the coming of the Marines started for home out the Sims Road, crossed over to Rodney Road, and were captured several miles from town.

"Hoping I have not taxed your patience too severely, I remain

Truly your friend

Lucie Briscoe Allen (Mrs. Z.B. Allen

In an INTERVIEW with Mrs. Byron H. Levy she gave an interesting account of the unveiling ceremonies of the monument erected by the United Daughter's of Confederacy and Daughter's of American Revolution chapters to the memory of Confederate troops who fell at the battle of Magnolia Church on May 1, 1863.

"The Unveiling took place on March 5, 1915 and regardless of the threatening weather which kept some away, there was a representative gathering of seventy-five who took part in the historical event. The monument occupies a place on an eminence just outside the lawn surrounding the redidence of Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Shaifer and overlooking the Port Gibson and Rodney road. Here it is said the first shot was fired, while just southwest, in a ravine, two companies of the Confederate troops strongly opposed the advancing enemy.

"Little Misses Marjorie Allen and Evana Shelby removed the Confederate battle flag which veiled the marker and presented it to Color Bearer, Shaifer, who then led the small body of vetrans to the cedar grove in his yard where the exersises were held. Here Dr. Featherston offered a fervent prayer, which was followed by the singing of "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground". Then Mr. J. Mc Martin, orator of the occasion, delivered an address. He recited the incidents leading to the battle, and related some personal experiences on the memorable day. The speaker digressed long enough to show how inseparable the two organizations of the Daughter's of American Revolution and United Daughter's of Confederacy are linked together, and stated that any criticism regarding the part taken by the first namad erecting the monument is foolish.

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"At the conclusion of the address the president of the Daughters of the Confederacy, Mrs. D. H. Smith, after Mrs. Byron H. Levy had read the rules governoring the bestowal of the crosses, presented crosses to Mrs. E. A. Humphreys daughter of a veteran, and E. C. Foster, a veteran. This ended the exercises and Dr. Featherston dismissed the gathering.

"Mr. and Mrs. Shaifer were the hosts of the occasion. They had a number of relics of the battle on display which aroused interest".

## Miscellaneous

Parole now in possession of Ed Snodgrass.

No. 730

I, the undersigned, Prisoner of War, belonging to the Army of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana, having been surrendered by Lieutenant General R. Taylor, C.S.A., Commanding said Department, to Major General E.R.S. Canby, U.S.A., Commanding Army and Division of West Mississippi, do hereby give my solemn parole of honor, that I will hereafter not serve in the Armies of the Confederate States, or in any military capacity whatever, against the United States of America, or render aid to the enemies of the latter, until properly exchanged in such manner as shall be mutually approved by the respective authorities.

Done at Gainesville, Ala. — H. C. Snodgrass, 2nd. Lieutenant

this 12th day of May, 1865 — Co. H, 4th Mississippi.Cav. Regt.

Approved W.H. Jackson — Brig. Gen. C.S.A. Comms.

E. S. Dennis — Brig. Gen. U.S.A.

The above named officers will not be disturbed by United States authorities, as long as he observes his parole, and the laws in force where

he redides.

E. S. Dennis

Brig. Gen. U. S. Vols.

and Prov. Mar. Gen.

Cmr. for U. S.

Copy of letter to Thomas Freeland, Rodney, Mississippi from H. C. Warmoth, New Orleans, Louisiana

"Executive Department

State of Louisiana

New Orleans, August 2nd, 1871

"Dear Sir:-

"Your letter of the 28th July 1871 is just received.

"I remember the beautiful little mare I gobbled from you in our campaign against Vicksburg in the spring of '63- and I remember "little Tommy" I believe we called him, his large eyes and surprise when I rode her over to his mother's house. Tommy had become very friendly with me and I think it hurt him to see that I had plundered his uncle of his splendid mare. I rode her until I was wounded at Vicksburg when I turned her over to the Quarter Master and had his promise that he would keep her for me until I returned, when he could have her appraised and I would buy her of the government. I was grieved when I did return to find that one of the Quarter master clerks had ridden her to Jackson with General Sherman's army, and had ruined her. I am told that she was of no more service after that campaign.

"I said to Major Banks that I would be glad to see you and that I had no doubt that you had suffered severly by the war and that I would

reimburse you for the mare for she was worth a good deal to me the ten days I rode her.

"I will be glad to see you when you come to the city and gladly contribute what you think she was worth.

Yours very respectfully,

H. C. Warmoth"

Thomas Freeland, Esq.

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Executive Department

State of Louisiana

New Orleans, December 22, 1871

"My dear Sir:

I take pleasure in enclosing you a check for Three Hundred Dollars, in payment of "One Horse gobbled by me during the war". I had her twenty days, when I turned her over to the Quarter Master and he soon ruined her by letting his clerks ride her.

I will be pleased to see you if you ever find ~~xixm~~ it convenient to call on me when you are in the city.

Yours very truly,

H. C. Warmoth

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Claiborne County
Revised Assignment #5-----Wars

SUPPLEMENT

Civil War

PRISONERS ON MORRIS ISLAND

Among "the six hundred Confederate officers who were placed upon Morris Island, South Carolina, under the fire of their own guns shelling that point, and subsequently starved upon 10 ounces of rotten corn meal and pickle at Hilton Head and Fort Pulaski, Georgia, by order of the United States authorities, 1864-1865," (1) are the following from Claiborne County:

W.G. Herrington, Lieut.25th Inft. Captured Cox' Farm, July 12,1864
Residence Hermanville, Miss. (2)

A.J. Lewis, Capt.P.Cav.,Captured Claiborne Co.,Feb.1864
Residence Port Gibson, Miss. (3)

J.L. Purgason,Capt.32nd Inft. Captured Corinth May 1863
Residence Port Gibson,Miss. (3)

Chas.L. Barrett,Lieut.P.Cav.,Captured Port Hudson,Va.1863
Residence Port Gibson, Miss. (3)

Wm.T.Jefferies,Lieut.P.Cav.,Captured Clayborne,Miss.Feb.1864
Residence Port Gibson, Miss. (3)

"The order for government of our prison at Morris Island is the most drastic ever made by men authorized by a government claiming civilization. (4) Daily menus: "Breakfast-4 rotten hardtack crackers; Dinner-½ pint sandy soup; Supper-all the wind one could inhale!" (5) Medical treatment was the height of cruelty administered by a "red headed cow doctor, whose only remedy, no matter what your complaint,was an opium pill, or a dose of jamaica ginger." (6) Acute dysentery wrought havoc.

1. The Immortal Six Hundred by Major J.Ogden Murray(Roanoke,Va.1911),p.320
2. " " " " , page 328
3. " " " " , page 341
4. " " " " , page 101
5. " " " " , page 107
6. " " " " , page 104
7. " " " " , page 107

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## REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The colony of West Florida, of which Claiborne County was a part, was far removed from the scene of conflict, and was struggling with the hardships of frontier life and did not take any active part in the Revolutionary War. After the war, many settlers came from the eastern colonies ~~of~~ to West Florida, and some settled in what is now Claiborne County. They met with a cordial welcome from Governor Chester and settlements along the Mississippi River increased more rapidly than in any other part of the colony.

### Participants

In 1778 James Willing, who had formely been a merchant at Natchez, a man of education and of influential family in Philadelphia, was sent down the Mississippi by Congress in order to induce the English settlemants along its banks to remain neutral during the war, and then to proceed to New Orleans to obtain military supplies to transport to Pitt.

March 7 he landed at the mouth of Big Black with a small armed party, visited the settlements, sending messages to the people on Bayou Pierre to meet him.

Captain Phelps, an eye witness, stated: "Our settlers were, with very rare exceptions, well disposed to the American cause. Willing was a good speaker, and he represented the case for the colonies and the certainty of their ultimate success in very persuasive terms. He assured us that 5000 American troops, under General

Clarke, were on their way to this quarter to take possession and bring us under their jurisdiction, and all that Congress and he, their agent, reguired of us was the oath of neutrality; which ~~XXXXX~~ oath, when he concluded his address, was duly administered and freely taken; our people not being disposed to compromise themselves at that period of uncertainty and transition, by any overt act on one side or the other, which might, in certain contingencies, be construed to their disadvantage.

Most of these settlers were Americans who had removed to this remote province to avoid calamities of Civil War. Many in that contest were loyal from conviction and had abandoned their former homes rather than forfeit their allegiance, or fight against their kindred and friends. But they were all ready to give the pledge of neutrality.

How Willing changed his supposed mission of peace into the "raid of a jay-hawker, a brigand and not a soldier, a robber then deliberately organizing his plans for rapine and slaughter", is a matter of history.

This article may not be pertinent.

Claiborne's History gives an account of Captain Mathew Phelps coming to this section in 1774 and being so pleased with the country that he bought "a small improvement or settlement" at Grand Gulf, returning to Connecticut two years later to bring down his family. Then began that tragic return voyage in the course of which he lost by illness his wife and two children and by drowning his two remaining children, narrowly escaping with his own life.

"It was at this time", says his jour nal, "in a small boat with one Abram Knapp, who I had hired to assist me, and a lad some fourteen years of age, for sickness and fatigue had so reduced me I was



I was unable to manage the skiff alone. On making the mouth of Big Black I went ashore with the boy, having a rope for a tow line, and by pulling this along shore while Knapp steered, we made way slowly against the current. The river was very high and rapid, and to add to our difficulty, soon after we entered it we came to a large willow tree which projected horizontally from the bank into the stream, and the top of the tree being half submerged a large drift had collected about it, and occassioned a whirlpool to set under the trunk of the tree between its sunken top and the bank, a space of thirty-five or forty feet. When we got to this fatal tree ~~and~~ the boy and I were towing on the bank and Knapp steering. My two lovely children- all that were now left me- a girl in her tenth and a boy in his sixth year- were sitting on some blankets in the bow of the skiff, when, in an instant, it was drawn into the eddy under the tree, and the stern sank. Knapp jumped overboard and swam round to the head of the tree. I prevented the instant sinking of the boat by making my line fast to a willow, and then rushed out on the tree, calling to my daughter to sit still until I could help her brother on the tree. I was holding on to it with my left hand, lest we should all perish, I being unable to swim. But, dreadful to relate, at that moment the roots of the fallen tree gave way and floated from the bank; the boat broke loose, filled and turned bottom upwards. I clung to it as long as I could, and admist the boiling waters heard, for the last time, the voices of my dear babes crying, "Father! Father!"

"Captain Phelps sank several times trying to recover his lost darlings, and was nearly gone when Knapp succeeded in dragging him ashore. Knapp went to the settlement at Grand Gulf, which they had

left that morning, to get help to ~~xxxxxx~~ get help to recover the bodies. When he returned with Ira Whitman and Nathaniel Hull, who lived there, they found Captain Phelps naked, half frozen and frantic."

After staying with these people a short time, he returned to his own 'improvement' only to find that the men in whose care he had left it had moved away. By the usage of the country further claim to it on his part was useless. Sick and homeless, he was ~~xxxxx~~ taken to the cabin of John Storrs whom he had once befriended and through whose efforts he was now enabled to buy another claim."

WAR OF 1812

This County had no Army units. Our men joined other Mississippi regiments, principally the First Mississippi Regiment and Claiborne's Regiment of Mississippi Militia.

Records and Exploits

Major Beasley was a genuine Mississippian and resided in Claiborne County. He was sent by Governor Claiborne, in whose brigade he was serving, to reinforce Fort Mims, and by right of his rank became the commanding officer there.

The surprise and massacre of the garrison at Fort Mims was an event "entirely unexpected even by the nearest military commanders. On the morning of the 30th of August, 1813, Major Beasley, who was in command of the Fort, wrote to General Claiborne enclosing his morning reports. He informed that officer that he had improved the fort and made it much stronger than when ~~you were here~~ he was there, and two hours later, having detained his messanger for some purpose, he again wrote,



expressing his ability to maintain the post against any number of Indians. In less than two hours after the last note was penned, one thousand Indians who had been lying in ambush in a deep ravine within a short distance of the fort, advanced rapidly from their hiding place, poured through the open outer gate, and the work of slaughter ~~xxxxx~~ began, and was ended in a brief space of time. Major Beasley, who was a Mississippi soldier rushed to the gate to close it on the first alarm and fell pierced with a dozen bullets. The garrison ready for duty on the morning of that fatal 30th of August, was one hundred and seventy-five, while the entire number in the stockade was two hundred and five, according to Claiborne, of whom not more than fifteen escaped.

"From all accounts, the commander of the fort, who was a brave soldier, with no taint of fear about him, held the Indians in great contempt, was irriated by nemerous false alarms, and as a taunt and in derision of the timid, had the main gate-way thrown open. Pickett, in his history of Alabama, referring to the slaughter at Fort Mims says; 'Major Beasley rashed, sword in hand, and assayed in vain to shut it. The sand had washed against it and it could not be shut!'

Major Beasley fell mortally wounded, and the buildings were fired. As the Indians rushed in and commenced to massacre the wounded and the women and children, Dr. Holmes, Capt. Bailey, Lieutenant Chambliss, (of Claiborne County), and two or three others made their escape." There can be no question of the courage of Major Beasley. This writer, in his earlier years, knew many persons who were intimately acquainted with this unfortunate officer, and they all spake of him as a brave, chivalrous, frank, and generous man. He was the soul of homor, but his confidence in his soldiers and his contempt for his foes led to his and their ruin and the slaughter of many innocent women and children. Grievous as was his

error, he expiated that error with his life, and we would plant neither thorn nor thistle on his grave. (1)

WILLIAM RICHARDSON BUCK volunteered to serve in the war of 1812, and while in the service was appointed as midshipmen on the American Peacock, and the gallant fight between this noted vessel and the English Epewier took place on the Mediterranean Sea and was participated in by Mr. Buck, who so distinguished himself that he was awarded a beautiful sword, set with costly jewels as a testimonial of his bravery by the United States Congress.

He was born in Strasburg, Virginia in 1790, and set an example which his sons afterward followed by graduating from Princeton College. He was a typical southern gentleman, chivalrous, courteous, and kindly, and by his superior business qualifications amassed a large fortune."(2)

WATERMAN CRANE volunteered in 1812 and fought with Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans with such distinguished gallantry that Jackson presented him with a sword.

"Waterman Crane, an honorable and upright gentleman, who was one of the very earliest settlers of Claiborne County, is well remembered by the people of the county, for many of the old landmarks of this section are indelibly associated with his memory. When a young man, he came to this region from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and near the town of Bruinsburg he entered land on which he spent the remainder of his days, his career as a planter being highly satisfactory. Like the majority of the early settlers, he was compelled to

(1) Lowery and McCardle, History of Mississippi pp 216-217-218
(2) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol.1 p452



undergo many hardships and privations, wore homespun clothing and attended religious services in private houses, or in "God's first temples, the groves." Wild game of various kinds roamed the woods at will, and Mr. Crane became quite a noble hunter.

"He was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Brashear, a noble woman, who made him an ideal wife." (1)

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN HUGHES was a soldier in the War of 1812, holding the rank of Captain of his company, and received his commission from William Henry Harrison. He and his wife Nancy Brashear Hughes were born on blue grass soil in Bullitt County, from which place they came in 1824 to Mississippi Territory, the first night of their stay in Claiborne County being under the roof of Waterman Crane. The following day they went to Port Gibson, and after renting a plantation and raising one crop near that place, they moved to the town, where Mr. Hughes opend a mercantile establishment. During the many years that he remained in business at this point, he became very wealthy, but owing to his desire to aid and benifit his friends and his kindness of heart and liberality in going their security, he was brought to the verge of bankruptcy and was compelled to suspend business. He then went to New Orleans where he was a commission merchant until his death, July 7, 1842, at the age of fifty-four years, which occured at Grand Gulf, Claiborne County, Mississippi. He was buried at Port Gibson.

He possessed a naturally fine intellect, which was strengthened and braodened by an education which far exceeded that usually given the youth of his day, and this peculiarly fitted him for an active

(1) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol.1. p 607

business career. He was at one time president of the Grand Gulf bank, and in his politics was a staunch supporter of the Whig Party.

Following is a copy of Captain Hughes Commission ;

"Seneca Town Headquarters,

August 13, 1813

"Captain Benjamin Hughes, Assistant Quartermaster, Franklinton

Sir: Agreeable to the power vested in me by the Secretary of War, you are appointed assistant deputy quartomaster-general of the army of the United States, to take rank from the date thereof." (1)

"The FIRST MISSISSIPPPI REGIMENT was organized at Baton Rouge beginning January, 1813. Cowles Mead was the first commissioned as Colonel and Joseph Carson as Major, but Mead soon resigned and Carson was made Colonel and Daniel Beasley of Caliborne County, General C Claiborne's aide, was appointed Major." (2)

The following names of ENLISTED MEN have been gleaned from various sources. It is incomplete, for we find Claiborne County memtioned under various commands of this war.

Major Parmenas Briscoe, John Booth, private in Smoot's Battalion; Captain Charles G. Johnson, Major Daniel Beasley, and Captain Benjamin S. Smoot of the 1st Regiment Mississippi Volunteers; Benjamin Brashear and Mark Burnett, privates, Colonel Claiborne's Regiment; Daniel Burnett, Captain Benjamin Hughes, Waterman Crane, Lieutenant Chamblis, M. W. Trimble, private in Jefferson's Troupe, Raymond Robinson, Fifth Regiment, and William Richard Buck, Midshipman on American Vessel Peacock.

(1) Bigraphical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol 1. p 135
(2) Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi Heart of the South Vol 1. p 455

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errors, he expiated that error with his life, and we would plant neither thorn nor thistle on his grave. (1)

## Early Trpubles With The Indians

The successful attact by the Indians on Fort Mims on August 30, 1813 spread consternation through the Territory. No one knew where the next blow would fall, and a coalition of the Creek and Choctaws was generally apprehended. The citizens on Chickasawhay and Pearl Rivers erected stockades. The alarm penetrated to Baton Rouge, St. Francesville, Natchez, Port Gibson and strong committees of vigilance and safety were organized at these and other places. (1)

The following is the account of what took place in Claiborne County:

At a meeting held at Port Gibson in Claiborne County, September 18, 1813, for the purpose of taking measures for the public safety of said county, Colonel Dahiel Burnett was called to the chair, and Jefferson H. Moore appointed secretary.

On motion of H. Blennerhassett, it was resolved that a committee to consist of seven persons be appointed to inquire in the foundation of the late alarm; and also to reccomend and report such means as they think best calculated for our defence.

, "The followinf gentlemen were appointed members of said Committee, vix: Major Clark, H. Blennerhassett, H. Harmon, Colonel Regan, Captain P. Briscoe, W. Briscoe, and Thomas Barnes, who made the following report. "That, from the best information thaey can obtain, the

(1) Lowry and McCardle, History of Mississippi pp 216-217-218
(1) J. F. H. Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province Territory and State, p 325

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late alarm of invasion on the frontiers of this county by a savage enemy has been groundless and unfounded. But a crisis is at present arrived, at which it is no longer doubtful that such a calamaty uoght to be expected and provided against by a system of defence the most speedy in its creation, and effective in itself.

"That, for this purpose, the Committee recommend the erection of three stockade forts at three points to be viewed and determined upon by a committee on the frontier; also one strong fort to be erected in such central part of the county as shall be ~~firmdx~~ fixed upon by a committee. The Committee think that other dangers to which the county is exposed, from a local ~~xxxxx~~ source, as well as from savage invasion, should cause the erection of all forts at one and thesame time.

" Your Committee further ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ recommend to such planters as can conveniently, by their own force and that of neighbors within convenient distance, the erection of local block houses on their plantations. They invite and recommend every voluntary aid their fellow citizens can lend to the militia duty, of keeping up a regular and constant party of rangers and spies on the frontiers." (1)

(1) J. F. H. Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province Territory & State p 326

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WAR OF 1812--ROSTER

| | |
|---|---|
| William Richard Buck | Midshipmna-Peacock |
| Parmenas Briscoe | Major |
| John Booth | Private |
| Daniel Beasley | Major |
| Benjamin Brashear | Private |
| Mark Burnett | Private |
| Daniel Burnett | Private |
| Waterman Crane | Private |
| -- Chambiis | Lieutenant |
| Benjamin Hughes | Captain |
| Charles G. Johnson | Captain |
| Raymond Robinson | Private |
| Benjamin S. Smoot | Captain |
| Trimble, M. W. | Private |

The above names have been gleaned from various sources. It is incomplete, for we find Claiborne County mentioned under various commands of this war.

## MEXICAN WAR

When Texas was annexed (1845) a dispute arose between the United States and Mexico over the boundary between the two nations and war soon followed.

The president of the United States called for only one regiment of volunteers from Mississippi, but the response was so hearty that more than enough companies for two regiments were at once formed. The Claiborne Company of volunteers failing to get into the Mississippi regiment, went to New Orleans and offered their services to General Gaines, not being accepted by him, they joined the Texas Rangers and thus got into the war.

### Fighting Units

There were three army units from this county in the Mexican War; Claiborne Gwards, Captain Henery T. Elliott, 12 January, 1846, Quitman Riflemen, Captain Richard Parkinson, 4 August, 1845, and The Claiborne Vchunteers, William R. Shivers, May 1846. The dates above are the dates of commissions of the captains.

The general esteem in which the CLAIBORNE VOLUNTEERS were held for their part in the Mexican War is evident by the following extracts from newspapers of neighboring counties:

"If ever a people had reason to be proud of their sons, it is the good people of Claiborne County. They gallantly went forth as a company, solitary and alone as it were, without a call, requisition, or demand from their own state, and offered their services to their country. They bore their own expenses. They went to New Orleans and



not received, proceeded to Galveston and offered themselves where they were musterd into service. They were in the battle at Monterey and behaved most gallantly. The whole state as well as Claiborne County has reason to be proud of them." (1)

And the following from the Raymond Gazette, reprinted in the Port Gibson Herald, November 27, 1846.

"This gallant company of noble hearted Mississippians from our neighboring town (Port Gibson) we noticed some time since, in commendable terms. Then, it was our pride to notice the spirit and the energy of the corps, its high-toned determination to participate in the defence of the rights of the country on the Rio Grande. It is the first company of Mississippians that reached the scene of action.

"It is a source of much gratification to us, that it is now our privilege to announce the safe return of this gallant band to their homes. They return with the force with which they set out, save two-both of whom died in the region of the Rio Grande. Although this gallant little company was in the hottest of the fight, and during the whole three days of the memorable seige of Monterey, an the occupancy of the past danger, not one man of the original company received an injury.

"A meeting of the citizens of Port Gibson was held on the return of the Volunteers, and suitable resolutions adopted. Arrangements were also made for a public dinner.

"Although absent from home but a short time, they have seen some service, and from the honorable mention made of this gallant com-

(1) Vicksburg Whig, Vicksburg, Miss. Reprinted in Port Gibson Herald, November 27, 1846

pany, we are assured that they have acquitted themselves like men. They were in the thickest of the battle during the three days fight that resulted in the capture of Monterey and shared with the soldiers of the regular army all the dangers and fatigues of that perilous engagement, and yet their lives were singularly preserved, not one of them who left this county was among the killed or wounded. They left Monterey ten days after the battle when it was thought there would be no more fighting- it was the current opinion in the army that the war was about ended. Had they know what they have learned since their return to the United States in reference to the prospect for a protracted contest with Mexico, many of them, who have seen the Elephant would have reenlisted and stayed to see the Hyena." (1)

(For names of enlisted men see Addenda)

Distinguished Soldiers

"EARL A. VAN DORN (See War Between the States) son of Peter Dorn of Port Gibson was with Scott's Army. A lieutenant in the Seventh United States Infantry, he won promotion to Captain and Major for gallantry at Cerro Gordo, Contreras and Churubusco, and was wounded at Belan gate. He was presented a sword by the Mississippi Legislature and another was given him by Claiborne County."

The following shows what Claiborne County thought about Earl Van Dorn;

At an adjourned meeting of the citizens of the County of Claiborne, on the 19th of June 1847, James H. Maury, act-

(1) Port Gibson Herald November 6, 1846, Port Gibson, Miss.



ing as chaiman, and William M. Randolph as Secreatry, the following report and resolutions were adpoted:

Resolved, that Lieutenant Van Dorn, of the United States Regular Army, in the estimation of his fellow citizens of Claiborne County has earned a distinction by his valor and effeatent service, which is honorable to himself and grafifying to his friends. As an evidence of our approbation, we award him a sword with the inscription on one side of the blade,"Awarded to Lieutenant Van Dorn by his native county". On the other, "As a tribute to his valor, dispayed at Fort Brown, Monterey, Vera Cruz, and Cerro Gordo." J. H. Maury, W. M. Randolph, Richard Parkinson, Bejamin G. Humphreys.

On mation it was ordered that the report of the committee be received and agreed to.

It was further resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be copied on parchment and transmitted to Lieutenant Van Dorn, and that Richard Parkinson, James T. Maryc, and James S. Mason be appointed a committee to carry those resolutions into effect.
J. H. Maury, Chairman, W. M. Randolph, Secretary " (1)

(1) Port Gibson Herald, June 26, 1847, Port Gibson, Miss.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War

I. Army Units in the County

There were three army units from this county in the Mexican War:(1)

Claiborne Guards, Capt. Henry T. Ellett, 12 January, 1846

Quitman Riflemen, Capt. Richard Perkinson, 4 August, 1845

Claiborne Volunteers, Capt. F.J. Poer, May, 1846

The dates above are the dates of commissions of the Captains.

(a) History of Each Unit

Claiborne Volunteers

"This Unit was organized at Port Gibson in May, 1846, for the First Regiment; on failing to gain admission took boat at Grand Gulf June 7, and proceeded to New Orleans, where they again found no encouragement, and whence, at their own expense, they sailed to Point Isabel. There were sixty-five men in the company and the officers were William R. Shivors, Captain; S.H. Jacobs, First Lieutenant; H.E. Hall, Second Lieutenant; H. W. Goff, First Sergeant. They were assigned to the First Texas Regiment on reaching Point Isabel and by August 1 they were at Camargo. In the same month the Texans voted to go home and disbanded, the enlistment of the regiment being irregular and not binding for more than three months. Some of the Mississippians also left, but enough stood firm to save Shivors' company, which was the only one that remained on duty. There remained ten officers and twenty privates, besides the twelve in hospital, and the company was

1. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908), p. 402



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

(a) History of Each Unit (continued)

Claiborne Volunteers (continued)

recruited from the Texans who desired to stay. The Mississippians received the special praise of Generals Taylor and Worth, and Taylor paid them the high compliment of assignment to the Fourth Regiment United States Infantry, in Twigg's Brigade. With this command they were in battle of Monterey on active and perilous duty in the hottest of the fight. Later, when it was generally believed the war was over, the company accepted discharge and arrived at home in November, 1846."(1)

The "Port Gibson Herald" has the following to say in regard to some of the boys quitting the Unit and going home: "Only 17 of the Claiborne boys left the company, they being sick and not able to march; several of them have returned, and they look as though 'hard times' resided on the banks of the Rio Grande. We learn that much sickness prevailed among them, and two of the Volunteers (Wm. Watson and Price McGrew) have died. From all appearances, those that went on will see the 'elephant' to their satisfaction."(2)

The general esteem in which this Unit was held for its part in the Mexican War is evidenced by the following extracts from newspapers of neighboring counties:

"If ever a people had reason to be proud of their sons, it is the good people of Claiborne County. They gallantly went forth as a

1. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908) pp. 414-415
2. Port Gibson Herald, Sept. 18, 1846

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

(a) History of Each Unit (continued)

Claiborne Volunteers (continued)

company, solitary and alone as it were, without a call, requisition, or demand from their own state, and offered their services to their country. They bore their own expenses. They went to New Orleans and were not received, proceeded to Galveston and offered themselves where they were mustered into service. They were in the battle at Monterey and behaved most gallantly. The whole state as well as Claiborne County has reason to be proud of them. (1)

And the following from a Raymond, Miss. paper bears equally high tribute to this Unit: "This gallant company of noble hearted Mississippians from our neighboring town (Port Gibson) we noticed some time since, in commendable terms. Then, it was our pride to notice the spirit and the energy of the corps, its high-toned determination to participate in the defence of the rights of the country on the Rio Grande. It was the first company of Mississippians that reached the scene of action!

"The history of the organization of the corps is summed up by the Port Gibson correspondent as follows: 'This company was organized early after the call for volunteers, but did not muster quite enough of men to enable them to get into a regiment, and they went immediately to New Orleans and were not received there; and knowing the fight

1. From Vicksburg Whig in the Port Gibson Herald, Nov. 27, 1846



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

I. (a) History of Each Unit (continued)

Claiborne Volunteers (continued)

to be like the Irishman's 'a free thing', and some of them being a little lame, they determined to push on early for the scene of hostilities. On reaching Galveston they were received into a Texas regiment under Col. Johnson's (Texan) Regiment petitioned to be allowed to go home except the Claiborne Volunteers, whose petition was that they might go on, a petition which old 'Rough and Ready' pleased with their gallant bearing readily granted." (1)

"It is a source of much gratification to us, that it is now our privilege to announce the safe return of this gallant band to their homes. They return with the force with which they set out, save two-both of whom died in the region of the Rio Grande. Although this gallant little company was in the hottest of the fight, and during the whole three days of the memorable seige of Monterey, in the occupancy of the post of danger, not one man of the original company received an injury!

A meeting of the citizens of Port Gibson was held on the return of the Volunteers, and suitable resolutions adopted. Arrangements were also made for a public dinner." (2)

1. From The Raymond Gazette, reprinted in the Port Gibson Herald Nov. 27, 1846

2. Port Gibson Herald of Nov. 27, 1846

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Hasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

I. (a) History of Each Army Unit(continued)

Quitman Riflemen

On the night of May 13, 1846, the Quitman Riflemen determined to go to Texas, and the business of enrolling went rapidly forward.(1) Very shortly afterward this corps tendered its services formally to the Governor.(2)

This Unit, Captain Richard Parkinson of Port Gibson commanding,(3) were included in Quitman's Brigade. They took part in the assault on Monterey September 21, 1846 and attacked the fort called the Teneria. On the 22nd the Brigade including the Riflemen occupied the fort as they were exposed to the fire of the Citadel, Fort El Diablo, and other works, while attacks were made in other quarters.(4)

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1. Port Gibson Herald May 14, 1846
2. Port Gibson Herald, May 28, 1846
3. Miss.Official and Statistical Register (1908), p. 402
4. " " " " " " pp.408-409

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvasscrs:
Miss Mary Reasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

I. (a) History of Each Unit (continued)

Claiborne Guards

Very little information is available in regard to this Unit, but we know that they played a part in the Mexican War with Captain Henry T. Millett commanding.(1)

That they entered this was with high spirit and lofty resolve is shown by the following resolutions which they drew up at a meeting held at the Court House in Port Gibson Monday evening, May 25, 1846:(2)

Whereas, the Claiborne Guards from respectability and worth of their officers; the number and high standing of their men, and the flattering confidence manifested towards them, by the ladies and others of our fellow citizens of Port Gibson, upon repeated occasions animated by patriotic zeal, and under the influence of a becoming pride, have made pledges and solemn protestations to answer the call of their country in the hour of necessity and fling out to the battle and the breeze the noble old banner under which we have so long served, and whose sacred folds have been rent by patriotic shouts responsive to those pledges, and believing that the time has arrived when these pledges should be redeemed and those assurances carried out, and desirous of taking our stand amongst the foremost in the present struggle.

Therefore, be it resolves, that we will forthwith proceed to

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1. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908) p. 402
2. Port Gibson Herald May 28, 1846

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five  Canvassers: Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

I (a) History of Each Unit (continued)

Claiborne Guards (continued)

place ourselves in readiness to answer the first call that may be made upon this state for volunteers for the Army of Occupation.

Resolved, That as many of us as can conveniently will take up our quarters in an encampment and perform such duties and make such arrangements as our Captain may deem necessary by way of preparation.

Resolved, That, when the requisite number shall be recruited to constitute a company, we report ourselves to the proper officer as ready for service and further,

Resolved, That our Captain be requested to take the most speedy means of enrolling a sufficient number of men and do all other things that may be necessary to carry out the above preamble and resolutions."

After the Claiborne Guards returned from the war, they were called to reorganize and elect officers by order of the Commandant, W. H. Jacobs, First Sergeant. (1)

1. Port Gibson Herald, March 5, 1847



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five  Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued):

I.(a) History of Each Unit:(continued)

Claiborne Volunteers (continued)

"Although absent from home but a short time, they (the Claiborne Volunteers) have seen 'some service', and from the honorable mention made of this gallant company, we are assured that they have 'acquitted themselves like men'. They were in the thickest of the battle during the three days fight that resulted in the capture of Monterey and shared with the soldiers of the regular army all the dangers and fatigues of that perilous engagement, and yet their lives were singularly preserved, not one of them who left this country was among the killed or wounded." (1)

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"They left Monterey ten days after the battle when it was thought there that there would be no more fighting- it was the current opinion in the army that the was was about ended. Had they known what they have learned since their return to the United States in reference to the prospect for a protracted contest with Mexico, many of them, who have 'seen the Elephant' would have reenlisted and stayed to see the Hyena." (1)

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1. Port Gibson Herald, Nov. 6, 1846--written by the Publisher and signed simply "Publisher".

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

II. Names of Enlisted Men:

The following is an incomplete roster of the men from this county:

Quitman Riflemen---Capt. Richard Parkinson (1)

William D. Sayer, Orderly Serg't. (2)

Claiborne Guards---Henry T. Ellett, Capt.

W. H. Jacobs, 1st Serg't

Claiborne Volunteers--Capt. Shivors

W. H. Jacobs, 1st Lieut

H. H. Hall,2nd Lieut

M. W. Goff, 1st Sergt.

Daniel Deviers, 2nd do.

L. W. Kemper, 3rd do.

S. F. Boyd, 4th do.

J. E. Campbell, 1st Corporal

John Tanksley 2nd do.

James Garrett

Privates: R. W. Buchanan, Jas. Maginnis, W.H. Thompson, Jas. B. Anthony, Wm. W. Wilson, Moses S. Goff, Sam'l. Handlin, John Z. Taylor, Thomas M. Rutter, Robert Reisewick, Thomas Parish (3)

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1. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908) p. 402
2. Port Gibson Herald, July 17, 1845
3. All between 2 and 3--Port Gibson Herald, Sept. 25, 1846

MEXICAN WAR ROSTER

The following is an incomplete roster of the men from Claiborne County:

Quitman Riflemen---- Captain Richardson Parkinson (1)

William D. Sayer, Orderly Sergeant (2)

Claiborne Guards----Henry T. Elliott, Captain,

W. H. Jacobs, 1st Sergeant

Claiborne Volunteers-- Captain Shivers;

W. H. Jacobs, 1st Lieutenant

H. H. Hall, 2nd Lieutenant

M. W. Goff, 1st Sergeant

Daniel Deviers, 2nd Sergeant

L. W. Kemper, 3rd Serggant

S. F. Boyd, 4th Sergeant

J. B. Campbell, 1st Corporal

John Wanksley, 2nd Corporal

A. J. Frisby, Commissary

James Garrett,

Fredrick Poor,

Privates----- R. W. Buchanan

James Maginnis

W. H. Thompson

James B. Anthony

William W. Wilson

Moses S. Goff

Samuel Handlin

John Z. Taylor

Thomas M. Rutter

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(1) Mississippi Official & Statistical Register p 402
(2) Port Gibson Herald, July 17, 1845

Privates----------Robert Holcowick

Thomas Parish

W. H. Ebrams

W. L. Ball

N. B. Clingan

J. E. Purington

Robert Smith

J. W. Collins

A. P. McCrew

W. L. Cason

Asa Smith

William M. Watson

John Womack

D. G. Joffors

W. H. Gordon

J. B. Harrington

J. B. Beasley

J. Nichols (1)

(1) Port Gibson Herald, September 25, 1846, Port Gibson, Miss.

## SPANISH-AMERICAN WRR

### Fighting Units

THE FIFTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, (The Immune Regiment), was mustered in at Columbus. This regiment was made up of men from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabana who were immune to yellow fever, and was the only regiment with Mississippians in it to reach Cuba. These men went to Santiago to relieve General Shafter and his army and faced the yellow-fever epidemic of 1898 and 1899. Only four months after war was declared between Spain and the United States the Spanish-American War was over and the Mississippi soldiers were not all needed.

The FIRST REGIMENT MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEERS INFANTRY was mustered in at Camp Port Henry and left for Chickamauga Park in May, 1898.

### Exploits

The Spanish-American War brought MAJOR J. W. WATSON, an experienced soldier, to Cuba where he fired the first Hotchkiss gun at Santiago and participated in the San Juan fight, where his blacks ran up the hill like goats on the Spaniards. Major General Wheeler's Book "Cuban Campaigns", gives him credit for saving the Rough Riders, making possible a President in Roosevelt, and maybe another in Wood. Major Watson had in his own handwriting on the margin of Wheeler's book, his own story in the Spanish-American War. (1)

"Two young naval officers, ENSIGN WOOD and ENSIGN W. H. BUCK-Will Buck,-whom Port Gibson loves to claim as one of her men accepted the hazardous duty of insbecting various fortifications

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, May 27, 1920

on the shore of Spain, and of observing the conditions and movements of Camara's fleet, and of reporting their information to the United States government.

"They succeeded in leaving the United States secretly, and upon reaching England their identity seemed almost lost, their beards had been allowed to grow and were trimmed English fashion, their names were changed, and apparently their nationality. There they embarked on a merchantman and began journey toward the country of the enemy.

"Ensign Buck went ashore at Cadiz. Later he went out to sea with Admiral Camara's fleet and ~~[illegible]~~ followed it in its memorable trip until it stopped in Suez Canal, and then it turned back, as we all ~~[illegible]~~ remember, and came to Spain.

"During the war these matters were kept secret, even the families of the two men being in utter ignorance of their whereabouts. After their return, they did not feel at liberty to speak of their work in the war, but lately the Naval Department has published a statement of this part of the strategic work, and the friends of the two Ensigns now speak freely of their most dangerous mission."(1)

"The following complimentary article of Ensign Buck, who is now on the cruise Chicago, was taken from the NewoOrleans Picayune of February 17, and published in the Port Gibson Reveille, February 23, 1899.

"There is one young officer on board the Chicago, who possibly deserves as much credit as any man in the service for the duties he has been called upon to ~~perform~~ perform required a man of courage and in-

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, February 2, 1899



telligence. This young officer is Ensign Buck.

"He was attached to the board of navigations in Washington during the early part of the war, but when Cavera's fleet sailed from Spain, and a seconf fleet under Admiral Camera was being fitted for sea, Ensign Buck was assigned for a duty in the enemy's country. He was told to sail at once for England, arrange with agents there, and travel down to Spain, learn the composition of the fleet and follow out the instructions by going to ~~[illegible]~~ Gibralter. This he made his headquarters, but he remained most of his time in Spain.

"When the fleet sailed from Cadiz, he saw the departure and knew its orders, and naturally these orders and all the information he could possibly secure were at once communicated to the English agents, and by them sent to the navy department under a secret ~~[illegible]~~ code. The young officer, distinguished as an Englishman, even went over to the Suez Canal and was present when the breakdown in the machinery occured, knew ~~[illegible]~~ when they returned to Spain, and in fact followed every movement. While the public of America were working themselves into a state of excitement over the possibilities of this fleet's actions, and experimenting with ideas and theories, the navy department was quietly compiling its facts secured by this lone officer from the very thick of the Spanish territory.

"For weeks the Ensign remained in Spain, traveling through the country and keeping close watch over the movements of all classes of naval supplies and ships and obstructions prepared to destroy any naval vessels. Then he returned to Washington just as quickly as he left, and no one knew his service and how much bravery he had shown and how much tact and ability his difficult task required. It WAS

not until the annual report was issured that they knew of Ensign Buck. He is one of those true Americans who preform difficult tasks, undergo dangers, and remain silent.

"Among naval officers, Ensign Buck is counted as one of the true heroes of the war, and the older officers formed a closer friendship for him, mainly on account of his conduct after the services rendered". [redacted]

"Either a medal of honor, or a reward of some kind was conferred on Ensign W. H. Buck for his bravery during the Spanish-American War while actively engaged as a spy for the American government. (?)

"He hold the rank of Senior Lieutenant when he resigned." (1)

Citations

J.W.

"For ten years LIEUTENANT WATSON was stationed in Arizona and New Mexico. It was Captain Watson, with Lieutenant Clarke, who captured Kid, the successor of Geronimo, and his tribe of Apache warriors who had been terriorizing the West for years. This was heralded by the press pf the West as one of the bravest deeds ever performed in Indian warfare. For this act of bravery, in line with that extending over a decade, Lieutenant Watson was recommended to congress by the generals in command of the department, to a brevet-captaincy, which he did receive from congress a few years ago. A brevet from congress comes only as a reward for a special bravery, and it is a fact that of the forty-four officers in the Tenth Cavalry, U. S. Army, Captain Watson is the only one who enjoys such a distinction."(2)

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(1) Port Gibson Reveille, December 29, 1921
(2) Fort Gibson Reveille, June 2, 1893

"Among the most distinguished services rendered his country by Major Watson was his subduing of the turbulent Indians in the sparsely settled section of the West and in the war with Spain. More than once he was breveted for bravery. In Cuba he save the Roosevelt Rough Riders, else the United States may never have Had Roosevelt for ~~xxxx~~ President." (1)

The following seems to have been a message of sympathy to the family of Major Watson on the occasion of his death in Cuba.

"Last night at ten o'clock the distinguished gentleman, Major J. W. Watson, Commandante retired of the North American Army, a person highly esteemed in Holquin society, died at his residence in this city

"The Commandante Watson took part in the War of Independence in Cuba, in the Battle of San Juan and then during the intervention was Military Commander of this city.

"Senor Delfin Aguilera Ochon, President of the Deligation of Veterans of Holiquin, paid us the attention of inviting us to the burial of Mr. Watson, which will take place at four o'clock of the afternoon of today. Representatives of the Deligation of Vetrans, the body of officers of the Ninth District, and the Military Band will assist.

"We convey by this means to the family of the deceased our very sincere sympathy."

(Signed) Heraldo de Holquin"

Holquin, Wednesday, May12, 19200" (2)

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(1) Fort Gibson Reveille August 19, 1926
(2) Port Gibson Reveille, May 27, 1920

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# SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR ROSTER

Acker, Dr. Geo. W.

Anderson, Dr. L. S.

Andersom, D. C.

Buck, Ensign W. H.

Chapman, Dr. A.L.

Daughtory, Walter (Private)

Daughtory, Sidney H. (Private)

Hawkins, Henry S.

Jones, Corp. B.A.

McDougal, Duncan

McCay, R. C.

McCay, Sergt. W.L.

McGee, J. W. (Private)

Naasson, John (Sergt)

Nusom, Leon

Nesmith, Brittian B.

Regan, Sergt. Percy E.

Regan, W. B. (Private)

Taylor, Dan J.

Taylor, Capt. J. E.

Watson, Major J. W.

Watson, Dalton

## Letters From The Front

W. H. Jacobs who wrote the following letter, left his duties as editor of the Port Gibson Herald to enter the war, resuming the editorialship on his return:

"Camp near Carmargo

August 27, 1846

" I write this letter under the excitement of the deepest feeling of pleasure and pride, and I feel assured that our friends in Mississippi will rejoice with us when they hear of the honors which were yesterday heaped upon the Claiborne Volunteers.

In my last letter I mentioned that our regiment would be disbanded and an attempt made to reprganize companies from its wreck. The disbanding took place day before yesterday, and to our surprise no attempt was made to reorganize by any company but our own, when the following members promptly pledged themselves to go on with Captain Shivors. The other members of the copps can tell their own tale when they reach home. I have no excuse or apology to make for them. Having expressed our desire to obtain results, we were joined by a number of members of the various disbanded Texan companies, among whom were Captain Howard of the Galveston Company; Lieutenant Ballenger recent Adujant of the regiment; Mr. Kelley, 1st Lieutenant of the Rusk Blues, and others composing the elite of the late regiment.

When our members had swelled to forty six, we reported to General Taylor who, when asked by Captain Shivors if we could be taken into service for three months, promptly replied that he would receive the Mississippi Company (as we are called here) under almost any

circumstances, and with any number of men not exceeding sixty-three. After a few complimentary remarks he directed an officer to muster us in Friday and place us with the 4th regiment of United States Infantry in General Twiggs' Brigade! Thus you see Old Claiborne keeps the field under the most auspicious circumstances, her representatives being honorably separated from the mass of volunteers under the command of ignorant militia generals, and placed under a veteran officer, among the heroes of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma! Such a compliment has been paid to but one other company, that of Captain Blanchard, which refused to return home when the Louisiana regiment was disbanded, and which has been placed in general Worth's brigade.

"During the day yesterday, our members had increased to fifty-seven, and last night a meeting of the old and new members was held for the purpose of ascertaining whether any changes of officers was desired, when, upon motion of the recent adjutant, ~~[illegible]~~ Mr. Ballenger of Galveston, it was unanimously resolved that the company proceed under the original organization, the ex-officers who have joined us being content with the station of privates in the ranks, a compliment which I assure you we feel most deeply.

"The days here are extremely hot, the thermometer standing at 103 degrees in the shade, while the nights are qu ite cool and the dews heavy. Save a very few stunted trees, we have nothing to protect us from the heat of the one, or the dampness of the other, but the canvas of our tents. Much sickness consequently prevails, and several times during the day the solemn notes of the dead march fall upon the ear, as some poor soldier is borne to his final resting place in the foreign-land, his dream of glory ending in his grave. The deaths are almost confined to the Northern men who are unaccustom-

ed to a Southern clim and are consequently more subject to disease.

"A few days since, the crops of engineers who surveyed the Monterey route returned to headquarters and report the distance but one hundred sixty miles over a good road, through a most beautiful country abounding with tropical fruits and vegetables, abundance of the finest mountain mutton, poultry, etc. The country is said to be high and during the greater part of the route, well watered by the mountain streams. The Brigade of ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ General Worth left last Saturday in two columns on the opposite banks of the San Juan. The road being better on this side than the other, was taken by the artillery, wagons, and part of the infantry. They will ford the San Juan about forty or fifty miles above here and be protected in crossing by the columns upon the opposite side. About sixty miles from this point they will establish an extensive depot, where the remainder of the army will halt and recruit previous to their final advance upon Monterey. Our Brigade, as we were yesterday informed by General Taylor, will start next week. So I presume we shall have a good long rest at the depot whilst awaiting the arrival of the volunteer regiments.

"By the last mail we received quite a number of letters and papers from the United States; I assure you that to us here, upon a foreign soil, with the Star Spangled Banner waving proudly over us, and knowing no party but our country, it is quite amusing to read the various comments of the press upon the merits and demerits of the Tariff Bill, ~~xxxxx~~ etc. One thing we deeply regret. It is the eager and indecent haste with which those friends of general Taylor who possess more rashness than brains, advance his claims to the Presidency, and the miserable malignity with which the New Orleans Jeffersonian,

and other kindred prints seek to detract from his military fame and achievements. Let his enemies know that they bite against a file, and for his friends they can learn a lesson of prudence from old rough and ready himself, who declined accepting a complimentary present from the city of New Orleans assigning as a reason that it would be time enough when the campaign was ended.

"I perceive that the press is hitting one of Mr. Ploks' new brigadiers some pretty hard licks. Whether they are deserved I know not, for I never heard of him ~~it~~ until I saw him gazetted; nor have I yet seen any one who had. Quite an amusing incident occured upon his arrival here about ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a week since, dressed in a gorgeous uniform he rode up to General Tayor's quarters, and with a pompous air which excited officers, who plainly dressed in citizens cl ths, were seated upon benches under the shade of an awning, he strutted into General Taylor's tent, ~~making~~ making himself known, with a voice and air of self importance, inquired where he should take up his quarters, "Oh, where ever you please, any place at all", was the cool and indifferent reply of General Taylor, and the pompous brigadier quickly retired to seek in some other quarter a more satisfactory reply.

"By the way, this Brigadier brought on a handsome light buggy wagon, in which he expected to do his marching to the wonderful edification of the natives and others, and is rumored that since he has found such an article a forbidden luxury, he seriously threatens to throw up his commission and seek a more civilized abode than the rugged camp of Old Rough and Ready.

"In my letter from Matamoras, I mentioned that Hays' regiment of mounted men had crossed the river and received orders to proceed due South to Victoria, thence diverging West, reach the Monterey

route and await orders from headquarters. This morning Captain Early of that regiment arrived here to make a report. They had performed their march without meeting an enemey and were received with open arms by the inhabitants. They are now halted about seventy-nine miles hence, and can hear of no consternation of the enemy either at Monterey or elsewhere.

"I will write again befofe leaving this place."

W. H. Jacobs

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"Point Isabel

July 20, 1846

"Since my last letter but little variation has occured in the ordinary routine of our camp life. Morning and evening drills, guard mounting, etc., are still the order of the day. Within the past five days, however, the fine breezy weather of which I spoke so highly, has given place to a succession of gusts of wind and rain from the Northeast, by which our camp has for the past five days and nights been coppletely deluged. Thanks, however, to the Claiborne Guards, their tents have enabled us to brave the fury of the elements with more impuity than other's Companies of our regiment, and though it might at first be supposed that the standing in wet xxxxx cloths and sleeping in wet blankets for several days and nights in succession would give us our death of cold, as the old ladies say, yet it is a fact, that not a single case of sickness has yet resulted therefrom. The glorious sea breeze seems to act as an universal panacea. No evil, however, is without its attended good, and the rains which flooded our tents have given us an abundant supply

of fresh water, which was becoming rather brackish. As I once before mentioned, this point is some ten or fifteen feet above the level of the sea, and when the sand water is exhausted before that point, it becomes brackish in consequence of the seapage from Laguna Madre.

"Our regiment is one of the finest in service. All are hardy Texans except our company, and they can hold their own with the best. We are very popular and are daily complimented of officers and men of the regiment. Our field officers are graduates of West Point and have seen service. Reinforcements are arriving daily. Padre Island, Brasos Islands, Point Isabel, etc. are crowded with troops from Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Ohio. All impatiently awaiting orders to march.

"We have just received knapsacks, haversacks, etc., but no tents, and you are aware that those we have are not fit for a campaign. The government has been shamefully negligent in this as many other respects. Four months ago General Taylor sent a requisition for one thousand tents. They have not yet arrived. The same economising spirit which influenced the mind of Governor Marcy, when he charged the State of New York with the enormous sum of twelve and one half cents paid a tailor for mending a pair of breeches, torn by him while engaged in public service, seems to influence his ~~martinet~~ actions of Secretary of War. In consequence of this, we are furnished the cast off haversacks, knapsacks, etc., of the Regulars. A portion of our regiment have received as special favor the worn out tents of the Fifth and Sixth Infantry, and when I tell you the unmilitary looking tents which ~~we~~ we brought from home are the aristocracy of the regiment you can more fully realize our

position.

"The name Taylor acts here as a magical charm. That of the President is mentioned with respect by all pabties, but Secretary Marcy's is the thome of universal ridicule and contempt.

"You have no doubt seen the dispatch of this worthy to our General, in which he commands the hero of Palo Alto to disband the six months volunteers, and says that he expects him to have possession of Monterey by the xxxx tenth of July. Grosser ignorance could not have been displayed by the most stupid school boy. Monterey is two hundred and sixty miles from Matamorros, a place containing twelve to fifteen thoudand inhabitants strongly fortified, and by all observant men considered the point at which the great battle will be fought. Before our army can reach it, Paredas will be there with a reinforcement of sixteen thousand men, who by the way, are destined to be scatterd as chaff before the wind."

***********************

"General Taylor has treated Marcy's order with the contempt which it deserves, for he well know that compliance would cause the immediate disbanding of the Texas and Louisiana regiments. Most of the Texans are small planters who have left a growing crop which they are willing to risk, but justice to themselves and families demands their return in time for the spring plowing and planting."

***********************

"We have heard here that the Mississippi regiment has busted up. This must be mortifying to the vanity of the commander in chief of the army and navy of the state, after his pompous letter to the Secretary of War, and the fuss and parade made at Jackson and Vicks-

burg, previous to our departure. It is a matter of pride with us, however, to reflect that notwithstanding the difficulties thrown our way, Old Claiborne at least has her representatives here. Being the only Mississippians here, we are known in and out of the regiment as the Mississippi Company, a title which has not yet been coupled with aught of censure. We are very anxious to hear from home, not one of us having received a letter or paper since our departure. I believe I have noted everything of the slightest interest, and will conclude by excusing the rude and disconnected style of my letter. A noisy camp, surrounded by men off duty is no place to think or write well, and I have penned my thoughts in the order in which they occured."

W. H. Jacobs

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State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

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II. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

Privates (continued)

W. H. Abrams, W. L. Ball, N.B. Clingan, J.E. Purington, Robert Smith, J.W. Collins, A.P. McGrew, W.L. Cason, Asa Smith, Wm. W. Watson, John Womack, D.G. Jeffers, W.H. Gordon, J.B. Harrington, J.B. Beesley, J. Nichols.(1)

(a) Records and Exploits---Not known

(b) Citations---None

(c) Medals------None

(d) Men in 15-5th - None

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front

"Camp near Camargo

Aug. 27, 1846

"I write this letter under the excitement of the deepest feelings of pleasure and pride, and I feel assured that our friends in Mississippi will rejoice with us when they hear of the honors which were yesterday heaped upon the Claiborne Volunteers.

In my last letter I mentioned that our regiment would be disbanded and an attempt made to reorganize companies from its wreck. The disbanding took place day before yesterday, and to our surprise no attempt was made to reorganize by any company but our own, when the following members promptly pledged themselves to go on with Capt. Shivers."

(A list of these men will be found under II. Enlisted Men)

"The other members of the corps can tell their own tale when they reach home. I have no excuse or apology to make for them. Having expressed our desire to obtain results, we were joined by a number of members of the various disbanded Texan companies, among whom were Capt. Howard of the Galveston Company; Lieut Ballenger recent Adjutant of the regiment; Mr. Kelley, 1st Lieut. of the Rusk Blues, and others composing the elite of the late regiment."

"When our members had swelled to 46, we reported to Gen. Taylor who, when asked by Capt. Shivers if we could be taken into service for three months, promptly replied that he would receive the Mississippi



Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front (continued)

Company (as we are called here) under almost any circumstances, and with any number of men not exceeding 63. After a few complimentary remarks he directed an officer to muster us in Friday and place us with the 4th regiment of United States Infantry in Gen. Twiggs' Brigade! Thus you see 'Old Claiborne' keeps the field under the most auspicious circumstances, her representatives being honorably separated from the mass of volunteers under the command of ignorant militia generals, and placed under a veteran officer, among the heroes of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma! Such a compliment has been paid to but one other company, that of Capt. Blanchard, which refused to return home when the Louisiana regiment were disbanded, and which has been placed in Gen. Worth's brigade.

"During the day yesterday, our members had increased to 57, and last night a meeting of the old and new members was held for the purpose of ascertaining whether any change of officers was desired, when, upon motion of the recent adjutant, Mr. Ballenger of Galveston, it was unanimously resolved that the company proceed under the original organization, the ex-officers who have joined us being content with the station of privates in the ranks, a compliment which I assure you we feel most deeply.

"The days here are extremely hot, the thermometer standing at 103 degrees in the shade, while the nights are quite cool and the dews heavy. Save a very few stunted trees, we have nothing to protect us

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Wasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front (continued)

from the heat of the one, or the dampness of the other, but the canvas of our tents. Much sickness consequently prevails, and several times during the day the solemn notes of the dead march fall upon the ear, as some poor soldier is borne to his final resting place in the foreign land- 'his dream of glory ending in the grave'. The deaths are almost confined to the Northern men who are unaccustomed to a Southern clime and are consequently more subject to disease.

"A few days since, the corps of engineers who surveyed the Monterey route returned to headquarters and report the distance but 160 miles over a good road, through a most beautiful country abounding with tropical fruits and vegetables, abundance of the finest mountain mutton, poultry, etc. The country is said to be high and during the greater part of the route well watered by the mountain streams. The Brigade of Gen. Worth left last Saturday in two columns on the opposite banks of the San Juan. The road being better on this side than the other, was taken by the artillery, wagons, and part of the infantry. They will ford the San Juan about 40 or 50 miles above here and be protected in crossing by the columns upon the opposite side. Above 60 miles from this point they will establish an extensive depot, where the remainder of the army will halt and recruit previous to their final advance upon Monterey. Our Brigade, as we were yesterday informed by Gen. Taylor, will start next week. So I presume we shall have a good long rest at the depot whilst awaiting the arrival of the volunteer regiments."


Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Wasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front (continued)

"By the last mail we received quite a number of letters and papers from the United States; I assure you that to us here, upon a foreign soil, with the Star Spangled Banner waving proudly over us, and knowing no party but our country, it is quite amusing to read the various comments of the press upon the merits and demerits of the Tariff Bill, etc. One thing we deeply regret. It is the eager and indecent haste with which those friends of Gen. Taylor who possess more rashness than brains, advance his claims to the Presidency, and the miserable malignity with which the New Orleans Jeffersonian, and other kindred prints seek to detract from his military fame and achievements. Let his enemies know that they 'bite against a file', and for his friends they can learn a lesson of prudence from 'old rough and ready' himself, who declined accepting a complimentary present from the city of New Orleans assigning as a reason that 'it would be time enough when the campaign was ended'.

"I perceive that the press is hitting one of Mr. Polks' new brigadiers some pretty hard licks. Whether they are deserved I know now, for I never heard of him until I saw him gazetted; nor have I yet seen any one who had. Quite an amusing incident occurred upon his arrival here about a week since. Dressed in a gorgeous uniform he rode up to Gen. T.'s quarters, and with a pompous air which excited the risibilities of the officers, who, plainly dressed in citizens clothes, were seated upon benches under the shade of an awning, he strutted into Gen.

Assignment Five — Canvassers: Miss Mary Neasson, Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front (continued)

T.'s tent, and making himself known, with a voice and air of self-importance, inquired where he should take up his quarters: 'Oh, wherever you please, any place at all', was the cool and indifferent reply of Gen. T., and the pompous brigadier quickly retired to seek in some other quarter a more satisfactory reply.

"By the way, this Brigadier brought on a handsome light buggy wagon, in which he expected to do his marching to the wonderful edification of the natives and others, and is rumored that since he has found such an article a forbidden luxury, he seriously threatens to throw up his commission and seek a more 'civilized' abode than the rugged camp of Old Rough and Ready.

"In my letter from Matamoras, I mentioned that Hays' regiment of mounted men had crossed the river and received orders to proceed due South to Victoria, thence diverging West, reach the Monterey route and await orders from headquarters. This morning Capt. Early of that regiment arrived here to made a report. They had performed their march without meeting an enemy and were received with open arms by the inhabitants. They are now halted about 79 miles hence, and can hear of no concentration of the enemy either at Monterey or elsewhere.

I will write again before leaving this place." (1)

W. H. J. "

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1. Port Gibson Herald, Sept. 25, 1846



Assignment Five — Canvassers: Miss Mary Neasson, Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

III. Letters from the Font: (continued)

"Point Isabel

July 20, 1846"

"Since my last letter but little variation has occurred in the ordinary routine of our camp life. Morning and evening drills, guard mounting, etc., are still the order of the day. Within the past five days, however, the fine breezy weather of which I spoke so highly, has given place to a succession of gusts of wind and rain from the Northeast, by which our camp has for the last five days and nights been completely deluged. Thanks, however, to the Claiborne Guards, their tents have enabled us to brave the fury of the elements with more impunity than any other company of our regiment, and though it might at first be supposed that standing in wet clothes and sleeping in wet blankets for several days and nights in succession would give us our death of cold, as the old ladies say, yet it is a fact, that not a single case of sickness has yet resulted therefrom. The glorious sea breeze seems to act as an universal panacea. No evil, however, is without its attendant good, and the rains which flooded our tents have given us an abundant supply of fresh water, which was becoming rather brackish. As I once before mentioned, this point is some ten or fifteen feet above the level of the sea, and when the sand water is exhausted below that point, it becomes brackish in consequence of the seapage from Laguna Madre."

"Our regiment is one of the finest in service. All are hardy Texans except our company, and they can hold their own with the best.

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front (continued)

"We are very popular and are daily complimented by officers and men of the regiment. Our field officers are graduates of West Point and have seen service. Reinforcements are arriving daily. Padre Island, Brassos Islands, Point Isabel, etc. are crowded with troops from Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Ohio. All impatiently awaiting orders to march."

"We have just received knapsacks, haversacks, etc., but no tents, and you are aware that those we have are not fit for a campaign. The government has been shamefully negligent in this as in many other respects. Four months ago Gen. Taylor sent a requisition for 1000 tents. They have not yet arrived. The same economising spirit which influenced the mind of Governor Marcy, when he charged the State of New York with the enormous sum of 12½ cents paid a Dutch tailor for mending a pair of breeches, torn by him while engaged in "public service", seems to influence his actions as Secretary of War. In consequence of this, we are furnished the cast off haversacks, knapsacks, etc. of the Regulars. A portion of our regiment have received as especial favor the worn out tents of the 5th and 6th Infantry, and when I tell you the unmilitary looking tents which we brought from home are 'the aristocracy' of the regiment you can more fully realize our position."

"The name Taylor acts here as a magical charm. That of the President is mentioned with respect by all parties, but Secretary Marcy's is the theme of universal ridicule and contempt."

"You have no doubt seen the dispatch of this worthy to our



Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front: (continued)

General, in which he commands the hero of Palo Alto to disband the six month volunteers, and says that he expects him to have possession of Monterey by the 10th of July. Grosser ignorance could not have been displayed by the most stupid school boy! Monterey is 260 miles from Matamorros, a place containing 12 or 15,000 inhabitants strongly fortified, and by all observant men considered the point at which 'the great battle' will be fought. Before our army can reach it, Paredas will be there with a reinforcement of 16,000 men, who by the way, are destined to be scattered 'as chaff before the wind'!"

--**********

"Gen. Taylor has treated Marcy's order with the contempt which it deserves, for he well knew that compliance would cause the immediate disbanding of the Texas and Louisiana regiments. Most of the Texans are small planters who have left a growing crop which they are willing to risk, but justice to themselves and families demands their return in time for the spring ploughing and planting."

**********

"We have heard here that the Mississippi regiment has 'busted up'! This must be mortifying to the vanity of the commander in chief of the army and navy of the state, after his pompous letter to the Secretary of War, and the fuss and parade made at Jackson and Vicksburg, previous to our departure. It is a matter of pride with us, however, to reflect that notwithstanding the difficulties thrown

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject Wars

Mexican War (continued):

III. Letters from the Front (continued)

"Our way, 'Old Claiborne' at least has her representatives here. Being the only Mississippians here, we are known in and out of the regiment as 'the Mississippi Company', a title which has not yet been coupled with aught of censure."

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"We are very anxious to hear from home, not one of us having received a letter or paper since our departure. I believe I have noted everything of the slightest interest, and will conclude by excusing the rude and disconnected style of my letter. A noisy camp, surrounded by men off duty is no place to think or write well , and I have penned my thoughts in the order in which they occurred. "
(1)

W. H. Jacobs

IV. Interviews --- None

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1. Port Gibson Herald, Sept. 4, 1846

Mr. Jacobs left his duties as editor of this paper to enter the war, resuming the editorship on his return. (See Herald of Nov.6, 1846.)

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

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Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

4. Brief History with War Record of Any Distinguished Individuals:

Earl Van Dorn:

"With Scott's army also was Earl Van Dorn, son of Peter A. Van Dorn of Port Gibson. A lieutenant in the Seventh United States Infantry, he won promotion to Captain and Major for gallantry at Cerro, Cordo, Contreras and Churubusco, and was wounded at the Belan gate. He was presented a sword by the Mississippi Legislature and another was given him by Claiborne County." (1)

The following shows what Claiborne County thought about Earl Van Dorn:

"At an adjourned meeting of the citizens of the County of Claiborne, on the 19th of June, 1847, James H. Maury, acting as chairman, and Wm. M. Randolph as Secretary, the following report and resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That Lieut. Van Dorn, of the U.S. Regular Army, in the estimation of his fellow citizens of Claiborne County has earned a distinction by his valor and efficient service, which is honorable to himself and gratifying to his friends. As an evidence of our approbation, we award him a sword with the inscription on one side of the blade, "Awarded to Lieut. Van Dorn by his native county'; on the other, 'As a tribute to his valor, displayed at Fort Brown, Monterey, Vera

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1.Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908), page 419

(For complete history of Earl Van Dorn see Civil War)

Subject: Wars

Mexican War (continued)

~~VI~~. Brief History with War Record of Distinguished Individuals (cont.)

Cruz, and Cerro Gordo.

J. H. Maury

W. M. Randolph

Richard Parkinson

Benj. G. Humphreys.

"On motion it was ordered that the report of the committee be received and agreed to.

"It was further resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be copied on parchment and transmitted to Lieut. Van Dorn, and that Richard Parkinson, James T. Marye, and James S. Mason be appointed a committee to carry these resolutions into effect.

J. H. Maury, Chairman

W. M. Randolph, Secretary" (1)

From*

VI. Names of Local Organizations ---- None

(1) Port Gibson Herald, June 26, 1847



Subject: Wars

Spanish-American War

I. Army Units in County-----None

(a) History of each service unit----None

"The Fifth Infantry Regiment, United States Volunteers, was mustered in at Columbus. This regiment was made up of men from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama and was the only regiment with Mississippians in it to reach Cuba. These men went to Santiago to relieve General Shafter and his army and faced the yellow-fever epidemic of 1898 and 1899. They remained in Cuba from August, 1898 until after March, 1899. Only four months after war was declared between Spain and the United States the Spanish-American War was over and the Mississippi soldiers were not all needed." (1)

(b) 155th Regiment Information--None

II. Names of Enlisted Men:

The following is an incomplete list:

Lieut. J. W. Watson,[2] Ensign W. H. Buck,[3] Dr. L.S. Anderson[4]
Dr. A.L. Chapman,[5] R. C. McCay,[5] D.C. Anderson,[5] Dalton Watson,[5]
Henry Hawkins,[5] ____ Huson[5]

1. Mississippi History, pp.304-305 by Sydnor-Bennett
2. Port Gibson Reveille Apr.21,1898
3. " " " Feb.16,1899
4. " " " July 13,1899
5. Mr. J.J. Kelly, an old and reliable citizen of P.G.

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: War

Spanish-American War (continued)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

B. B. Nesmith[1], Duncan McDougal[1], Dan J. Taylor[1], J.W. Dodson[1]

Capt. J.E. Taylor, Co. D. Fifth Immunes[2]

Sergt. W.L. McCay " " " "[3]

Corp. B.A. Jones " " " "[3]

Sergt. John Naasson " " " "[4]

Private W. B. Regan " " " "[5]

" J. W. McGee " " " "[5]

" Walter Daugherty[6]

" S.H. Daugherty[6]

Dr. Geo. W. Acker[7]

Sergt. Percy E. Regan[8]

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1. Information from Duncan McDougal of Port Gibson, Spanish-American War Veteran
2. Port Gibson Reveille, June 2, 1898
3. " " " Jan.19, 1899
4. " " " Apr. 6, 1899
5. " " " June19, 1899
6. Information from H. A. Marschalk, old and reliable citizen
7. Port Gibson Reveille, June 2, 1899
8. " " " Aug. 11, 1898



Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Spanish-American War (continued)

II.(a) Records and Exploits

Major J. W. Watson

"The Spanish American War brought him to Cuba where he fired the first Hotchkiss gun at Santiago and participated in San Juan fight, where his blacks ran up the hill like goats on the Spaniards. Major General Wheeler's Book Cuban Campaigns gives him credit for saving the Rough Riders, making possible a President in Roosevelt, and maybe another in Wood. Major Watson had in his own handwriting on the margin of Wheeler's book his own story in the Spanish American War." (1)

W. H. Buck

"Two young naval officers, Ensign Wood and Ensign W.H.Buck-Will Buck, whom Port Gibson loves to claim as one of her men- accepted the hazardous duty of inspecting various fortifications on the shores of Spain, and of observing the condition and movements of Camara's fleet, and of reporting their information to the United States government.

"They succeeded in leaving the United States secretly, and upon reaching England their identity seemed almost lost, their beards had been allowed to grow and were trimmed English fashion, their names were changed, and apparently their nationality. There they embarked on a merchantman and began journey toward the country of the enemy.

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of May 27, 1920

Claiborne County

Assignment Five — Canvassers: Miss Mary Naasson, Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Spanish-American War (continued)

II. (a) Records and Exploits (continued)

W. H. Buck (continued)

"Ensign Buck went ashore at Cadiz. Later he went out to sea with Admiral Camara's fleet and followed it in its memorable trip until it stopped in Suez Canal, and then it turned back, as we all remember, and came to Spain.

"During the war these matters were kept secret, even the families of the two men being in utter ignorance of their whereabouts. And after their return, they did not feel at liberty to speak of their work in the war, but lately the Naval Department has published a statement of this part of the strategic work, and the friends of the two Ensigns now speak freely of their most dangerous mission.

"It is said that a Medal of Honor, or a reward of some kind, will be conferred on both men in recognition and memory of their perilous work." (1)

"The following complimentary article of Ensign Buck, who is now on the Cruiser Chicago, was taken from the New Orleans Picayune of the 17th: (2)

"There is one young officer on board the Chicago, who possibly deserves as much credit as any man in the service, for the duties he has been called upon to perform required a man of courage and intelli-

1. Port Gibson Reveille of Feb. 2, 1899
2. " " " Feb. 23, ~~1926~~ 1899



Claiborne County

Assignment Five — Canvassers: Miss Mary Naasson, Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Spanish-American War (continued)

II. (a) Records and Exploits--W. H. Buck (continued)

gence. This young officer is Ensign Buck.

"He was attached to the board of navigation in Washington during the early part of the war, but when Cevera's fleet sailed from Spain, and a second fleet under Admiral Camara was being fitted for sea, Ensign Buck was assigned for a duty in the enemy's country. He was told to sail at once for England, arrange with agents there, and travel down to Spain, learn the composition of the fleet and follow out the instructions by going to Gibralter. This he made his headquarters, but he remained most of the time in Spain.

"When the fleet sailed from Cadiz, he saw the departure and knew its orders, and naturally these orders and all the information he could possibly secure were at once communicated to the English agents, and by them sent to the navy department under a secret code. The young officer, disguised as an Englishman, even went over to the Suez Canal and was present when the breakdown in the machinery occurred, knew when they returned to Spain, and in fact followed every movement. While the public of America were working themselves into a state of excitement over the possibilities of this fleet's actions, and experimenting with ideas and theories, the navy department was quietly compiling its facts secured by this lone officer from the very thick of the Spanish territory.

"For weeks the Ensign remained in Spain, traveling through the country and keeping close watch over the movements of all classes

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Spanish-American War (continued)

II. (a) Records and Exploits- W. H. Buck (continued

of naval supplies and ships and obstructions prepared to destroy any naval vessels. Then he returned to Washington just as quietly as he left, and no one knew his service and how much bravery he had shown and how much tact and ability his difficult task required. It was not until the annual report was issued that they knew of Ensign Buck. He is one of those true Americans who perform difficult tasks, undergo dangers, and remain silent.

"Among naval officers, Ensign Buck is counted as one of the true heroes of the war, and the older officers formed a closer friendship for him, mainly on account of his conduct after the services rendered." He held the rank of Senior Lieutenant when he resigned.(1)

(1) Port Gibson Reveille - Dec. 29, 1921



Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Spanish-American War (continued)

II. (b) Citations

"For ten years Lieut. Watson was stationed in Arizona and New Mexico. It was Capt. Watson, with Lieut. Clarke, who captured Kid, the successor of Geronimo, and his tribe of Apache warriors who had been terrorizing the West for years. This was heralded by the press of the West as one of the bravest deeds ever performed in Indian warfare. For this act of bravery, in line with that extending over a decade, Lieut. Watson was recommended to congress by the generals in command of the department, to a brevet-captaincy, which he did receive from congress a few years ago. A brevet from Congress comes only as a reward for a special bravery, and it is a fact that of the 44 officers in the Tenth Cavalry, U.S. Army, Capt. Watson is the only one who enjoys such a distinction. (1)

"Among the most distinguished services rendered his country by Major James W. Watson was his subduping of the turbulent Indians in the sparsely settled sections of the West and in the war with Spain. More than once he was breveted for bravery. In Cuba he saved the Roosevelt Rough Riders, else the United States may never have had Roosevelt for President. (2)

1. Port Gibson Reveille of June 2, 1898
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Aug. 19, 1926

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Spanish-American War (continued)

IV. Interviews: (a) None

(b)--Concerning Major J. W. Watson. Interview with Mrs. Marian B. Person, a niece.

J. W. Watson was a boy of ten at the time of the Civil War. He came up when times were unsettled in the South and money very scarce. But he was the oldest living son, and a great effort was made to educate him. His father, J. W. Watson, sent him to Kentucky Military Institute.

Uncle Jimmie was not happy at this school, and in his second year he came home, to the anger and disappointment of his father. Then he had to hunt a job for himself, finally securing a teaching position in the neighborhood of Westside, where he lived in the home of his cousin, Mrs. Mary B. Hughes, the old family home.

In a year or so, he secured a job in Webster County. About 1876 he took competitive examinations for West Point and won an appointment, finishing there in 1880.

He entered the army as second lieutenant and was attached to 10th U. S. Cavalry Negro Regiment. It was the policy of the Army to put Southern men in as officers of negro troops. During that time he was stationed in western Texas and in Arizona and saw active service in the Indian warfare of the 80's. He attracted especial notice for his part in the capture of Geronimo.

He always wrote well. Along about 1900, he wrote a number of articles describing the capture of Geronimo, which were published in Cosmopolitan Magazine. Contributors to Harpers Weekly wrote of Major

Claiborne County

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Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Spanish-American War (continued)

IV. (b) Interview concerning Major Watson (continued)

and his brother Willie as being willing to attempt to go to the moon if necessary.

About 1895, he served for sometime as Indian agent on the Crow Indian Reservation, being detached from his regiment, which was at that time stationed at old Fort Custom, ten miles distant from the agency.

J. W. Watson was captain of the 10th Cavalry, which was one of the first regiments sent to Cuba in the Spanish American War. This regiment got the credit for saving Roosevelt's Rough Riders from defeat. on San Juan Hill. During this battle he wasin command of a batter of Hotchkiss guns.

After the Spanish evacuated Cuba, Captain Watson was left in Cuba with some troops, the purpose being for him to bring about order in distracted Cuba. He was in the Province of Orinte, of which he was Provisional Governor. While there, he bought land as an investment, which later became more valuable, and the property is now owned by his sister, Mrs. L.W. Montgomery, who is living in Cuba.

He retired from the Army in 1906 with the rank of Major, and for some years made his home with his sisters at the old Watson plantation, Buona Vista in Claiborne County.

Because of failing health, he went in 1914 to Cuba to live. Here he died in May in the year 1890. He is buried in Port Gibson.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Masson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

VI. Brief History with War Record of Distinguished Individuals

Percy Eugene Regan (1)

"Born at Vernalia Plantation near Rocky Springs, Mississippi, August 2nd, 1874, son of Capt. Joseph Regan and his wife Mary McCay Regan.

"After completing his elementary schooling in Claiborne County, he went to Agricultural and Mechanical College, Starkville, Mississippi, where he became Captain of Lee Guards, the highest military honor of the college, and graduated at the age of twenty-one years with high honors in a civil engineering course, 1895.

"In June, 1898, he, with five others from Rocky Springs, enlisted for service in the war with Spain; he was made 1st Sergeant of Company D by Captain Ed Taylor,(brother of Mr. Jim Taylor) Fifth Volunteer Immunes, or Infantry, which Regiment was mustered into service at Columbus, Mississippi and sent to Santiago, Cuba, July 1898, as the Army of Occupation, remaining there about one year.

"In January 1899, General Stephen D. Lee, former President of A. & M. College, Mississippi, recognizing Percy Regan's splendid military training, cited him for promotion to a 2nd Lieutenantcy, Percy having also done fine work in the camp in Cuba.

"About 1900, he began work as a Civil Engineer under Major T. G. Dabney in the Yazoo and Mississippi Delta Levee District, working here until 1908 when he was taken into the United States Engineers Department of the Mississippi River Commission at Memphis, Tennessee.

"He had worked up as junior civil engineer in this government

1. Written by Mrs. Nellie McCay of Memphis, a relative of Percy Regan.



State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Masson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

VI. Percy Regan (continued)

revetment work on the Mississippi River, when further promotion in the work was halted by a higher promotion to the Great Beyond May 24, 1920. His remains rest in Wintergreen Cemetery at Port Gibson, Mississippi.

The esteem in which Percy E. Regan was held is revealed by the following: (1)

"On the 7th inst. President McKinley presented to the senate for confirmation the nomination of First Sergeant Percy E. Regan of Company D. Fifth United States Volunteer Infantry, to the Second Lieutenant Vice Mayer promoted. Lieutenant Regan is a half brother of Honorable C. K. Regan, our worthy county superintendant of education and is a graduate of the A. & M. College. General Lee said that Lieutenant Regan was not only one of the best drilled but also one of the brainiest men that ever attended the college. He has a military turn of mind and his friends are well pleased with his promotion."

1. Port Gibson Reveille of January 12, 1899

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Assignment Five

Claiborne County

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Ransom
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Name

War of 1812

I. (a) Army Units.

This County had no army units. Our men joined other Mississippi regiments, especially the first Mississippi Regiment and Claiborne's Regiment of Mississippi Militia.

(b) 155th Regiment Information

Again regiment was organized at Natchez (Adams County), during June, 1813. Gaines Ford was first commissioned as Colonel but Joseph Compromise later, but he did soon resigned and Graham was made Colonel and Daniel Burnside, General Claiborne's aide, was appointed Major. (2)

of Claiborne Co.

II. Names of Enlisted Men:

The following list has been compiled from various sources. That it is incomplete is apparent, for we find Claiborne County mentioned under various commands of this war, for example:

"Meantime, General Jackson had been sent into the field, with his Tennessee soldiers, to chastise the Indians of the Creek Confederation. He had fought the great battle of the Horse Shoe, and won it. Directly after the event, General Jackson had under his command some three thousand men, and Major Thomas Hinds, with his battalion of Mississippi dragoons, chiefly from Jefferson, Adams, Wilkinson, Claiborne and Amite counties, was ordered to report to General Jack-

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1. Pub. Miss. Historical Society, Vol.IV, pp. 174,194,226 (Roster)
2. Heart of the South, Vol I., page 455--Dunbar Rowland



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Ransom
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Name

War of 1812 (continued)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

son, and serve under his immediate observation during the remainder of his Indian campaign, which culminated in the capture of St. Marks and Pensacola." (2)

And again: "In this order the Governor called for details from militia regiments as follows: "From the First Regiment (Amite County) one company; (illegible) from the Fourth, Fifth, Tenth, Eleventh and Thirteenth Regiments (Jefferson, Claiborne, Warren, Franklin, Marion Counties), each parts of a company." (3)

Lieutenant Neilson's Detachment of Miss. Militia: (4)

Major Ferdenan Arlecoo------ --------Page 218

John Beothe, private in Smoot's Battln " 224

Capt. Chas.C.Johnson, 1st Reg. Miss. Vol's---Page 174

Major Daniel Beasley -- " " " " ---Page 175

Capt. Benjamin S. Smoot " " " " --Page 174

Benjamin Brashear, Private Col.Claiborne's Regt." 216

Mark Burnett, Private " " " " 216

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Daniel Burnett------ Page 980 (4)

Capt. Benjamin Burnes-Page 973 (4)

Waterman Crane -Page 602 (4)

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1. History of Miss. p. 480-----Lowry and McCardle
2. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908), p. 360
3. Pub. Miss. Historical Society, Vol. IV
4. Encyclopedia of Miss. Vol. I- Goodspeed Pub. Co.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

War of 1812 (continued)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (continued)

Lieut. Chamblis ----------Page 218 (1)

M. W. Trimble -----Private in Jeffe son's Troupe--Page 226 (1)

Raymond Robinson, Fifth Regiment -------Page 394 (2)

Wm. Richard Buck--Midshipman on American Vessel Peacock (3)

II. (a) Records and Exploits

Major Daniel Beasley

"Major Beasley was a genuine Mississippian and resided in Claiborne County. He was sent by General Claiborne, in whose brigade he was serving, to reinforce Fort Mims, and by right of his rank became the Commanding officer there." (4)

The surprise and massacre of the garrison at Fort Mims was an event"entirely unexpected even by the nearest military commanders. On the morning of the 30th of August, 1813, Major Beasley, who was in command of the Fort, wrote to General Claiborne enclosing his morning re-

1. History of Mississippi by Lowry and McCardle
2. Miss. Official and Statistical Register (1908)
3. Interview with Mrs. Maria Briscoe, a relative and pioneer citizen
4. History of Mississippi by Lowry and McCardle, p.218



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S. T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

War of 1812 (continued)

II. (a) Records and Exploits (continued)

ports. He informed that officer that he had'improved the fort, and made it much stronger than when you were here', and two hours later, having detained his messenger for some purpose, he again wrote, expressing his 'ability to maintain the post against any number of Indians!'

"In less than two hours after the last note was penned, one thousand Indians who had been lying in ambush in a deep ravine, within a short distance of the fort, advanced rapidly from their hiding place, poured through the open outer gate, and the work of slaughter began, and was ended in a brief space of time. Major Beasley, who was a Mississippi soldier rushed to the gate to close it on the first alarm and fell pierced with a dozen bullets. The garrison ready 'for duty' on the morning of that fatal 30th of August, was one hundred and five, while the entire number in the stockade was two hundred and seventy-five, according to Claiborne, 'of whom not more than fifteen escaped'".

"From all accounts, the commander of the fort, who was a brave soldier, with no taint of fear about him, held the Indians in great contempt, was irritated by numerous false alarms, and as a 'taunt and in derision of the timid, had the main gate-way thrown open'. Pickett, in his history of Alabama, referring to the slaughter at Fort Mims, says: 'Major Beasley rushed, sword in hand, and assayed in vain to shut it. The sand had washed against it and it could not be shut!'"

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Hansson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

War of 1812 (continued)

II (a) Records and Exploits (continued)

Major Beasley fell mortally wounded, and the buildings were fired. "As the Indians rushed in and commenced to massacre the wounded and the women and children, Dr. Holmes, Capt. Bailey, Lieutenant Chamblies,(of Claiborne County), and two or three others made their escape."

"There can be no question of the courage of Major Beasley. This writer, in his earlier years, knew many persons who were intimately acquainted with this unfortunate officer, and they all spoke of him as a brave, chivalrous, frank, and generous man. He was the soul of honor, but his confidence in his soldiers and his contempt for his foes led to his and their ruin and the slaughter of many innocent women and childrend. Grievous as was his error, he expiated that error with his life, and we would plant neither thorn nor thistle on his grave." (1)

Waterman Crane

Crane volunteered in 1812 and fought with Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans with such distinguished gallantry that Jackson presented him with a sword. (2)

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1. History of Mississippi, pp. 216, 217, 218--Lowry and McCardle
2. Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. 1, p. 602- Goodspeed Pub. Co.

   Also interview with Mrs. Maria Briscoe, pioneer citizen and descendant of Crane

STATE-WIDE HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

Assignment Five

Claiborne County

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

War of 1812 (continued)

II. Records and Exploits (continued)

(b) Citations ----None

(c) Medals --William Richardson Buck

As midshipman on the American Peacock, he so distinguished himself in the fight that took place between that vessel and the English Epewier in the Mediterranean Sea "that he was awarded a beautiful sword, set with costly jewels, as a testimonial of his bravery by the United States Congress." (1)

(d.) Major Daniel Beasley — (2)

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1. Memoirs of Mississippi, p. 452, Vol. I. Goodspeed Pub. Co.
2. Heart of the South, Vol. I, page 455 -- Dunbar Rowland

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

War of 1812 (continued)

III. Letters from the Front ---None

IV. Interviews-----None

V. Brief History and Family Tree of Any Distinguished Individuals

It has not been possible to secure the family tree of any of the distinguished soldiers of this war. Below is a brief history of several:

"William Richardson Buck was born in Strasburg, Va. in 1790,and set an example which his sons afterward followed by graduating from Princeton College. He was a typical southern gentleman, chivalrous, courteous, and kindly, and by his superior business qualifications amassed a large fortune. He volunteered to serve in the War of 1812, and while in the service was appointed as midshipman on the American Peacock, and the gallant fight between this noted vessel and the English Epewier took place on the Mediterranean Sea and was participated in by Mr. Buck, who so distinguished himself that he was awarded a beautiful sword, set with costly jewels as a testimonial of his bravery by the United States Congress." (1)

Magnolia Grove, the ante-bellum home built by Mr. Buck, is located southwest of Port Gibson about four miles, on the old Rodney Road, and is now occupied by a descendant of the builder. (2)

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1. Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. 1, p.452--Goodspeed Pub. Co.
2. See Assignment One--Magnolia Grove.



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

War of 1812 (continued)

V. Brief History of Distinguished Individuals (continued)

Captain Benjamin Hughes

"Benjamin and Nancy (Brashear) Hughes were born on blue grass soil in Bullitt County, from which place they came in 1824 to Mississippi Territory, the first night of their stay in Claiborne County being under the roof of Waterman Crane. The following day they went to Port Gibson, and after renting a plantation and raising one crop near that place they moved to the town, where Mr. Hughes opened a mercantile establishment. During the many years that he remained in business at this point, he became very wealthy, but owing to his desire to aid and benefit his friends and to his kindness of heart and liberality in going their security, he was brought to the verge of bankruptcy and was compelled to suspend business. He then went to New Orleans where he was a commission merchant until his death, July 7, 1842, at the age of fifty-four years, which occurred at Grand Gulf, Claiborne County, Mississippi. He was buried at Port Gibson. He possessed a naturally fine intellect, which was strengthened and broadened by an education which far exceeded that usually given the youth of his day, and this peculiarly fitted him for an active business career. He was at one time president of the Grand Gulf bank, and in his politics was a stanch supporter of the Whig Party. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, holding the rank of Captain of his company, and received his commission from William Henry Harrison as follows:

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassors:-
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

War of 1812 (continued)

V. Brief History of Distinguished Individuals (cont)

Captain Benjamin Hughes (continued)

"Seneca Town Headquarters,
August 13, 1813

"Capt. Benjamin Hughes, Assistant Quartermaster, Franklinton

Sir: Agreeable to the power vested in me by the Secretary of War, you are appointed assistant deputy quartermaster-general of the army of the United States, to take rank from the date thereof." (1)

Waterman Crane

"Waterman Crane, an honorable and upright gentleman, who was one of the very earliest settlers of Claiborne County, Miss., is well remembered by the people of the county, for many of the old landmarks of this section are indelibly associated with his memory. When a young man, he came to this region from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and near the town of Brunsburg he entered land on which he spent the remainder of his days, his career as a planter being highly satisfactory. Like the majority of the early settlers, he was compelled to undergo many hardships and provations, wore homespun clothing and attended religious services in private houses, or in "God's first temples, the groves". Wild game of various kinds roamed the woods at will, and Mr. Crane became quite a noted hunter. He was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Brashear, a noble woman, who made him an ideal wife." (2)

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1. Memoirs of Mississippi Vol.I,p.135--Goodspeed Pub. Co.
2. " " " ",p.602- " " "

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Musson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Revolutionary War

This section was too far removed from the scenes of conflict and too engrossed in the struggles of frontier life to take any very active part in the Revolutionary War. (1)

Soldiers of the Revolutionary War Buried in Claiborne County

Major Peter B. Bruin-Buried at Bruinsburg (2)

Daniel Burnet-Buried at Grindstone Ford (2)

Col. Ralph Humphreys-Buried " " (2)

Col. Thomas Farror-Buried at Cold Springs Plantation Graveyard (2)

Capt. William McCaleb-Buried at Hermitage Plantation Graveyard (2)

Col. Richard Sparks-Buried at Grindstone Ford (3)

Philip Thurman-Buried in Pisgah Cemetery (4)

CAPT. THOMAS WHITE JR. — BURIED ON PLANTATION.

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1. History of Mississippi by F.L. Riley-----page 60
2. County D.A.R. Records
3. Interview with Mrs. W.A. Clark, former teacher in the county.
4. Tomb in cemetery

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Mesmon
Mr. H.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Revolutionary War

Special: Expedition of James Willing Reaches Claiborne County

In 1778 James Willing, who had formerly been a merchant at Natchez, a man of education and of influential family in Philadelphia, was sent down the Mississippi by Congress in order to induce the English settlements along its bank to remain neutral during the war, and then to proceed to New Orleans to obtain military supplies to transport to Pitt.

"March 7 he landed at the mouth of Big Black with a small armed party, visited the settlements, reading messages to the people on Bayou Pierre to encourage them.

"Captain Phelps, an eye witness, says: 'Our settlers here, with very few exceptions, were disposed to the American cause. Willing was a good speaker, and he represented the cases for the colonies and the certainty of their ultimate success in very persuasive terms. He assured us that 5000 Americans, under General Clarke, were on their way to this quarter to take possession and bring us under their jurisdiction, and all that Congress could be, their right, required of us was the oath of neutrality; which oath, when he concluded his address, was duly administered and freely taken; our people not being disposed to compromise themselves at that period of uncertainty and transition, by any overt act on one side or the other, which might, in certain contingencies, be construed to their disadvantage.' (1)

"Most of these settlers were Tories and moved to this

1. Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, pages 117-118 by J.F.H. Claiborne

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

Revolutionary War (continued)

Expedition of James Willing Reaches Claiborne County (continued)

remote province to avoid calamities of Civil War. Many in that contest were loyal from conviction and had abandoned their former homes rather than forfeit their allegiance, or fight against their kindred and friends. But they were all ready to give the pledge of neutrality." (1)

How Willing changed his supposed mission of peace into the "raid of a jay-hawker, a brigand and not a soldier, a robber then deliberately organizing his plans for rapine and slaughter" (2) is a matter of history.

Claiborne's History gives an account (3) of Captain Mathew Phelps coming to this section in 1774 and being so pleased with the country that he bought " a small improvement or settlement right" at Grand Gulf, returning to Connecticut two years later to bring down his family. Then began that tragic return voyage in the course of which he lost by illness his wife and two children and by drowning his two remaining children, narrowly escaping with his own life.

"I was at this time", says his journal, "in a small boat with one Abram Knapp, whom I had hired to assist me, and a lad some fourteen years of age, for sickness and fatigue had so reduced me I was unable to manage the skiff alone. On making the mouth of Big Black I went ashore with the boy, having a rope for a tow line, and by pulling this

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1. Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, p.118- J.F.H. Claiborne
2. " " " " " p.121- " "
3. " " " " " p.109,110,111 "

Subject: Wars

Revolutionary War (continued)

Expedition of James Willing Reaches Claiborne County (cont.)

along shore while Knapp steered, we made way slowly against the current. The river was very high and rapid, and to add to our difficulty, soon after we entered it we came to a large willow tree which projected horizontally from the bank into the stream, and the top of the tree being half submerged a large drift had collected about it, and occassioned a whirlpool to set under the trunk of the tree between its sunken top and the bank, a space of thirty-five or forty feet. When we got to this fatal tree the boy and I were towing on the bank and Knapp steering. My two lovely children- all that were now left me- a girl in her tenth and a boy in his sixth year- were sitting on some blankets in the bow of the skiff, when, in an instant, it was drawn into the eddy under the tree, and the stern sank. Knapp jumped overboard and swam round the head of the tree. I prevented the instant sinking of the boat by making my line fast to a willow, and then rushed out on the tree, calling to my daughter to sit still until I could help her brother on the tree. I was holding on to it with my left hand, lest we should all perish, I being unable to swim. But, dreadful to relate, at that moment the roots of the fallen tree gave way and floated from the bank; the boat broke loose, filled and turned bottom upwards. I clung to it as long as I could, and amidst the boiling waters heard, for the last time, the voices of my dear babes crying, "Father! Father!"[1]

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1. Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, p.110 by Claiborne

Conferees:-
Miss Amy Wilson
Mrs. H.T. Hamilton

Subject: Burr

Revolutionary War (continued)

Expedition of Aaron Williams relative to Claiborne County (cont.)

"Captain Phelps took seven slaves belonging to Governor Ellicott of Natchez, and two months later he was arrested in Washington County on a charge of inducing them to run away. Knowing that the settlement had a grand jury, which they had left out hoping to avoid the bother, Burr hastened with Dr. Bronaugh and Blennerhassett Hall, and lived there, they stood trial in the court house, Burr reading and writing." (1)

Burr's trial with Jones played a short time, he returned to his own "improvement" only to find that the men in whose care he had left it had moved away. By the words of the country-further claim to it on his part was useless. Also and he returned to the cabin of John Burns whom he had befriended and through whose efforts he was now enabled to try another claim. (2)

"The result of Captain Williams visit to this region to obtain a formal acknowledgment of neutrality from the Natchez community and to bring the Revolutionary War for the first time to the lower Mississippi Valley." (3)

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, Supervisor
Claiborne County

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1. Miss. as a Province, Territory, and State, p. 110---Claiborne
2. History of Miss. (Heart of the South), p. 171 by Dunbar Rowland
Vol. I

# WORLD WAR

## Preparation

Many of the men and boys of Claiborne County volunteered for army and navy service as soon as it was declared that the United States was at war with Germany; others were drafted. Whether they volunteered or were drafted, they were sent to camps for training in different parts of the United States, and later fought in different parts of France.

## Army Units

Claiborne County had no army units in the World War. As men were drafted and pased on, they were sent into other units.

On September 29, 1917, the commanding officer of the FIRST MISSISSIPPI REGIMENT received orders to report with the regiment to Colonel Newbill of the National Park, Vicksburg, for duty at the Jubilee meeting of the Blue and Grey not later than November 3. The regiment left Jackson for the hike to Vicksburg about 10 o'clock A.M., on September 29, and marched to a point about four miles west of Clinton, where the command went into camp.

During the night of that date, while thus encamped in an old field, the First Mississippi received an order from Washington designating the former National Guard regiment of State troops as the 155TH INFANTRY in the Federal service. The next day it therefore marched to Edwards under its new name, and reached the National Cemetery, Vicksburg, on the 1st of October. The commandant, Colonel

Newbill, was then preparing the camp for the Confederate and Union Veterahs who were to participate in the jubilee celebration. Upon the arrival of the 155th, details were sent from it to assist in the work of erecting tents and placing cots, as well as to act as patrols. In the performance of these duties, every member of the regiment became an efficient guide for any veterans who might inquire his services. The regiment also furnished drivers for sixty-five trucks sent to the camp for the transportation of veterans and their belongings, and for giving them sight-seeing and other pleasure trips through the park. The 155th remained on duty at this camp until the completion of the jubilee. For a short time thereafter the regiment's headquarters were at Shreveport, Louisiana, several companies being sent to guard the Louisiana oil wells during a strike and protest the aviation field at Lake Charles. In the mean time, a detachment of about one thousand men had been assigned to duty with the 155th and stationel at Camp Beauregard under Lieutenant Colonel DAlbey with a corps of officers sufficient to command them." (1)

## Records and Exploits

ROBERT L. MONTGOMERY was born at "Lochnager" plantation, Jefferson County, Mississippi March 30, 1867. He died at Natchez, Mississippi September 13, 1927. He was a son of Prosper K. Montgomery and Clotilde Ligon Seymour. Mr. Montgomery married Maude Desiree Tenny July 24, 1888.

He was Captain of Infantry of First Mississippi Regiment at the time of the outbreak of hostilities with Villa in Mexico. After ser-

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(1) Dunbar Rowlan, Mississippi The Heart of the South Vol.11-p 368

vice on the Mexican Border, he was mustered out of federal service April 7, 1917, called back the same day under authority of a telegram from the ~~xxjuxnx~~ Adjutant General of the Army due to war with Germany, and ordered with regiment to be honor escort to the Blue and Gray reunion held at Vicksburg, Mississippi, September, 1917 where he remained for one month. After that time he was stationed at Shreveport, Louisiana, still serving the regiment as Captain Quartermaster and Paymaster. The rggimant was scattered over the State of Louisiana guarding railway bridges, oil fields, and because of a big oil strike in the fields of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Louisiana, ~~and men were on strike over the whole fields, violence etc.~~)

Being promoted to Major of Infantry June, 1918, he served as Commander of the Second Battalion 155th Infantry, Camp Beauregard, Louisiana until September,1918. Upon examination for over-seas service for the regiment, it was found that he had a slight imperfection in one eye, and he was transferred to Atlanta, Georgia. A month later, upon being made Commanding Officer of Fort McPherson, Georgia, he had entire charge of all interned Germans in the United States. He remained at this port until January, 1919, when he was mustered out of Federal service.

Later he was commissioned Major in the Reserve Corps of the United States Regular Army reserve, which he held at the time of his death. (1)

SYLVESTER M. MONTGOMERY enlisted in Company B, First Mississippi Infantry, (later 155th Infantry) at Natchez, Mississippi, May 5, 1915. He was called to duty at Jackson, Mississippi, June 19, 1916 for service on the Mexican Border. After service in Texas and Mexico, he was mustered out of service April 7, 1917 and recalled

Skip

(1) Sylvester. M. Montgomery, Port Gibson, Miss.

the same day due to the United States declaring war on Germany. He served as non-commissioned staff officer at the reunion of the Blue and Gray October 1917 at Vicksburg, Mississippi, ordered to Shreveport, Louisiana November 1917 and served there with regimental headquarters until ordered to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, in early 1918.

He received foreign orders in August, 1918, and embarked at Hoboken, New Jersey for France September, 1918. He landed September, 1918 at Brest, France, was assigned to 39th Division Headquarters and ~~[illegible]~~ ordered to Army Candidates School October 1, 1918. He entrained the same day for Langres, Haute Marne, France, Fort de la Bonnelle, where he underwent actual warfare training, and remained at this fort until the Armistice. He received orders to report to Paris for thirty days, to Grenoble, France to recuperate from flu, then to St. Aignan, Loir et Chere, France as Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of Officer Pay Vouchers, and handled all monies for final pay of officers discharged in France after the Armistice. He was assigned to the Finance Office on various duties in above capacity until, ordered to report to commanding officer, Brest, France for embarkation to the United States, where he was mustered out of service, New York City, July 10, 1919. He received an appointment as Lieutenant United States Army, Quartermaster Reserve Corps, July, 1923, which commission is still in force.(1)

NATHANIEL JEFFERIES OWEN was born May 26, 1880 at Port Gibson, Mississippi on "Scrogy Plantation". In 1917, he volunteered to enlist in the United States Army for srvice in the World War, was trained at

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(1) Sylvester M. Montgomery, Port Gibson, Miss.

Officers Training School at Leon Springs, Texas, and made First Lieutenant in the First Gas Regiment.

Lieutenant Owen was gassed in France and died in action October 8, 1918. At Panama City, where he was a valued employee of the United States at the time he enlisted, a Bronze Tablet was erected in memory of him and also a street named Owen Street in his memory. The American Legion Post in Port Gibson, Claiborne County, is named in his honor. (1)

S. C. DANIELL applied for commission April, 1917 and was Commissioned 1st Lieutenant Engineer August 15, 1917. He attended Engineer School, Fort Levenworth, Kansas through November, 1917, and trained Engineers troops at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, December, 1917 and Spring 1918, in the 114th ~~XXXX~~ Engineer Corps.

He went to France on the Wilamena, landed at Brest, with a convoy 50,000 strong, spent three days on the ground in an old grain field in rain, and then was shipped to the front.

Lieutenant Daniell served with First Corps, First Army in Argonne. After being assigned to Chief Engineer 1st Army Department of Light Railways and Roads, Bridge Section, he was connected with building all bridges for the 1st Army on the immediate front for 1st Corps, 5th Corps, and 3rd Corps. He commanded 103rd Engineer Train 28th Division. He returned to U.S.A. in May, 1919 from St. Nazaire, France on the Magnolia. (2)

(1) Mrs. Marie Owen Arnold, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) S. C. Daniell, Port Gibson, Miss.



The following account of LLOYD BRIDGERS was published in the Port Gibson Reveille October 24, 1918.

"Mr. and Mrs. D. I. Bridgers of Hermanville received a message this week announcing the wounding of their son Lloyd, who is with the American forces in France. He had his foot shot off in one of the charges against the enemy. No particulars were contained in the message, but a letter from his brother Sam, who is also there, stated that he was in the hospital and was suffering considerably.

Lloyd volunteered for service while in one of the northern states where he was employed. He was soon selected as a sharp-shooter, having made quite an enviable record in this capacity. He has been in France for several months. He will probably be sant home as soon as he recovers."

At the beginning of the war in April 1917, S. H. BAGNELL asked permission from the State Adjutant General to raise a ~~XXXXX~~ company for the Mississippi National Guards. This was granted, and he at once got busy, and worked hard, to raise a company to go into the National Guard. He failed to get enough men signed up within the time limit allotted. The majority wanted to go into the Navy and other branches of the service. They were trying to raise a company of infantry, and as this county is a thinly settled one, there were not enough men left to form an infantry compnay. He then asked for any kind of an assignment, but on account of his age had trouble getting in. Finally however, he procured permission to take an examination, and passed. He was commissioned Captain in the National Army and was assigned to Company C 35th., Bn. USGNA as Company Commander (Captain).

Having been sheriff of Claiborne County for a number of years, he was placed in charge of Military Guard over a large high explosive man-

ufacturing plant at Picron, Arkansas, where about four thousand civilian employees were working. As he did not like this assignment, he made two applications to be assigned to units going over seas, but was denied. Sometime after the Armistice was signed, he received an honorable discharge from the Army.

In April, 1919, Adjutant General E. C. Scales had to finish all draft records for the state, and he called upon him to act as chief clerk for him in his office, an assignment which he held for some time. He accepted a commission as a Captain in the Reserve Army Corps. After holding a commission as a captain in said reserves, he was examined and promoted to the rank of Major in the Reserves, which he held for five years.

Letters From The Front

"On Active Service
with the
American Expeditionary Force
November 10, 1918"

"American
Y. M. C. A.

Dear Mother-

Another week has gone by since writing you-another week of the same old drive that I have done for years and years-and yet I dont mind it much-its a bit different because there is a different end to achieve now-it has always been drill, drill to obtain success in battles-now the drill holds a zest that is appealing because I have my personal gain in view-I am trying to achieve my own desire- to attain my own ambition-it is just a big game where one plays high stakes and gambles with chance and time-if one wins he has lost-



if he loses he gains-but then the spirit of the game runs high-the roulette wheel spins the ivory balls that means commission ans success, twirls and spins-and falls-we know not where.

I understand from the latest rumor that peace is but a question of a few hours more-peace- and the world will once again open its eyes as tho from a horrible nightmare and smile at the realization that it is all over- many hearts will be glad tomorrow if the news is really true and I can picture you even now, as you listen to Mamie read the paper- but you must remember, dear mother, that even tho peace is here it does not mean that I will be home again by the next train-it is just as hugh a task to take the soldiers back as it was to bring them over here- it will be many weeks -porhaps months- before I go- I have chosen a path that means that I must stay here to be among the last to return- but I shall be just as sure of my safety and welfare here as if I were once again sitting in my office in New Orleans- it is but a little more distance- a little less pay- a few more hardships-but after all it is but part of the job- and the job is but the debt I owe to my country.

Luck certainly seems to be with this company this week- we won the first foot ball game of the season- our minstrel show was pronounced to be the best yet shown- and we are to have a pay day this week- the quarentine restrictions have been removed- and peace is all but here- if I could but get my glasses repaired and few letters from home I would be just as well satisfied as is possible for any average "Yank".

If you sand me a box for Xmas please enclose plenty of good sweet chocolate- it is very scarce here.

Always yours

Allen"

Cand. Allen E. Brown
8th Co. Inf. C.S.-A.E.F.
Camp la Valhome (ain)
France

O.K.
R. H. Wells
2nd Lt. Inf. U.S.A.

July 28, 1918

Mr. Archie Taylor

Dear Bro- Guess you will be surprised to hear from me. I am still in France behind the firing line. I was in the big July drive on the 15th of July, on the front line in the hottest of it. Gee, the Germans were shelling us, shooting rifles and gas at us all at the same time. But we, Americans toughed it out with them. Our Compnny of about twohundred men captured over five hundred Germans prisoners and could not begin to tell how many we killed, up in the thousands I guess. They were advancing on our lines so we could do nothing but mow them down until they were right on us and we started in them with bayonets. They began to throw down their guns and give up. Seven or eight Americans could capture fifty or sixty Germans with the bayonets.

We had another little scrap a few days ago, but are resting now. The Germans are still running. If we can just keep them going like they have started we will have them back home soon. Sure will be glad when this war is over, so we can come back home and be free again.

France has some fine land. Sure is some fine wheat and oats here where we have been fighting. Sure lots of grapes and wine in this country. The French do believe in their wine. Our country has won for themselves the highest honors that can be granted us in the battle of the 15th. Thats a day that will never be forgotten in American History.

Have seen several air raids and been in lots of gas, but the mask takes care of the gas so we can't worry about that. Sure rains lots over here; looks like rain now. I have lived in tents, in



billets and in dug-outs in the ground and in trenches too. Can sleep most any place.

Wish you could see this place after a battle; things sure are torn up.

Write me- Address me Priv't Talmage Taylor
Co. G 38th Inft.
American E. F."

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"Young Roan wrote twice after being wounded, the letters reaching here after his death. As a sequel to the sad news of the wounding and death of young George B. Roan, who as a United States Marine gave up his life in France while fighting for world freedom, we publish here below two letters which his faithful friend, a Y.M.C.A. worker, wrote for himtto his Family at home." (1)

, June 8, 1918

Dear Home Folks:-

No doubt but that you think that I have forgotten you, but nevertheless I have not. I have been on the go so much until it has been impossible for me to write. But I have not forgotten the loved ones far away.

I am now in the hospital suffering with three wounds, which I received June 5th in battle on the Western Front. Now, mother, dont worry for I think I shall be O.K. Before long. You will see that this is not my handwriting, but it is written by one of my the good friends of the Y.M.C.A., C.C. St. Clare, Fort Henry, New York.

---

1) Port Gibson Reveille, July 4, 1918.

As there is nothing more that I can say, I will leave you for this time. Hoping that this message will find each and every one of you enjoying the very best of health and happiness. I will write again at an early date, letting you know what condition I am in.

Lots of love and every good wish to all.

Your loving son,

George B. Roan

47th Co.,5th Reg., U.S.M.C

P.S/ My dear Mrs. Roan:

We are proud of your son, and the part he has taken in the greatest of all wars. He was hit while doing his duty but believe the good Lord has more of this life in store for him. We shall watch over him and his interests, not only with natural interest but affection, and can assure you that no stone will be left unturned to return him to health and the dearest friend a man has, his mother.

C. C. St. Clare"

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June 11th, 1918

Miss Ethel Roan, Pattison, Miss.,

Dear Sister and Home Folks:-

This is the second letter which I have sent home since I was wounded, June 5th. You will be pleased to learn that I am doing very well, though I have suffered much misery since the 5th. My wounds are being dressed regularly, and while the prosess is painful the result is benificial.

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The reports from the front are most ehcouraging, and the part the Marines are/taking is most conspicuous. The U.S.M.C. seems to be living up to its traditions.

Sister, please tell Viola that it is impossible to write her, but assure her she is much in my thoughts and will receive a personal message as soon as I am able to write.

I forgot to tell you in the other letters how my luck against the Germans wasmin killing two and wounding one- three less enemies to trouble country and the world.

This is all for now

Lovingly

George.

P.S. It is such a pleasure to write this letter for your brother. I have been near him ever since he entered this hospital and can assure you that everythhng has been done for his comfort. His patience is a marvel, and I certainly congratulate you on your possession of such a charming and manly man as I have found George to be.

C. C. St.Clare.

## Interviews with Veterans

MAJOR J. W. KENNEDY, President of Chamberlain Hunt Academy, willingly gives an account of his military service, that is his war record, but states that he would rather not discuss the actual hardships he experienced while at the front. He said that only those participating in the battles can understand, therefore, he considers it useless to try to picture the horrors of the war to people.

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He ~~stated that he~~ was gassed and lay on the ground two days before he received first aid. By that time he had developed bronchial pneumonia and was practically unconscious when picked up, remain-in this condition for several days.

He spoke of the large ward in which he than found himself, and of his first consciousness being the unbearable odor of gangrenous wounds mingled with the moaning and groaning of those around him. An indelible memory remains with him of the dead gathered up after a battle and stacked in piles like cord wood. (1)

## Organizations

Samuel Weil, was made chairman of the WAR SAVING STAMP CAM* PAIGN for the county. He stated that on the day he was called to Brookhaven to a district conference he was asked to pledge for the county of Claiborne $348,000, but felt that such an ~~xxxxxxxx~~ amount would be impossible to raise, ~~xxx~~ he later found that, with the hearty support of all, the county went several thousand over the allocated amount- $365,000 was raised. The cooperation from the col›red people is worthy of mention, their enthusiasm being sustained throughout the campaign.

Societies were organized all over the county,and every child, man and, woman was expected to have a full share in the work. (2)

The children of the county were organized under Dr. A. L. Chapman of Germanville, who secured a promise from 1614 pupils to plant a War Row. It was estimated that these rows would total about ten acres in the county. (3)

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(1) Major J. W. Kennedy, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Port Gibson Reveille, May 30, 1918
(3) Port Gibson Reveille, March 21, 1918

The first meeting in interest of the sale of LIBERTY BONDS was held on October 17, 1917 in the directors room of the Port Gibson Bank. Plans were made for a strong campaign throughout the county for this purpose.

J. M. Taylor presided and G. T. Walne was selected as secretary. A bond committee composed of G. W. Wheelass and J. B. Allen was appointed, and the Port Gibson Bank was made Liberty Bond Headquarters.

One week following the above meeting, the county had subscribed $102,700.00. With two and a half days left they hoped to double their allotment, which was $67,000.00. This issue was made more popular than the last by the fact that the first was largely taken by the Port Gibson people, while this time the committee went into the homes throughout the county. Among the subscribers were a number of negroes.

Active work on the Third Liberty Loan Drive began on April 6. The minimum apportionment for Claiborne County was $65,000. The heads of the working force were as follows: County chairman, R. D. Gage, District One, J. M. Taylor, District Two, B. G. Haumphreys, District Three, T. S. McCay, District Four, D. V. Herlong, and District Five, C. B. Darden. These men in turn enlisted assistants. No man or woman refused to respond to the call for time and work.

On April 25, 1918, Claiborne County had again gone over the top by subscribing for $70,000 worth of the third issue of Liberty Bonds, but it lacked a few thousand dollars of reaching the amount fixed by the county committee. On April 26, Liberty Bond Day, all the stores closed in deference. Within a few days the allotment jumped from $37,000 to $70,000. On May 2, 1918, $83,750. had been subscribed for bonds, or $13,500 over the allotment on this third drive. District Four doubled its allotment of $6,500 by subscribing $13,000.

County Chairman R. D. Gage received from the Treasury ~~xxxxx~~ Department a large service flag as a reward to the county for bring up its allotment.

Miss Harriette Person of Port Gibson acted as county chairman of the COUNTY LIBRARY WAR COUNCIL, the work of which was the assembling of books and funds for camp libraries.

As a part of her work, Miss Person invited the public to hear reveiws on outstanding and unusual war books current then, and on the new war poetry written by soldiers at the front and behind the lines and by those at home. Among those giving these reviews were Reverend H. W. Wells, Reverend C. T. Thompson, Honorable J. M. Taylor, and the chairman Miss Person. As a result of these reveiws, many first editions are to be found in the county library now. Unusual work was done by these committees of such character that it received marked commendation from the state chairman and from Washington.

The Claiborne County Woman's Committee COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE was organized March 9, 1918 with the following officers: Miss Harriette Person, Chairman, Mrs. B. M. Humphreys, Vice-Chairman, Miss Ottilie Rodus, Secretary, and Mrs. Samuel Weil, Treasurer. The work of this committee consisted in registering women for work at home and over-seas and in responding to all calls of the Division.

A meeting of the citizens of the county was held, April 7, 1917 for the purpose of organizing a RED CROSS CHAPTER or AUXILLIARY. On petition to national headquarters, authority was granted and the "Claiborne County Auxiliary At Large" was declared a duly organized concern on June 26, 1917 with the following officers:



Claiborne County, made up of little towns which day and night resp responded to government calls without the sight of marching soldiers, of the sound of drum and fife to stimulate them, went over the top in all campaigns during the war. It adhered strictly to all programs put on by the government.

5

STATE WIDE HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
CLAIBORNE COUNTY

ASSIGNMENT # 18

(REVISED ASSIGNMENT # 5)

WARS

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Hanson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War

I. Army Units in the County

(a) Claiborne County had no Army Units in the World War. As men were drafted and passed on, they were sent into other units.(1)

(b) We have been unable to find any information in the history of Claiborne County concerning the 155th Regiment, but we do know that nineteen men of this county belonged to this regiment. (See list under(d) of II. See also I(b) on next page.

The excerpt on the attached sheet seems pertinent here.(1)

II. Names of Enlisted Men(2)

Type

| | |
|---|---|
| Maj. R.J. Montgomery, 155th Infantry | Fred C. Peyton |
| Capt. S.H. Bagnell | Erwin B. Shelby |
| Capt. Melville Levy, Ordnance | Eugene J. Fife |
| Lieut. F.P. Guthrie, Navy | John Jones |
| Lieut. Wm. Herlitz, Navy | Charles Goddard |
| J. B. Redus, Ensign | Jack Tohill |
| First Lieut. C.T. Smith, Medical Corps | Sidney L. Hogan |

1. Capt. S. H. Bagnell, Ex-service man
2. Port Gibson Reveille, Dec. 26, 1918
3. Heart of the South, Vol. s, page 368 by Dunbar Rowland

Claiborne County

Subject: Wars

World War

I. (b) continued ----( Excerpt referred to under (b))

"On September 29, 1917, the commanding officer of the First Mississippi Regiment received orders to report with the regiment to Colonel Newbill of the National Park, Vicksbutg, for duty at the Jubilee meeting of the Blue and Grey not later than November 3. The regiment left Jackson for the hike to Vicksburg about 10 o'clock A.M., on September 29, and marched to a point about four miles west of Clinton, where the command went into camp."

"During the night of that date, while thus encamped in an old field, the First Mississippi received an order from Washington designating the former National Guard regiment of State troops as the 155th Infantry in the Federal service. The next day it therefore marched to Edwards under its new name, and reached the National Cemetery, Vicksburg, on the 1st of October. The commandant, Colonel Newbill, was then preparing the camp for the Confederate and Union veterans who were to participate in the jubilee celebration. Uppnthe arrival of the 155th, details were sent from it to assist in the work of erecting tents and placing cots, as well as to act as patrols. In the performance of these duties, every member of the regiment became an efficient guide for any veteran who might require his services. The regiment also furnished drivers for the 65 trucks sent to the camp for the transportation of the veterans and their belongings, and for giving them sight-seeing and other pleasure trips through the park. The 155th remained on duty at this camp until the completion of the

STATE-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War

1. (b) continued--Excerpt referred to under D (cont.)

jubilee. For a short time thereafter the regiment's headquarters were at Shreveport, Louisiana, several companies being sent to guard the Louisiana oil wells during a strike and protect the aviation field at Lake Charles. In the meantime, a detachment of about 1,000 men had been assigned to duty with the 155th and stationed at Camp Beauregard under Lieutenant Colonel Dalbey with a corps of officers sufficient to command them." (1)

Type

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1. The Heart of the South, Vol. II, page 368 by Dunbar Rowland

State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

| | |
|---|---|
| First Lieut. S.C. Daniell, Engineers | Thomas G. Peyton |
| First Lieut. R.B. Sharbrough, Quarter-Master | Noan Tohill |
| Capt. Reading Wilkinson-Engineer | Frank T. Smith |
| First Lieut. H.T. French-Engineer | Alfred Stampley |
| First Lieut. N.J. Owen-Engineers | Wm. Allen |
| First Lieut. Stephen Schillig-Anti-Aircraft artillery | E.B. Moore |
| First Lieut. R.P. Herrington, 155th Infantry | M.B. McKay |
| Second Lieut. B.H. Briscoe, Field Artillery | Truman Lindley |
| Second Lieut. H.O. Hold, Infantry | Edgar D. Shaifer, Nav.Engr. |
| Second Lieut. G.L. Disharoon | Joseph Harrison, Navy |
| Second Lieut. J.W. O'Neil, Marines | Merrill C. Williams |
| Second Lieut. M.J. Luster, Medical Corps | Roselle D. Lawrence |
| Second Lieut. Nowell T. Shields | Wlliott Sanders, Regular Army |
| First Lieut. O.B. Johnson (col.), Dental | Walter Sorrell |
| Ernest M. Regan | Melvin B. Hennington |
| A.E. Brown | Anderson M. Bryant |
| J.A. Shreve, Jr. | Wm. M. Cogdell |
| F.W. Clark | Jules R. Moore |
| S. Montgomery | Elijah Baker |
| M.A. Strickland | Ernest Perkins |
| Prentiss A. Watkins | Bertram L. Vardaman |
| Lucian A. Ford | |
| Francis M. Brevard | Thomas H. Van |

Typed



State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars(cont.)

World War(cont.)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Frank L. Goepel | Henry D. Mufkin |
| John C. Goodrum | Athen Jordan |
| Anon B. Jordan, Regular | Malcolm Brownlee, Navy |
| Henry Mounger | Frank Mounger |
| Joe Shanahan | C.A. French, Engineers |
| D.C. Harrell, Machine Gun | Connie P. Davis |
| Sidney Clarke, Navy | Calvin Fife, Machine Gun |
| Henry Watson, 155th Infantry | Monroe Winn, Navy |
| Allen Hartley, Navy | Foyd B. Furr, 155th Infantry |
| W.H. Bell, Regular | Sergt. Albert N. Walters, 155th Inftry |
| John C. Speed, 154th Infantry | Fred Gordon Williams, Navy |
| Nicholas D. McDougall, Signal Corps | H.V. Cochran, 154th Infantry |
| Hiram J. Goss | J.D. Rollins, Navy |
| Max Holder, Infantry | Sidney Taylor, QuarterMaster |
| S.J. Taylor, Regular Army | William Hugh Price, Aviation |
| John Albert Till, 141st Field Artillery | Berkley Tickell |
| John R. Callender | W. Carl Holder |
| Dan Williams | Robert B. Plckett |
| Sam J. Bridgers, 512th Engineers | Thomas Benton, Navy |
| Lonnie Clark, Navy | Forest A. Jordan, Navy |
| Ward Williams | Willie E. Jobe |
| Sergt. Earl Wilkins, Signal Corps | Sergt. Thomas H. Bedford, Co.345 Ambulance |

Typed

State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars (cont.)

World War (cont.)

11. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Ward Williams

Sergt. Earl Watkins, Signal Corps

Sergt. William H. Bedford, Co. 345 Ambulance

Earl Shannon, Naval Hospital

Herbert Levy, Navy

John Slayton, Navy

John B. Regen, Regular Navy

R.B. Sanders

Henry B. Van

J.T. Daniels

J.D. Bagnell, Navy

William Smith, Navy

Louis Goodrum

Franklin P. Baker

S.B. Hutchins, Jr.

Laz E. Levy, Co.D. Electric Radio

J.W. Parker, Naval Hospital

W.R. Trim, Navy

Oscar C. Powers, Navy

David Baker

Charlie Taylor

Douglas Russell

Willie E. Jobe

Sergt. Thomas H. Bedford, Co1345 Ambulance

L.K. Cohn, Co.34 Marines

Bernard McCay

Sam Ellis, Navy

Walter R. Fisher, Infantry

Joseph Marx

J. Wood Pearson

W.M. Hennington

Elbert S. Baker, Infantry

Ard Emerick, Regular Navy

George A. Shaifer

Thomas E. Herlong

Thomas H. McFatter

S. Darden Carpenter

Charles L. Taylor

Johnnie Cooper

William Rowland

Willie Templeton

John D. Powers, Navy

William Peyton, Navy

David E. McCas, Navy

Typed

State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

11. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

James Evan Moore
Willie R. Jones
David Osborn Segrest
Magruder T. Fife
Abe Frishman
Edward P. Snodgrass
Thomas J. Sanders
Robert L. Davenport, 155th Infantry
William A. Wallace
Luke S. Bufkin
Ben Hynam, Jr.
Melton M. Jordan
Oliver P. Gradick
Arthur C. Emorick
Arnold A. Adair
John W. Heath
Morris Hennington
Harry D. Parker
Willie E. Green
Thomas Butler
Claude Titche
W. L. Fife

Leonard D. Taylor, Navy
Sam Ellis, Navy
Arch J. Young, Regular Army
Robert B. Houston
John J. Johnson
John Valentine
Luther R. Gradick
Douglas R. Clarke
W.R. Davenport
L.L. Turnipseed
Eugene Walters
H.E. Anderson, Naval Reserves
Ansley C. Curtis
Hal S. Headley
Johnnie E. Powers
Richard E. Field
Charles W. Pearson
Charlie C. Thornton
Cleave Greer
James O. Wallace
Lyman S. Campbell, Coast Defense
Marvin Foster

Typed

State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Daniel E. Westrope
Monroe B. Westrope
T.J. Lawrence
J.T. Harmon
Thomas G. Boren
Franklin F. Powell
Charles W. Houston
Talmage Taylor
I.L. Bridgers, Sharp Shooter
Sergt. Albert Weems, 154th
Sergt. H.L. Shannon, 155th Reg.
Corp. John A. Shannon, 155th Reg.
Joseph C. Phillips, Navy
Leonard Kaufman
Roddy Luster, Army
Preston McCrory, Navy
Julius P. Norman, Navy
Wilmore Short
Howard L. Sanders
R.M. Speed, S.A.T.C. A.& M. College
Geo. Pearson " " " "
Joseph Pearson " " "
Thos. R. Jones " " "

A.L. Lowe
L.L. Neal
Russell M. Godard
Jos. E. Ross
Clarence P. Sanders
John A. McFatter, Jr.
Willie C. Trevillion
Murdoch Watkins
Edgar Guthrie
Wm. P. Powers
L.P. Phillips
J.H. Shannon
Pat R. Van, Navy
Ernest T. Brorder
Eugene Moser
S.C. Noble, Army
J.L. Noble, Army
Mike E. Trim

14 pc

State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

9

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

William Dudley, S.A.T.C. Miss. College

J.C. Wilkinson " Millsaps College

S.W. Sharbrough, Mr. " " "

E.E. Crisler, Jr. " " "

E.L. Houston " A. & M. "

Colored:-

First Lieut. O.B. Johnson, Dental

Morris Minor

Louis Griffin

Lamon Tolliver

Willie Smith

Dave Gibson

Ned Freeman

Jack C. Banks

Price Jackson

Arthur Johnson

Robert Wheat

Minor M. Coleman

Peter C. Barnes

Ned Marshall

Sam Johnson

Thomas Nailor

Edgar Ungerer

Sergt. Wm. O. Brown

Shellie Rowan

Hayes Coleman

Austin Wilkinson

Eddie Smoot

Pixley Davis, Jr.

James Whitney

Bradley White

Luster Flowers

Willie L. Booze, Regular

Ernest Watts

McKinley Coffey

Jim Smith

Amos Johnson

Erk Cheese

James Wilbert

Ben Scott

Type

State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Colored: (Cont.)

Clarence Ellis
Arthur Harper
Sam Nealy
Edward Coleman
Tillman Mitchell
Richard King
Chester A. Hatchie
James W. Frazier
Ben Sorrells
Leonard Jackson
Crockett Walker
Ben Henderson
Andrew Williams
Hayes Claiborne
John Bruce Smith, Navy
Amos Parrott
Joseph Allen
John Brannon
Walter Warfield
Harrison Turner
Joe Williams
George Cabbage
Horace Jones
Ben Bird
Rogers Smith
Earl Wilson
Allen Smith, Jr.
Climie Smith
Sampson Miner
Fred Banks
Hamp Alexander
Andrew Jackson
Charles M. Gettis
John Mimms
Lee A. Washington
Jim Banks
Willie Nelson
Wesley Thomas
Jim Chase
James W. Gains
Collie Davis
William Buggs

Typed

State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject:- Wars

World War (cont.)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Colored (continued):

William Gorman
Alfred D. Porter
Ben Williams
Emanuel January
Ben Jackson
Adolph Thomas
Anderson Walker
Cicero Harper
Caleb Bolton
Love Thompson
Major Watson
William McCray
Allen Green
LeRoy Gibson
Charlie Bradford
Richard Killian
Anderson Humphreys
Benjamin Permelia
Henry Yates
Albert Lomas
Eddie Banks
Louis Williams

Newburg Weems
Hamp Nash
Mayman Robinson
John Ellis
Thomas A. Helm
Bennie Brown
Frank Hamilton
Prince Harris
Joe Thomas
Albert Whitney
Henry Rowan
William Johnson
Sam Henry
Isaac Kelley
Gus Gibson
Connie Hill
Leon Nelson
Lieut. C. Weddington
Ernest Evans
LeRoy Willis
Singleton Green
Randolph Ward

State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Colored (cont.)

Willie Philips
James Jackson
Ed Nash
John Howard
Horace Ellis
Edward West
Garrison Hedrick
Riley G. Stampley
William Terrell
Thomas E. Ray
Benjamin Hall
Harry Winn
John Davis
Sam Jones
William Simms
Henry Miller
Murry Wormley
Cleveland Hill
Steve Young
John Warfield
William Kelley
James W. Parker
Samuel Harrell
Lee Harris
Sam Irby
Sam Chatham
John Polk
Burrell Brannon
Joseph Miller
Edgar Marshall
Henry Smith
Gabe Johnson
Claude Flemmings
Elex Gibson
Leon Shorter
Samuel Green, Jr.
Cabot D. Addison
John Sanders
Armstead Segrest
Robert McIntyre
Charles Atlas
James Shears

State-Wide Historical Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Colored (cont.)

John Reed
Tom McCalpin
James Floyd
Horace M. Hopkins
Selvon Wilson
Hap Williams
Harry Schauf
Oscar Jones
Martin Cornish
Charles Norrell
Truly Bruce
Amos Collier
Rufus D. Thomas
Elijah Wilson
Hubbard Allison
Frank McAlpin
Charlie Cheese
Samuel P. Mailes
Alfred Winn
Samuel Johnson

Willie Moore
Hamis Steed
Richard Smith
Essie Floyd
David Noble
Oliver Baker, Jr.
John Anderson
Geo. Brown
Charlie Pierce
Henry Cheese
Richard Permelia
Joseph Scott
Wiley Hall
John Rheaves
Percy Ward
Frank Hays
Bozal Flowers
Thomas Brown
Hannibal W.Breckenridge,Jr.
Robert Walls-both legs shot off. had artificial legs. Real name Steve

T 9/2c

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

Colored

| | |
|---|---|
| Walter B. Howard | Sam Blackburn |
| Phil Jackson | Mat Jefferies |
| Arthur Killingsworth | Charles Wells |
| Robert Blackburn | Riley Ellis |
| Thomas Barnes | Ike Allison |
| Stockman Saddler | Howard Thomas |
| Andrew Dunbar | Percy Wade |
| George Watt | Thomas Martin |
| John L. Johnson | Isaiah Whiting |
| Clint Pain | Julius Frazier |
| Sam Smith | Wilse Gray |
| Percy Miller | |

Red Cross Nurses

Miss Mildred Allen

Miss Nellie Bridgers

Army Nurse

Miss Margaret McDougal

Honorary Discharged

Physical Disability:-

Roland Smith, Artillery

Sec.Lieut. Joseph Brashear McPherson

Alex Sanders, colored

Maston Louis Tickell

Alonzo Queen, colored

Type



Subject: Wars

World War

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont.)

~~Honorary Discharged (cont.)~~

Killed in Battle

Sergt. George B. Roan, Marine, June 18, 1918

1st Lieut. N.J. Owen, Oct. 7, 1918

Lonnie A. Barland, died of wounds Oct. 25, 1918

Died

Ambrose Parsons

James Roberts, Regular

Joseph E. Jones, died of pheumonia in French Nov. 21, 1918

Wm. A. Wallace " " " camp Oct. 18, 1918

W. F. Love " " " France, Sept., 1918

Lee Harris, colored, died of disease

Saul Brandon

Sergt. L. J. Bridgers, wounded-foot shot off

Bennie Brown, colored, slight face wound (1)

(a) Records and Exploits

Robert L. Montgomery (2)

Born at "Lochnagar" plantation, Jefferson County, Miss., March 30, 1867. Died at Natchez, Miss., Sept. 13, 1927. Son of Prosper K.

Type

1. All names under Names of Enlisted Men from Reveille, Port Gibson, Dec.26,1918

2. Information furnished by his son Sylvester M. Montgomery of Port Gibson, Miss.

Subject: Wars

World War

II. (a) Records and Exploits (cont.)

Montgomery and Clotilde Ligon Seymour. Married Maude Desiree Tenny July 24, 1888.

Was Captain of Infantry of First Mississippi Regiment at the time of the outbreak of Hostilities with Villa in Mexico. After service on the Mexican Border War, he was mustered out of federal service April 7, 1917 but called back the same day under authority of a telegram from the Adjutant General of the Army due to war with Germany. Was ordered with regiment to be honor escort to the Blue & Gray reunion held at Vicksburg, Miss., September, 1917 where he remained for one month. After that time was stationed at Shreveport, La., still serving the regiment as Captain Quartermaster and Paymaster. The regiment was scattered over the State of Louisiana guarding railway bridges, oil fields,(Big oil strike in the fields of Louisiana, and men were on strike over the whole fields, violence etc.).

Promoted to Major of Infantry June, 1918. Served as Commander of the Second Battalion 155th Infantry, Camp Beauregard, La. until Sept.,1918. On the examination for over-seas service for the regiment, it was found he had a slight imperfection in one eye, and he was transferred to Atlanta, Ga. Month later, he was made Commanding Officer of Fort McPherson, Ga., and had entire charge of all interned Germans in the United States. He remained at this port until January, 1919, when he was mustered out of Federal service.

Later he was commissioned Major in the Reserve Corps of the



Subject:Wars

World War (cont.)

II. (a) Records and Exploits (cont.)

Robert L. Montgomery (cont.)

United States Regular Army Reserve and was holding this commission at the time of his death.

Sylvester M. Montgomery (1)

Enlisted Company B First Mississippi Infantry,(later 155th Infantry) at Natchez, Miss., May 5, 1915. Called to duty Jackson, Miss., June 19, 1916 for service on the Mexican Border. After service in Texas and Mexico, he was mustered out of service April 7, 1917 and recalled the same day due to the United States declaring war on Germany. Served as non-commissioned staff officer at reunion of the Blue and Gray Oct., 1917 at Vicksburg, Miss. Ordered to Shreveport, La. Nov., 1917 and served there with regimental headquarters until ordered to Camp Beauregard, La. in early 1918.

Ordered to France in August, 1918. Embarked at Hoboken, N.J. for France Sept., 1918. Landed Sept.,1918 at Brest, France. Assigned to 39th Division Headquarters. Ordered to Army Candidates School Oct. 1, 1918. Entrained same day for Langres, Haute Marne,France, Fort de la Bonnelle, where he underwent actual warfare training. Remained at this fort until the Armistice. Then ordered to Paris for

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1. Information furnished by Sylvester M. Montgomery

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont)

II(a)Records and Exploits (cont.)

Sylvester M. Montgomery

thirty days, then to Grenoble, France in the south of France to recuperate from flu, then to St. Aignan, Loir et Chere, France as Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in charge Officer Pay vouchers, and handling all monies for final pay, officers discharged in France after the Armistice. Assigned to Finance Office on various duties in above capacity until ordered to report to commanding officer Brest, France for embarkation to the U.S. Mustered out of service, New York City July 10, 1919. Appointed and commissioned Lieutenant United States Army, Quartermaster Reserve Corps,July, 1923, which commission is still in force.

Nathaniel Jefferies Owen (1)

Born May 26, 1880 at Port Gibson, Miss. on"Scrogy Plantation". In 1917 he volunteered to enlist in the United States Army for service in the World War. Was trained at Officers Training School at Leon Springs, Texas. Was made First Lieutenant in the First Gas Regiment.

Lieut. Owen was gassed in France and died in action Oct.8,1918. At Panama City, where he was a valued employee of the U.S. at the

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1. Information furnished by his mother Mrs. F.O. Arnold



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

11. (a) Records and Exploits (cont.)

Nathaniel Jefferies Owen (cont.)

time he enlisted, there is a Bronze Tablet erected in memory of him and also a street named Owen Street in his memory. The American Legion Post in Port Gibson, Claiborne County, is named in his honor.

S. C. Daniell (1)

Applied for commission April, 1917

Commissioned 1st Lieut Engineers Aug. 15, 1917

Attended Engineer School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas through Nov.1917.

Trained Engr. troops Camp Beauregard, La. Dec., 1917 and spring 1918, 114th Engr.

Went to France on Wilamena. Landed at Brest with convoy 50,000 strong. Spent three days on the ground in an old grain field in rain and then shipped to front.

Served with First Corps, First Army in Argonne.

Assigned to Chief Engr. 1st Army, Dept. of Light Railways and Roads, Bridge Section. Connected with building all bridges for 1st Army on the immddiate front for 1st Corps, 5th Corps, and 3rd Corps.

Commanded 103rd Engineer Train 28th Division.

Returned to U.S.A. May, 1919 from St. Nazaire, France on the Mongolia.

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1. Information furnished by S.C. Daniell.

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

II. (a) Records and Exploits

J. W. Kennedy

Entered service August 25, 1917 in the Officers Training Camp, Leon Springs, Texas. Commissioned 1st Lieutenant of Infantry Nov. 27, 1917. Assigned to Camp Gordon, Georgia, and served with the 82nd Division until August, 1918, when ordered over seas in command of 250 replacement troops. Upon reporting these troops to La Mons, France, was assigned to 89th Division, Company "K", 356th Infantry. Served with this unit through the St. Mihiel and the Argonne battles and on November 13, 1918, two days after the Armistice, was sent to Base Hospital No. 49 at Allerey, France, as a gas patient. Remained here until able to go to duty about January 1, 1919, when ordered to report to 7th Division in the Army of Occupation. Served with Company "M", Company "I", and as battalion adjutant. Promoted to Captain 1919 and returned to the United States with the 7th Division August, 1919, and was discharged October 11, 1919 at Camp Shelby. Commissioned Major in the United States Army Reserve Corps after discharged.(1)

Lloyd Bridgers

Mr. and Mrs. D.I. Bridgers of Hermanville received a message this week announcing the wounding of their son Lloyd, who is with the American forces in France. He had his foot shot off in one of the

1. Information furnished by Major Kennedy



Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

II. (a)(cont.) Records and Exploits

Lloyd Bridgers (cont.)

charges against the enemy. No particulars were contained in the message, but a letter from his brother Sam, who is also there stated that he was in the hospital and was suffering considerably.

Lloyd volunteered for service while in one of the northern states where he was employed. He was soon selected as a sharp-shooter, having made quite an enviable record in this capacity. He has been in France for several months. He will probably be sent home as soon as he recovers.(1)

1. Port Gibson Reveille Oct. 24, 1918

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

II. (a) (continued) Records and Exploits

S. H. Bagnell (1)

At the beginning of the war, in April, 1917, I asked permission from the State Adjutant General to raise a company for the Mississippi National Guard. This was granted. I at once got busy and worked hard and spent a good many dollars out of my pocket to raise a company to go into the National Guard. But we failed to get enough men signed up within the time limit allotted us.

A great many wanted to go into the Navy and other branches of the service,(We were trying to raise a company of infantry); and, as our county is a thinly settled one, there were not enough men left to form an infantry company.

Then I asked any kind of an assignment, but on account of my age--I wasnearly 40 and married--I had trouble in getting in. Finally, however, I procured permission to take an examination. I passed and was commissioned a Captain in the National Army. I was assigned to Company C---35th., Bn. USCNA as Company Commander (Captain).

Having been a sheriff of Claiborne County for a number of years, I was placed in charge of a Military Guard over a large high explosive manufacturing plant at Picron, Arkansas, where about 4,000 civilian employees were working. As I did not like this assignment, I made two applications to be assigned to units going over seas, but was denied.

*****

I. Written by Mr. Bagnell of Port Gibson, Mississippi

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

II. (a) Records and Exploits (continued)

S. H. Bagnell (continued)

Some time after the armistice was signed, I received an honorable discharge from the Army.

In April, 1919, Adjutant General E. C. Scales had to wind up all draft records for the state, and he called upon me to act as chief clerk for him in his office, an assignment which I held for some time.

When I was discharged I took a commission as a Captain in the Reserve Army Corps. After holding a commission as a captain in said reserves, I was examined and promoted to the rank of Major in the Reserves. I held that commission for five years. As my five years expired while I was in a hospital with both legs broken, I could not be recommissioned.

State-Wide Historizal Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Ward

World War

II. Names of Enlisted Men (cont)

(b) Citations-----None

(c) Medals 00-----None

(d) Men in 155th Regiment:- (1)

Major R.L. Montgomery
Henry Watson
Sergt. Albert N. Walters
Sergt. H.L. Shannon
Sylvester Montgomery
Ernest Perkins
Frank L. Goepel
Sergt. A.E. Brown
Edwin B. Shelby
Sergt. J.H. Shannon
First Lieut.R.P. Herrington
Loyd B. Furr
Robert L. Davenport
Corporal John A. Shannon
Wm. M. Cogdell
Francis M. Brevard
John C. Goodrum
Truman Lindly
Lieut. C.T. Smith

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1. Port Gibson Reveille, Dec. 26, 1918

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front

"American Y.M.C.A.

On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Force

Nov. 10, 1918

Dear Mother-

Another week has gone by since writing you- another week of the same old drive that I have done for years and years- and yet I dont mind it much- its a bit different because there is a different end to achieve now- it has always been drill drill to obtain success in battles- now the drill holds a zest that is appealing because I have my personal gain in view- I am trying to achieve my own desire- to attain my own ambition- it is just a big game where one plays high stakes and gambles with chance and time- if one wins he has lost- if he loses he gains- but then the spirit of the game runs high- the roulette wheel spins the ivory balls that means commission and success, twirls and spins- and falls- we know not where!

I understand from the latest romor that peace is but a question of a few hours more - peace! - and the world will once again open its eyes as tho from a horrible mightmare and smile at the realization that it is all over- many hearts will be glad tomorrow if the news is really true and I can picture you even now, as you listen to Mamie read the paper- but you must remember, dear mother,

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Fife

Canvassers
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

III. Letters from the Front (continued)

that even tho peace is here it does not mean that I will be home again by thenext train- it is just as hugh a task to take the soldiers back as it was to bring them over here - it will be many weeks - perhaps months- before I go- I have chosen a path that means that I must stay here to be among the last to return- but I shall be just as sure of my safety and welfare here as if I were once again sitting in my office in N.O. - it is but a little more distance - a little less pay- a few more hardships- but after all it is but part of the job- and the job is but the debt I owe to my country.

Luck certainly seems to be with this company this week- we won the first football game of the season- our minstrel show was pronounced to be the best yet shown- and we are to have a pay day this week- the quarantine restrictions have been removed- and peace is all but here- if I could but get my glasses repaired and a few letters from home I would be just as well satisfied as is possible for any average "Yank".

If you send me a box for Xmas please inclose plenty of good sweet chocolate- it is very scarce here.

Always yours

Allen" (1)

Cand. Allen E. Brown
8th Co. Inf. C.S.- A.E.F.

Camp La Valhome

La Valhome (ain)

France

O.K.
R.H.Wells
2nd Lt.Inf.U.S.A.

1. Letter now in possession of a sister, Miss Ella Brown of Port Gibson.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front (cont.)

"Mr. Archie Taylor July 28, 1918"

Dear bro.- Guess you will be surprised to hear from me. I am still in France just behind the firing line. I was in the big July drive on the 15th of July, on the front line in the hottest of it. Gee the Germans were shelling us, shooting rifles and gas at us all at the same time. But we Americans toughed it out with them. Our Company of aoubt 200 men captured over 500 German prisoners and could not begin to tell how many we killed, up in the thousands I guess. They were advancing on our lines so we could do nothing but mow them down until they were right on us and we started in then with the bayonets. They began to throw down their guns and give up. Seven or eight Americans could capture 50 or 60 Germans with the bayonets.

We had another little scrap a few days ago, but are resting now. The Germans are still running. If we can just keep them going like they have started we will have them back home soon. Sure will be glad when this war is over, so we can come back home and be free again.

France has some fine land. Sure is some fine wheat and oats here where we have been fighting. Sure lots of grapes and wine in this country. The French do believe in their wine. Our Company has won for themselves the highest honors that can be granted us in the battle of the 15th. Thats a day that will never be forgotten in American history.

Have seen several air raids and been in lots of gas, but the

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

III. Letters from the Front (cont.)

To Mr. Archie Taylor (cont.):-

"mask takes care of the gas so we can't worry about that. Sure rains lots over here; looks like rain now. I have lived in tents, in billets and in dug-outs in the ground and trenches too. Can sleep most any place.

Wish you could see this place after a battle; things sure are torn up.

Write me- Address me Priv't Talmage Taylor
Co. G 38th Inft.
American E. F. " (1)

---

"Last Letters to Folks at Home"

"Young Roan wrote twice after being wounded, the letters reaching here after his death."

"As a sequel to the said news of the wounding and death of young George B. Roan, who as a United States marine gave up his life in France while fighting for world freedom, we publish below two letters which his faithful friend, a Y.M.C.A. worker, wrote for him to his family at home." (2)

June 8th, 1918

Dear Home Folks:-

No doubt but that you think that I had forgotten you, but nevertheless I have not. I have been on the go so much until it has

1. Port Gibson Reveille August,22, 1918
2. " " " July 4, 1918



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

111. World War (cont.) Letters from the Front (cont.)

" June 8, 1918"

"Dear Home Folks:-

No doubt but that you think that I have forgotten you, but nevertheless I have not. I have been on the go so much until it has been impossible for me to write. But I have not forgotten the loved ones far away.

I am now in the hospital suffering with three wounds, which I received June 5 in battle on the Western Front. Now, mother, dont you worry for I think I shall be O.K. before long. You will see that this is not my handwriting, but it is written by one of the good friends of the Y.M.C.A., C.C. St. Clare, Port Henry,N.Y.

As there is nothing more that I can say, I will leave you for this time. Hoping that this message will find each and every one of you enjoying the very best of health and happiness. I will write again at an early date, letting you know what condition I am in.

Lots of love and every good wish to all.

Your loving son,

George B. Roan

47th Co., 5th Reg., U.S.M.C. "

"P.S. My dear Mrs. Roan:

We are all proud of your son, and the part he has taken in

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

111. Letters from the Front (cont.)

"this greatest of all wars. He was hit while doing his duty but believe the good Lord has more of this life in store for him. We shall watch over him and his interests, not only with natural interest but affection, and can assure you that no stone will be left unturned to return him to health and the dearest friend a man ever has, his mother.

C. C. St. Clare " (1)

---

"June 11th, 1918

"Miss Ethel Roan, Pattison, Miss.,

Dear Sister and Home Folks:-

This is the second letter which I have sent home since I was wounded, June 5th. You will be pleased to learn that I am doing very well, though I have suffered much misery since the 5th. My wounds are being dressed regularly, and while the process is painful the result is beneficial.

The reports from the Front are most encouraging, and the part the Marines are taking is most conspicuous. The U.S.M.C. seems to be living up to its traditions.

Sister, please tell Viola that it is impossible to write her, but assure her she is much in my thoughts and will receive a personal message as soon as I am able to write.

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1. Port Gibson Reveille, July 4, 1918

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

III. Letters from the Front (cont.)

"I forgot to tell you in the other letter how my luck against the Germans was in killing two and wounding one- three less enemies to trouble country and the world.

This is all for now

Lovingly

George. "

"P.S. It is such a pleasure to write this letter for your brother. I have been near him ever since he entered this hospital and can assure you that everything has been done for his comfort. His patience is a marvel, and I certainly congratulate you on your possession of such a charming and manly man as I have found George to be.

----- C. C. St. Clare." (1)

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"Last Letters to Folks at Home "

"Young, Roan wrote twice after being wounded, the letters reaching here after his death.

The friendsof the family will be glad toknow that George did not forget to provide for them in case of his death. He carried the war limit of insurance $10,000, and $1,000 in the Woodmen of the World, besides $700 in Liberty Bonds." (1)

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1. Port Gibson,Reveille, July 4, 1918

State-Wide Historical Reserach Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front (cont.)

"Young Talmage Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper N. Taylor of Humphreys, this county, thus writes to his family of his terrible experiences in the battle of the Marne:" (1)

"July 25, 1918"

"Mr. J.N. Taylor-

Dear Father:- I am still near the front. Have seen awful things; have been in the front several times. If I ever get back home, I can tell you all things that look impossible. Sure is some fine wheat and oats in this country. I hope to be with you all some time soon.

Write me sometime.

My address is 38th Inft., Co. G., A.E.F.

Will say bye, bye for this time. Pray for me that I may get back home O.K.

Your son,

T. Taylor. (1)

"O! yes, I'll write some more, as the Lieut. said we could write about the battle. I was in the battle of the 15th, the big drive, but I did not get hurt at all. I am sure God was with me, for I don't see how a man can go through such a thing without God's help. Our company captured about 500 Germans and killed I can't tell how many. Was dead Ger-

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1. Port Gibson Reveille, August 22, 1918

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

III. Letters from the Front (cont.)

mans nearly everywhere. Seemed as though the earth would fall to pieces there were so many big guns and shells bursting.

There were but a few companies of Americans whipped several regiments of Germans. There were lots of men killed and wounded on both sides. Our company got first honors of the battle along our front. The Germans are still retreating fast, hope we can drive them home soon and get through with this war for 'tis awful.

Rains nearly every day here. A man is not safe anywhere in this country. But I am trusting in God to bring me back home safe. I don't see how this war can last much longer.

Will say bye, bye for this time. (1)

T. T. "

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The following are extracts from a letter from France by Sergt. A.E. Brown of Port Gibson to his mother, Mrs. Ida Brown. This letter, published in the local paper in three installments (2) is a description of secenes and events on a week end trip to Aix-les-Bains.

"Then I happened to look out of the window; we were above the rain clouds and 'twas sleeting, but the visibility had improved. I could see for miles and miles, only the dark rain cloud covered the city and lake below me. Then suddenly the sleet ceased to beat a-

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1. Port Gibson Reveille August 22, 1918
2. Port Gibson Reveille February 20, 1919

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

III. Letters from the Front (cont.)

gainst the window and instead the soft snow seemed to sooth the world with its softness and gentle touch. Once more I looked out of my window and behold! below me like a wonderful dream was spread the beautiful valley of Aix with its quaint little villages scattered across its green surface like little drops of red and white paint. Then as if by magic the clouds below me parted and showed me the lake and city. The lake seemed to be a great wonderful mirror, so clearly did it catch and blend the myriad of colors, the light bronze of its over-hanging cliffs, the white snow cap of the mountain, the white-grey clouds, the green valley, and the gold of the sunlight which quite suddenly burst from the snow clouds around me into the world below me. I,who have been hardened by two years of life that tends to destroy traits, felt some kind of a lump come in my throat and I turned away to search for my pipe- and control of my heart strings." (1)

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Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

III. Letters from the Front (cont.)

some parts of France to wash automobiles with, but then there are so very few cars in France now. The master of the dinky donk was very careful not to overdo the thing, so he cut off from the water tank and we started again. After another half hour of riding through a regular art gallery of beautiful scenes, we were suddenly and quite rudely stopped by running into a snow bank." (1)

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State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

III. Letters from the Front (cont.)

head, for I hated to see what was there. Here I saw Tomorrow- cold, distant 'tis true, yet firm, strong, and rugged, with all very beautiful in its splendid strength, very wonderful in its quietness. Its very distance lent enchantment, for here and there a cloud hung, turned to gold by the passing sun, yet passing quickly to make way for the sun itself which seemd to give warmth to the cold snow. I mused to myself, as my companion from California simply said, "God"- in the one word of exclamation I found the truth. He had given word to my thoughts and almost to my very creed, for he had said the one word,the one description of what we had seen. And once again I felt that lump rise in my throat and a strange longing for a desire unfold in my heart. Then I knew as I never knew before that after all this world is but the stage where the play of life goes on ever before us, and I could not but muse to myself that I had seen the program and had heard the prelude of my own part in the play we call "Life"." (1)

IV. Interviews

With Major J. W. Kennedy

Major Kennedy, President of Chamberlain Hunt Academy, willingly gives an account of his military service, that is his war record, but states that he would rather not discuss the actual hardships he exper-

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1. Port Gibson Reveille February 20, 1919

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject:- Wars

World War (cont.)

IV. Interviews (cont.)

ienced while at the front. He says that only those participating in the battles can understand and that, therefore, he consideres it useless to try to picture the horrors of the war to people.

He stated that he was gassed and lay on the ground two days before receiving first aid. By that time he had developed bronchial pneumonia and was practically unconscious when picked up, remaining in this condition for several days.

He spoke of the large ward in which he then found himselfand of his first consciousness being the unbearable odor of gangrenous wounds mingled with the moaning and groaning of those around him. An indelible memory remains with him of the dead gathered up after a battle and stacked in piles like cord wood.

With Mr. Fred Graddick of Hermanville, Miss.

"My division, the 38th 151st Infantry, left Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in July 1918 for New York. From here we were sent to Quebec, Canada, where we spent a few days in camp. We then sailed on the H. M. T. Nagra for France. There were sixteen boats in the convoy and we were sixteen days crossing. Our ship landed at Liverpool, England. We were loaded in box cars, shut up, and not allowed out until we crossed the English Channel and reached Commercy in France. After resting a short while we were marched to the Argonne Forest to be sent to the front, just as we received word of the Arm-

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (cont.)

IV. Interviews (cont.)

With Mr. Graddick (continued)

istice. Our Division staid here on the battle field for two days, burying the dead and cleaning the field. We then returned to Commercy, rested three days, and began the march to Coblenz, Germany, a distance of 250 miles.

Our packs of full equipment weighed 100 pounds. We began marching each morning as early as we could see, having for breakfast a cup of coffee, a slice of bacon and one piece of bread. Before night we were foot sore and weary, the packs grew heavier toward dusk. We finally reached our destination Christmas Day.

Here we remained until May 1, 1919. The German people were very kind to the American soldiers, in fact we liked them better than we did the French. Some of us had rooms in private German families.

We had begun to feel at home and settled when word came to go to Rotterdam, Holland. Here I saw the first sign I had been able to read since leaving America, an advertisement reading "John's Bar-American Saloon". While in Rotterday, I met a native who had once lived in Vicksburg and Port Gibson. We became good friends, and I was often invited to his home. We were sent to Rotterdam to tranfer train loads of meat from the North Sea to Bendorf, Germany for the American soldiers. We made two of these trips.

Next we were sent to Antwerp, Belgium for three weeks. There were about 2,000 of us. While here I served as traffic cop. Later I

Assignment Five

Canvassers:-
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

IV. Interviews.

With Mr. Graddick (continued)

was sent to Coblentz, Germany, where the Division was preparing to start for America in July. Upon arriving in Brest, France before embarking on the Leviathan, we were deloused. Twenty-five thousand doldiers returned to America aboard this vessel.

During all of my stay in France, I saw only two boys from Claiborne County."

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Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War

IV. b. Talk with Relatives of Dead Soldiers

Mrs. Henry Barland was interviewed concerning his brother, Lonnie Barland, Claiborne County man who lost his life in theWWorld War. He states stat Lonnie was the son of J.M. and Mattie Barland of Peyton, Claiborne County. He finished grammar school and assisted in farm work on his father's plantation until grown. After leaving home he worked for the railroad as fireman; but at the time he was drafted, he was working for the McComb Ice Company. He was about twenty-three years of age, and a popular boy in his community. He is remembered today among those who knew him as having had splendid principles and a happy disposition.

Lonnie was overseas about six months before his family received the news that he had been wounded. Although he had not reached the rank of an officer, he was commended for his bravery and left a good record of his conduct while in camp and service.(1)

In November, 1922, Lonnie's father received the following letter(2) from a visitor to the battlefields of France:

"My dear Mr. Barland:-

I am sending you this medal from the Verdun which you can use as a watch fob. Your son Lonnie was of Company A,116th Infantry, and the 29th Division, called The Blue and the Gray Division com-

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1. Interview with Mr. Henry Barland of Peyton, Claiborne County, a brother of Lonnie.
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Nov. 23, 1922



Wars

World War (continued)

IV. Interviews
b. Talks with relatives of dead soldiers

Talk with Mrs. John A. Roan of Pattison, Claiborne County

My son, George Bailey Roan, was born at Pattison on August 1, 1890. From then until 1913 he spent practically all of his time at home. During that year he went to St. Louis, Missouri, and there, on September 30, 1913, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He was then twenty-three years of age.

On June 10, 1917, Sergeant Roan, then with the 47th Company 5th Regiment Marines, sailed for France. They disembarked at St. Nazaire on June 28, 1917. He was wounded in battle at Chateau Thierry on June 6, 1918, and died in a hospital on June 18, 1918.

His body was brought home, and on July 3, 1921, was buried at the family cemetery four miles east of Pattison.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment # 5

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War

IV. b. Talk with Relatives of Dead Soldiers (continued)

posed of the National Guard of Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, and District of Columbia, and they represented in arms the union of the North and the South.

The 116th Infantry Regiment was composed mostly of Virginia National Guard units. The 29th Division was in Camp in the Vosges Mountains, near Belfort. During the first part of the Meuse-Argonne Battle, the 29th American Division was the reserve of the 17th French Corps, and our doughboys were quartered in the famous underground citadel of the town of Verdun. Lonnie was probably wounded when his 166th Regiment went into action at Consenvoye Wood ten miles north of Verdun. They fought between October 8 to October 25 in the Meuse-Argonne Battle all around Verdun.

"Souilly Cemetery, where Lonnie was first buried, is very near Verdun. I was in France this su mer and while in Paris I bought this Verdun medal. They were being sold to raise money to erect a monument to the American and French soldiers who fought and died in the neighborhood of Verdun in the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne, which all nations now say is the greatest battle in the world's history, and which we won with our doughboys, the 'Kings of Battle'. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sincerely

" Agnes Carpenter "

84 Homochitto Street
Natchez, Miss."

V. Distinguished County Soldiers — None.



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI. Names of Local Organizations That Did War Service with Record of Their Service

War Savings Stamps Campaign

Mr. Samuel Weil, chairman of this campaign for the county, was interviewed, and it was with much pride that he recalled his work. He displayed his appointment certificate, which he has framed and hanging on the wall in his office. He stated that on the day he was called to Brookhaven to the district conference and asked to pledge for the county of Claiborne $348,000, he felt that such an amount would be impossible to raise. But he later found that, with the hearty support of all, the county went several thousand over the allocated amount; $365,000 was raised. He thinks the cooperation from the colored population worthy of mention, their enthusiasm being sustained throughout the campaign.

Mr. Weil stated that the following from the local paper gives an accurate account of the work of the campaign:

"Samuel Weil is county captain of the great drive and is rallying his forces for the victory." He has appointed his district captains, and a list of the tax payers of the county for the use of the committee is now being prepared.

"It is the purpose of those having the campaign in charge to see that every person regardless of color, age, or sex buys stamps" (1)

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1. Fort Gibson Reveille, May 30, 1918

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI. Local Organizations that Did War Service (continued)

War Saving Stamps Campaign (continued)

"$349,000 Pledged on June 28"

"Capt Neil of the War Savings Stamp Campaign is giving a large part of his time to the work. He will organize societies all over the county, and every child over 10 years of age is expected to pledge at least $20.00. Every man and woman is expected to have a full share in the work.

"Mr. Neil declares that a hundred people in Port Gibson must pledge to take $1000 each; the others according to their means. Everybody in the county will be furnished with a pledge card, which must be filled out and returned on June 28th. -------No one is asked to give- simply asked to help him or herself by saving and lending to the government. " (1)

The children of the county were organized under Dr. A.L. Chapman of Hermanville, who secured promises from 1614 pupils to plant a War Row. It is estimated that these rows will total about ten acres in the county. (2)

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1. Port Gibson Reveille, June 6, 1918
2. " " " , March 21, 1918



State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI. Names of Local Organizations That Did War Service(cont.)

Liberty Bond Campaign

The first meeting in the interest of the sale of Liberty Bonds was held on October 17, 1917 in the directors' room of the Port Gibson Bank. Plans were made for a strong campaign throughout the county for this purpose.

J. M. Taylor presided and C. T. Walne was selected as secretary. A bond committee composed of C.W. Wheeless and J.B. Allen was appointed, and the Port Gibson Bank was made Liberty Bond Headquarters. (1)

One week following the above meeting, the county had subscribed $102,700.00. With two and a half days left they hoped to double their allotment, which was $67,000.00. This issue was made more popular than the last by reason of the fact that the first was largely taken by Port Gibson people, while this time the committee went into the homes throughout the county. Among the subscribers was a number of negroes. (2)

Active work on the Third Liberty Loan Drive began on April 6. The minimum apportionment for Claiborne County was 65,000.00. The heads of the working forces were as follows: (3)

County Chairman-------R. D. Cage

Dist. 1----------J.M. Taylor

Dist. 2----------B.G. Humphreys

Dist. 3----------T. S. McCay

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of Oct. 18, 1917
2. " " " Oct. 25, 1918
3. " " " Apr. 4, 1918

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI. Names of Local Organizations that Did War Service

Liberty Bond Campaign (continued)

District 4 ----------D. V. Herlong

District 5 ---------- C. B. Darden.

These men in turn enlisted assistants. No man or woman refused to respond to the call for time and work.

On April 25, 1918, Claiborne County had again gone over the top by subscribing for $70,000.00 worth of the third issue of Liberty Bonds, but it lacked a few thousand dollars of reaching the amount fixed by the county committee.

On April 26, Liberty Bond Day, all the stores closed in deference. Within a few days the allotment jumped from $37,000.00 to $70,000.00.

On May 2, 1918, $83,750.00 had been subscribed for bonds, or $13,500.00 over the allotment on this third drive. District Number 4 doubldd its allotment of $6,500 by subscribing $13,000.00. (1)

County Chairman R.D. Gage received from the Treasury Department a large service flag as a reward to the county for bringing up its allotment. Chairman Gage has this to say in thanking his co-workers: (2)

"The Third Campaign has met with marked success- we have again gone over the top with a total of $94,150.00 representing 437 subscribers. Our apportionment was only $73,400 and the handsome excess is due

1. Port Gibson Reveille, May 2, 1918
2. " " " May 9, 1918



Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI. Local Organizations that did War Service (continued)

Liberty Bond Campaign (continued)

to your generous and patriotic response.

"The grateful acknowledgement of your County Chairman is due to Messrs. J.M. Taylor, B.G. Humphreys, T.S. McCay, D.V. Herlong, and C.B. Darden, the respective precinct managers for their faithful, efficient and untiring work. These gentlemen responded with alacrity and patriotic zeal to every demand upon their time and service, and without their cordial cooperation success would not have been so easily attained.

"It affords me peculiar pleasure to pay tribute to the very fine and effective work accomplished by the Women's Committee with Mrs. C.A. Gordon as leader. This house to house canvass conducted in a most tactful, thorough and intelligent manner brought results that could have been reached in no other way and deserves special commendation.

"Nor should we forget to make special mention of the very splendid response which came from our colored population. Early in the campaign your sales organization called to its assistance, for work among our colored citizens three of its prominent members, namely Evan Johnson, A.M. Addison, and Rev. K.R. Brown. The efficient and satisfactory work of these men in obtaining subscriptions of more than $1200.00 is worthy of just appreciation and reflected credit on themselves and on their race.

"The writer wishes it were possible to particularize the fine

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI. Names of Local Organizations that did War Service (continued)

Liberty Bond Campaign (continued)

efforts of certain individuals in this campaign. Their tireless energy and patriotic fervor deserve more than casual mention, but comparisons are odious and their own modesty imposes silence.

"Official thanks are also due to the two local banks for their exceedingly liberal offer to assist bond purchasers, and to provide funds for this purpose at rates so slightly in excess of the bond interest as to be negligible. The columns of the Revoille were thrown open to us for use"without money and without price", and this free and unrestricted punlivity has been a very essential factor in the placing of the bonds.

"If any feeling of disappointment attaches to the result, it is not in the amount of bonds purchased but in the number who participated in the investment. The organization having in charge the sale of bonds turned their efforts, not so strongly to securing large subscriptions as to making as wide a distribution as possible among the greatest number of small individual investors. In future bond sales, let us bring the benefits of this splendid investment into every home, and let us swell the number of "coupon clippers" in Claiborne County at least one hundred fold.

R. D. Cage, County Chairman."

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI. Local Organizations (continued)

County Library War Council (1)

Miss Harriette Person of Port Gibson acted as county chairman of this organization, the work of which was the assembling of books and funds for camp libraries.

As a part of her work, Miss Person invited the public to hear reveiws on outstanding and unusual war books current then,and on the new war poetry written by soldiers at the front and behind the lines and by those at home. Among those giving these reviews were Rev. H. W. Wells, Rev. C. T. Thompson, Hon. J. M. Taylor, and the chairman Miss Person. As a result of these reviews, many first editions are to be found in the county library now.

Unusual work was done by this committee of such character that it received marked commendation from the state chairman and from Washington.

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1. Information furnished by Miss Person of Port Gibson

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI. Local Organizations (continued)

Council of National Defense (1)

The Claiborne County Woman's Committee Council of National Defense was organized March 9, 1918 with the following officers:

Miss Harriette Person--------Chairman

Mrs. B. E. Humphreys---------Vice-Chairman

Miss Ottilie Redus-----------Secretary

Mrs. Samuel Weil ------------Treasurer

The work of the committee consisted in registering women for work at home and over-seas and in responding to all calls of the Division.

Claiborne County Chapter American Red Cross

"A meeting of the citizens of the county was held April 7, 1917 for the purpose of organizing a Red Cross Chapter or Auxiliary. On petition to national headquarters, authority was granted and the "Claiborne County Auxiliary At Large" was declared a duly organized concern on June 26, 1917"with the following officers: (2)

R. B. Anderson, Chairman

J. B. Allen, Vice-Chairman

J. M. Magruder, Treasurer,

J. W. Person, Secretary

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of March 14, 1918
2. Minutes of Claiborne County Chapter A.R.C. in possession of J.W. Person, Secretary



State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI Local Organizations (continued)

Claiborne County Chapter American Red Cross (continued)

These officers together with Mrs. J. M. Jones, Mrs. L. P. Anderson, and Miss H. A. Person formed the Executive Committee.

Soon afterward the Auxiliary qualified to become a Chapter, and in a letter from W. J. Leppert, Director of the Gulf Division A.R.C., dated Oct. 12, 1917, was acknowledged receipt of the Certificate of Organization of the"Claiborne County Chapter A.R.C." (1) Auxiliaries both white and colored were quickly organized throughout the county.

There was fine response from the county to all calls. Fine work was done by women in Red Cross boxes, surgical dressings, clothing, knitting, Christmas boxes, work of such high quality that Claiborne County boxes were passed by Work Division Headquarters in New Orleans without inspection. (2) In charge of women's work during the period of the war were the following: Mrs. L. P. Anderson, Mrs. J. M. Jones, Miss Roberta Person (now Mrs. R.D. Gage), Mrs. C.P. Harwood, Mrs. C.B. Darden, Miss Mary Bedford. (3)

Misses Nellie Bridges and Mildred Allen went into training for nursing. (4) Miss Margaret McDougal(Mrs. John Seldon), already a graduate nurse, (5) served for many months in an army camp. Miss Roberta Person (Mrs. R.D. Gage) qualified for work overseas in nursing and dietetics and was on her way when the armistice was signed. (6)

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1. Minutes of Dec.19,1917
2. " Nov.27,1918
3. " May 17,1918
4. Port Gibson Reveille April 19,1917
5. Information from Mrs. Seldon
6. " " Mrs. Gage

State-Wide Histcrical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment Five

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Wars

World War (continued)

VI. Local Organizations

Red Cross (continued)

All women's organizations consolidated under government calls for women's work. Funds were raised by means of market days, sales at the county fair, plays, and benefits of various kinds. Among the Red Cross benefits of unusual distinction and beauty were pageants with patriotic appeal presented under the direction of Miss Harriette Person, on the occasion of which Mr. Harry Hopkins and Mr. W. J. Leppert of the Gulf Division of the Red Cross were guests of honor. (1)

Claiborne County went over the top in all campaigns during the war. It adhered strictly to all programs put on by the government. (2) A county made up of"little towns which day and night responded to government calls without the sight of marching soldiers, or the sound of drum and fife to stimulate them."

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of Dec. 27, 1918
2. " " " Dec. 19, 1918

State-Wide Historic Research Project

County History

Assignment Five

5

1. Survey of the citizens of the county relative to their actions in each war.

(a) World War.

Claibrone County sent to the World War, according to a list furnished by the Port Gibson Reveille on record in the vault in the County Court House, abut 120 men. The men left at home helped by buying Liberty Bone, War Saving Stamps, Red Cross dues and donations.

A Red Cross society was organized by Mrs. Lula Anderson for the men and women in the county. Later Mrs. Thornton, Red Cross worker, organized a Red Cross societ for the boys and girls of the County.

The men paid dues, contributed either money or material for bandages, etc. for the soldiers.

The women made bandages, knitted sweaters, socks, and scarfs to be sent to the soldiers.

The boys and girls bought War Saving Stamps and did all kinds of jobs for the women who were working on things for the soldiers.

Citizens everywhere did without sugar, flour, and other things that the soldiers might have these things for their use. Boxes of cakes candies, and other things were sent to the boys in camps and even across the water to the soldiers. Two young ladies, Miss Mildred Allen and Miss Nellie Bridges went as Red Cross nurses and Mar-

1. Survey of the citizens(continued)

(a) World War(continued)

Garet McDougal(now Mrs. Golden) was an Army nurse.

The negroes of the county were drafted and played an active part in the war.

(b) Spanish American War

The only part Claiborne County played in the Spanish American War was to send a few men to be soldiers in the army

(c) War between the States

When the war trumpet sounded the citizens of Claiborne County from all walks of life eagerly enlisted to fight for the preservation of their homes, their honor, and their rights.

A few of the slaves, under alluring promises from the Union forces, joined the Federal Army, while a great many of the more faithful accompanied their masters as body servants and bore arms also; the older remained at home to care for "old Miss', the children, and the property. Many of those who joined the Union forces, after the Emancipation Proclamation, returned to their former owners, helping with the work of reconstruction, and in many cases, remaining with them until death.

When Grant's army landed at Bruinsburg, their route to Vicksburg traversed the entire length of Claiborne County. All homes on this route were sacked and pillaged, the store houses left emptied. Cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats were driven away, leaving the owners destitute. Then it was that the loyalty and attachment of many of the slaves was demonstrated. Some of the more intelligent traded with the Yankee soldiers, managing to secure provisions for their owners.



1. Survey of the citizens(continued)

(c) War between the States(continued)

Prior to the coming of Grant's army, every Saturday wagons were sent to the Confederate lines, loaded with all available food for the army.

Accounts are given of hairbreadth escapes and remarkable adventures. Soldiers, risking their lives, came through the Federal forces to see about their families, returning under fire, leaving their wives on their knees praying for their safety.

One of the saddest instances connected with the war was the terror which seized the people when Grant ordered complete destruction of the town of Port Gibson by fire. The majority fled from their homes with small bundles of bedding and clothing. Some were courageous enough to stay by, hoping against hope, that he would withdraw his orders, which he did the following day.

Often the faithful bodyservants carried their masters on their backs in sacks, and when asked what they had, would reply "potatoes, etc." Whereupon they were allowed to pass on.

Claiborne County

Assignment Five

1. Survey of the citizens(continued)

(d) Mexican War

"The Claiborne Co. of volunteers, failing to get into the Miss. Regiment, went to New Orleans and offered their services to Gen. Gaines. Not being accepted by him, they joined the Texas Rangers and thus got into the War."(1)

(c) War of 1812

Claiborne County was represented in the War of 1812 by Col. Daniel Beasley, Lieut.-Col. Raymond Robinson, Capt. Parmenas Briscoe, Lieut. Chambliss, and . . . . to

(f) Revolutionary War

The colony of West Florida, of which Claiborne County was a part, was far removed from the scene of conflict, and was struggling with the hardships of frontier life and did not take any active part in the Revolutionary War. After the war, many settlers came from the eastern colonies to West Florida, and some settled in what is now Claiborne County.

2. Roster of army and navy

(a) World War

Soldiers Killed in Battle.

Sergt. George B. Roan, Marine, June 18, 1918.

First Lieut. N. J. Owen, killed in battle, Oct. 1918.

Lonnie A. Burland, died of wounds, Oct. 24, 1918.

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1. Franklin Riley's History of Mississippi, Page 208.

2. Roster of army and navy(continued)

(a) World War (continued)

Wounded.

Sergt. I. L. Bridgers, foot shot off.

Bennie Brown, colored, slight face wound.

List of Officers.

Maj. R. L. Montgomery, 155th Infantry.

Capt. S. H. Kagnell.

Capt. Melville Levy, Ordnance.

Lieut. F. P. Guthrie, Navy.

Lieut. Wm. Merlitz, Navy.

J. B. Hedus, Ensign.

First Lieut. C. T. Smith, Medical Corps.

" " S. C. Daniell, Engineers.

" " R. E. Sharbrough, Quartermaster.

Capt. Reuding Wilkinson, Engineers.

First Lieut. H. L. French, Engineers.

" " H. J. Owen, Engineers.

" " Stephen Schilig, Anti-Aircraft Artillery.

" " R. P. Herrington, 155th Infantry.

" " B. H. Briscoe, Field Artillery.

2. (a) World War(continued)

List of Officers(continued)

Second Lieut. M. C. Holt, Infantry.

Second Lieut. C. L. Dishuroon.

Second Lieut. J. W. O'neil, Marines.

Second Lieut. M. J. Luster, Med. Corps.

Second Lieut. E. J. Benton, Hospital Corps.

Petty Officers:

Ernest M. Regan, Navy.

Sergt. A. E. Brown, 155th Infantry.

Jeff. Van, Regular Infantry.

J. A. Shreve, Jr. Pharmacy.

P. W. Clark, First Col. Cavalry.

Ford H. Smith, 17th Infantry.

Sylvester Montgomery, 155th Infantry.

M. A. Strickland, 114th Engineers.

Milton B. McKay, Naval Hospital.

Truman Lindley, 155th Infantry.

Fred C. Peyton, Engineers, in France.

Erwin B. Shelby, 155th Infantry.

First Sergt. Eugene J.Fife, Engineers in France.

John Bones, Navy.

Thomas C. Peyton, Artillery.

Noah Tohill.

C. Earl Watkins, 17th Infantry.

Frank L. Smith, Signal Corps.

Elbert Stampley, Engineers.

Alfred Stampley, Engineers.



2. (a) World War(continued)

Petty Officers: (continued)

William Allen, Regular Hospital.

E. B. Moore, Navy. (1)

(b) Spanish American War

Capt. J. W. Watson, Tenth Cavalry.

Col. Montgomery 2nd Regiment, Miss. Volunteers.

Capt. J. E. Taylor, 5th Regt. U. S. Volunteers.

Lieut. Percy Regan, 5th U. S. Volunteers.

Dr. L. Anderson, Asst. Surgeons.

Mr. M. P. Watkins, Asst. Surgeons. (2)

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1. Roster of World War from the Port Gibson Reveille, Dec. 26, 1918.
2. " 2 Sp. Am. War from Port Gibson Reveille, Aug. 11. 1898.

2. (c) War between the States.

List of officers of Claiborne County.

Port Gibson Rifles, Co. G, later f, 10th Regiment-Army of Tenn-

William McKeever, Capt.

E. Jeff. Smith, First Lieut.

S. M. Favers, 2nd Lieut.

A. K. Stampley, 3rd Lieut.

Wm. H. Schroder, 1st Sergt.

C. Wright, 2nd Sergt.

T. Phelin, 3rd Sergt.

O. O. Newman, 4th Sergt.

E. W. Gordon, 5th Sergt.

J. Trader, 1st Corporal.

G. Watkins, 2nd Corporal.

J. Devlin, 3rd Corporal.

Wm. McMullen, 4th Corporal.

Claiborne Guards, Co. K, 12th Miss.

Capt. Henry Hughes

Lieut. A. J. Lewis

Lieut. W. H. Hastings

Lieut. W. T. Jefferies

Sergt. Rufus Shoemaker

" J. H. Capers

" J. G. Hastings

" Archie Baum

" B. F. Booth

Corporal W. M. Martin

" J. M. Magruder

2.(c) War between the States(continued)

Claiborne Guards(continued)

Corporal E. H. McAlpine

" Ziba Ben Butler

Sergeant John L. Bridger

Corp. Wm. Brown

Fairview, later changed to Claiborne Rifles, Co. G. 10th Regiment.

Capt. John Taylor Moore

Lieut. Ben Humphreys

Lieut. C. L. Barrot

Lieut. D. S. Pattison

Sergt. Edward Kearney

" John B. Coleman

" James Wylie

Corporal J. T. Waddell

" J. B. Willis, Jr.

" Wm A. Green

" W. C. Grifling

Abbay's Battery, Co. K, 1st Miss. Light Artillery, Army of Miss.

Capt. Geo. J. Abbay

Lieut. Wm A. Green

" Wm H. Buck

" John R. Davis

" Sid M. Abbay

Sergt. Pat McCabe

Sergt. A. K. Shaifer

" H. S. Wheeless

" A. J. Spring

2. (c) War between the States(continued)

Abbay's Battery(continued)

Sergt. John M. Girault

" W. D. Bean

Corporal Joseph Clark

" M. A.-Girault

" Henry Sevier

Claiborne Light Infantry-later mounted-Independent at Port Hudson,

later Co. A, 24th Cav. Battalion, Army of Miss.

Capt. A. J. Lewis and Major

Lieut. C. L. Barrot

" W. T. Jefferies

" W. B. Fulkerson

Sergt. Robert M. Hastings

" C. M. Sevier

" I. E. Reed

Orderly L. W. Disharoon

" B. F. Booth

" W. B. Parks

Corporal Z. B. Butler

" T. B. Gay

" David Walters

" T. J. Bridewell

" B. Williams

" W. B. McLean

" Joseph Lee

2. (c) War between the States(continued)

Davenport's Cavalry, Co. D, 24th Miss. Cav. Battalion; Co. F, Moorman's Battalion.

Capt. J. W. Davenport

Lieut. Scott W. Rusgun

" E. Shelby

" Jos. M. Brashear

Sergt. C. W. McGinnis

" John J. Rusgun

" S. C. Montgomery

" Ben Kimble

" James D. Wood

Corporal Benjamin Richards

McLean's Co., Co. D, 4th Miss. Cavalry Regiment, Army of Miss. & Tenn.

Capt. Henry Hughes(died)

Capt. Geo. P. McLean

Lieut. John R. Harving

Sergt. Charles Aby

" Theo. Warrell

" Wm H. McCardle

Corporal John Calvert

" Wm Cook

Color-Sergt. C. R. McCardle

Claiborne Volunteers, Co. F, 2nd Battn. 48th Regt.

Capt. W. Sidney Wilson

Capt. Joseph Regan

Lieut. Samuel B. Walker

" B. F. McClellan

2.(c) War between the States(continued)

Claiborne Volunteers(continued)

Lieut. N. S. Walker
" W. P. McClellan
Sergt. Thomas Hilger
" Wm Smith, Jr.
" E. A. Garrison
" W. F. Mogillio
" J. R. Durkee
" C. S. Mason
Corporal C. F. Hopkins
" C. R. Megrew
" J. W. Elliott
" J. R. Ellett
" J. W. Richmond

Van Dorn Guards, Co. B, 38th Regt., Army of Mississipoi

Capt. R. C. McCay
Lieut. John J. Harper
" Wm L. Faulk
" Irwin Harington
Sergt. S. F. Smith
" C. D. Lum
" Milton Payne
" Alex Cameron
" John Kelly
Corporal I. N. Rush
" John McDevitt
" Wm Adair
" John Ely



2. (c) War between the States(continued)

Magruder's Partisan Rangers, Co. A, Wilbourne Battn., Co. C, 4th Miss. Cav. Regt., Army of Mississippi.

Capt. J. M. Magruder
Lieut. Wm A. Martin
" C. E. Buck
" Dan B. Humphreys
" Jas. P. Parker
Sergt. John Weeks
" Abe Archer
" John A. Cato
" T. G. Spindle
" J. McC. Martin
Corporal Alonzo Crawford
" Charles Reeves

Warren and Claiborne Guards, Co. F, later I, Wirt Adams Cav. Regt.

Claiborne County officers:

Capt. A. J. Carnahan
Lieut. Russ W. McLean
" Geo. P. McLean
" John R. Harring
Sergt. D. H. McIntyre
Corporal G. F. Camp

Soldiers who joined other companies.

Major-General Earl Van Dorn
Captain, Colonel, Brig. Gen. B. G. Humphreys
Adjutant James M. Kennard
Capt. James F. Maury.

2. (c) War between the States(continued)

Soldiers who joined other companies.(continued)

Lieut. Edward Archer
" Henry P. Bridewell
T. S. Gibson, Surgeon
Lieut. Eugene D. Jones
" Frank Garrison
" R. T. Owen
" L. W. Disharoon
" Aaron Vortner
" W. H. Shrodor
" Barney McCabe
Capt. R. A. Owen
" Wm A. Denny
" F. C. Englesing
" Ed Kearney
" Rufus Shoemaker
" James E. Martin
Maj. W. H. McCardle
Sergt. Maj. Leigh Briscoe
Sergt. Joe R. Willis
" E. B. Hoopes (1)

1. A Record of Confederate Soldiers, Claiborne County, Miss. In the War between the States, 1861-1865 by Mr. Frank H. Foote one of the soldiers.



2. Roster of army and navy.

(d) Mexican War

Col. Richard Parkinson, 2d Regt. Mi. Ms. (1)

W. B. Tebo, Aide-de-camp to Gov. Albert G. Brown, Comm.-in-chief of army and navy. (2)

Sgt. A. E. Brown
H. D. Watson
Calvin Wilson (3)

"Claiborne Volunteers"

Capt. Frederick J. Poor
Wm H. Shivers, 1st Lieut.
Wm H. Jacobs, 2d Lieut.
M. W. Goff, Orderly Sergt.
A. J. Frisby, Commissary. (4)

H. E. Hall, 2nd Lieut. of Claiborne Volunteers. (5)

Capt. W. H. Jacobs, Claiborne Guards. (6)

Capt. Henry T. Elliott, Claiborne Guards.

Maj. Karl Van Dorn

1. Port Gibson Reveille, May 21, 1846.
2. Miss. Official and Statistical Register(1908), Page, 400.
3. Military History of Mississippi.
4. Miss. Official and Statistical Register(1908), Page 414.
5. Port Gibson Herald, April 24, 1846.
6. Miss. Official and Statistical Register(1908), Page 402.

2. Roster of army and navy.

(e) War of 1812

Col. Daniel Beasley (1)

Lieut. Chambliss (1)

Lieut.-Col. Raymond Robinson (2)

Capt. Parmenas Briscoe (3)

(f) Revolutionary War

Maj. Peter B. Bruin
Daniel Burnett
Col. Ralph Humphreys
Col. Thomas Perror
Capt. William McCaleb (4)

{ all these fought in Rev. War, were given grants of land + settled in Claiborne C.

3. Exploits.

(d) Mexican War

"The Claiborne Volunteers organized in May, 1846 for the 1st Regt. on failing to gain admission, took boat at Grand Gulf June 7 and proceeded to New Orleans where they again found no encouragement, and whence, at their expense, they sailed to Port Isabel. There were 65 men in the company." (5)

1. Lowry and McCardle's History of Miss., Page 216.
2. Miss. Official and Statistical Register, Page 394.
3. Lowry and McCardle's History of Miss., Page 216.
4. D. A. R. Records.
5. Miss. Official and Statistical Register, Page 414.



3. Exploits.

(b) Spanish American War

"Among the most distinguished services rendered his country by Maj. James W. Watson was his subduing of the turbulent Indians in the sparsely settled sections of the west and in the war with Spain. More than once he was brevetted for bravery.

In Cuba he saved the Roosevelt Rough Riders, else the United States may never have had Roosevelt for president.." (1) full reference needed

Lieut. W. H. Bush, a near relative of Maj. Watson, also distinguished himself as an ensign in the navy during the war with Spain. His greatest service was in the secret service of his country where he risked his life continually." (1)

1. Port Gibson Reveille, Aug. 19, 1936-Semi-Centennial Edition.

3. Exploits.

(c) War between the States.

"The Confederates under Major-General Van Dorn of Mississippi made a daring and bloody attempt to recapture Corinth(October 3 and 4 , 1862), but were repulsed with great loss, after having taken a part of the town."(1)

"Of the battle of Corinth, history will say it was only not a a victory. In all the elements of military science--conception, plan of attack and execution of design--it reflects the highest credit on the general who commanded the forces, and it covered with glory the subordinate generals, officers and men engaged in the terrific struggle. On the close of the contest on the night of the first day(Friday), General Van Dorn received the congratulations of every general officer under his command; and, in the hearts of his men, lying prostrate, parched by thirst, and weary from excess of valor, there was but one feeling--pride that they served under a commander who had taught them, that day, his capacity to command and guide the currents of a wide-spread battle-field."(2)

"Van Dorn's Cavalry, 2,500 strong, at first deceived the Federals by crossing the main roads leading to Holly Springs,as if headed for Tennessee via Ripley. The raid of December 20th, 1862 seems to have been a surprise. After the first clash, pistols proved too much for sabres and the Illinois men were driven from the field."(3) Grant had immense collections of army stores at Holly Springs which were captured and all that could not be carried away were destroyed. By Van Dorn.

1. Franklin Riley's History of Mississippi, Page 283.
2. Ag&Soldier's Honor by His Comrades, Page 152.
3. Heart of the South by Dunbar Rowland, Page 866.



3. Exploits.

(d) Mexican War

"Earl Van Dorn, another Mississippian who has gained distinction by exposing himself to the fire of the enemy in order to replace an American flag that had been cut down by a cannon b ll, added new glory to his state by his bravery in this bloody battle.(Monterey)"(1)

He afterwards rendered himself conspicuous by his gallantry in the conflict at Cerro Gordo, Cherubusco, and at the Belen Gate, and was promoted to the rank of major before the end of this war."(1)

"Lieut. Earl Van Dorn was promoted to Captain and Major for gallantry at Cerro Gordo, Contreras, and Cherasbusco, and was wounded at the Belen Gate. He was presented a sword by the Mississippi Legislature and another was given him by Claiborne County."(2)

"Lieut. Van Dorn, wounded at the recent capture of Chapultepec and the city of Mexico, acting as aide to Gen. Smith,acted a distinguished part at the defense of Ft. Brown, the capture of Monterey, and all battles in which Gen. Scott has been engaged since he entered."(3)

4. Record of the First Mississippi Regiment.

The First Regiment Mississippi Infantry U. S. Volunteers was organized at Baton Rouge in Jan. 1813.(4) When war was declared with Mexico, enough companies for two regiments were formed at once. Ten companies were accepted and formed into the First Mississippi Regiment. Claiborne County failed to get in.

1. Franklin Riley's History of Mississippi, Page 285.
2. Miss. Official and Statistical Register(1908), Page 419.
3. Port Gibson Herald, Oct. 22, 1847.
4. Miss. Official and Statistical Register, Page 391.

4. Record of the First Mississippi Regiment.(continued)

The First Regiment Infantry in the War between the States. This regiment was completed in Aug. 1861.(1)

War with Spain-The First Regiment Mississippi Volunteers Infantry was mustered in at Camp Port Henry and left for Chickamauga Park in May, 1898.(2)

World War-"Mississippi offered for services five independent battalions and several companies of the State National Guard, which were formed into the 1st Regiment of Mississippi Infantry."(3)

On Sept. 29, "The First Mississippi received an order from Washington designation the former National Guard as the 155th Infantry in Federal Service."(4)

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

1. Miss. Official and Statistical Register-Page 547.
2. Heart of the South, Vol. II, Lumber Rowland, Page, 271.
3. " " " " " " " " Page 303.
4. " " " " " " " " Page 303.



1. Parts citizens played in War between the States.

It is an interesting part of history to state that this, Claiborne, county supplied more soldiers for the Confederate Army than it had voters.

During the War between the States the women, who upon the whole, had lived in ease, were forced, with help of the few remaining loyal slaves to make a living for themselves and children. The reconstruction days were but little, if any, less trying than the four years of the war.

Little did they think when war was declared, the hardships they would suffer before it was over. There were no factories in the south, and soldiers must have guns, ammunition, uniforms, and shoes. Soon spinning wheels were started to make thread and then spun into cloth to be made into uniforms. Leather was tanned and shoes were made for the soldiers.

There was no coffee unless someone ran the blockade and the risk of being caught and imprisoned. For a substitute they used parched corn or sweet potatoes. Salt was leached from the floors of the old smoke houses. Corn cobs were burned to be used for soda. For sugar they used molasses.

Many grandmothers relate startling facts, such as taking down draperies to use the materials of same for clothes, utilizing the rugs

Supplement to Assignment Five

1. Parts citizens played in war between the States--(continued)

from the floors in making saddle blankets. Needles and pins were guarded with their lives. Such a shortage of pins existed that they forced to use thorns for pins.

The churches, schools and even the homes of some of the people were given for the use of the wounded soldiers. The women and girls nursed and cared for the wounded and dying soldiers. Still greater hardships came during the Reconstruction days and carpet bag rule.

Despite all of the hardships through which the South has passed since, a large part of its citizenship has maintained all of those years a high standard of living which cannot be appreciated by its Northern brethren until they have mingles with those citizens in their homes.

All of the present generation are as much opposed to a return of slavery as John Brown or Harriette Beecher Stowe eighty years ago; this generation has tried to forget any wrongs which they know were unnecessarily perpetrated by fous of their fathers and grandfathers, and they are building on a firmer foundation than was built by the "glorious" Old South of a century ago.

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State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Supplement to Assignment Five on Exploits

1. Exploits in which an active part was taken by citizens of Claiborne County. -----in War between the States.

"The Battle of Magnolia Church written by late A. C. Wharton.

The Battle of Port Gibson, Miss., was fought May 1, 1863, between the Federal Army, commanded by Gen. U. S. Grant, and a small force of Confederates, under Brig.-Gen. John S. Bowen of Missouri. Though not among the greater battles of the war this engagement was one of no slight importance. A defeat inflicted upon the Union Army here would have saved Vicksburg, thereby putting new heart into the Confederacy, and altering the entire aspect of the struggle.

In January, 1863, a few weeks after Sherman's repulse at Vicksburg, Gen. Grant took command of the army on the Mississippi, with the purpose of renewing the attempt on their fortress. Judging it impracticable to make his approach on the north side, he determined to land at Grand Gulf, thirty miles below, and attack from that direction.

Accordingly, on April 29 the fleet endeavored to destroy the Confederate works at Grand Gulf, where Gen. Bowen was in command. A prolonged cannonade by the gunboats failed to silence the batteries, but that night Admiral Porter renewed the bombardment, under cover of which his transports slipped by unharmed. Though unable to land here, Grant had discovered that at Bruinsburg Plantation, ten miles lower down the river, he might effect a landing, and this he immediately proceeded to do.

Supplement to Assignment Five on Exploits

3. Exploits in War between the States----(continued.)

The Battle of Magnolia---------(continued)

The Advance From Bruinsburg

The town of Port Gibson, which lay upon the line of Grant's projected march, is eleven miles east of Bruinsburg; but by the only practicable route the distance is about sixteen miles. The road follows a tolerably level ridge until, within five miles of Port Gibson, it crosses a streamlet called Widow's Creek, and there climbs a long, steep hill, into which it has worn deeply, forming a narrow defile where resolute troops might check an enemy fourfold as numerous.

The entire western part of Claiborne County, the theater of the Federal march, has a remarkably uneven surface. Originally level, then deeply sculptured by ancient erosion, it now presents a bewildering labyrinth of loamy, fertile hills, with narrow valleys between. In his report Gen. Grant said:

"It is the most broken country I ever saw. The whole country is a series of irregular ridges, divided by impassable ravines grown up with heavy timber, undergrowth and cane."

Early on April 30 the transports began the work of ferrying the Union troops from the Louisiana side, and before the dawn of May 1 the entire army was ashore at Bruinsburg and on the march. Its numerical strength is not revealed in the official reports, but 30,000 to 35,000 men of all arms seems a fair estimate. "The Return of Casualties" names fifty-three regiments present at the battle, together with eleven batteries of artillery. There were also thirty companies of cav-

Supplement to Assignment Five on Exploits

3. Exploits in War between the States----------(continued)

The Battle of Magnolia----------(continued)

alry and light troops not actively engaged. This large force was organized into five divisions, comprising eleven brigades.

About 12:30 a. m., May 1, the leading brigade(Col. Stone's) crossed Widow's Creek without opposition, the strong bluffs there being undefended by so much as an outpost. Half a mile beyond Stone encountered a picket who fired, killing one man, and then retiring to Magnolia Church, the Confederate position, a few hundred yards to the rear. At that country meeting-house was stationed Brig.-Gen. Martin E. Green with three regiments and one battalion of infantry, and one battery, 775 men in all, according to his official report.

Bowen's Plan and Preparation

Before describing the engagement that followed it will be necessary to acquaint the readers with Bowen's plans and preparations. After the fleet had passed Grand Gulf Bowen anticipated an attack from some point below, and on April 30 he sent Green to guard the roads entering Port Gibson from the southwest. Green had the Fifteenth and Twenty-first Arkansas, the Twelfth Arkansas Battalion and the Sixth Mississippi, together with one battery. He made a personal reconnaissance along the Magnolia Church road; but, instead of seizing the formidable heights at Widow's Creek, he prepared to give battle at the church, a position of far less strength.

The same afternoon, when Bowen had got definite information of the

3. Exploits in War between the States--------(continued)

The Battle of Magnolia Church----------(continued)

Federal advance from Bruinsburg, he went to inspect Green's preparations at the church. Satisfied with the choice of this spot, Bowen, hurried back to Grand Gulf-ten or twelve miles distant-and that night dispatched reinforcements to his positions on Big Black and Bayou Pierre, those streams, both navigable at that season, being threatened with the ascent of gunboats. In this service he employed four regiments, two battalions and three batteries of artillery, a total of about 1,800 men. The defense of Grand Gulf he entrusted to his batteries, supported by the Third, Fifth and Sixth Missouri Infantry. These dispositions were doubtless justified by the emergency, but could these scattered troops have been concentrated at Magnolia Church Grant might have been checked until confronted by an army as strong as his own.

Meanwhile, in response to Bowen's dispatches, Pemberton was getting reinforcements in motion from Vicksburg and vicinity. At dusk on the 29th Gen. Edward D. Tracy, with the Twentieth, Twenty-third, Thirtieth and Thirty-first Alabama, left Warrenton for Grand Gulf; and the next afternoon, when within four miles of that port, he was ordered to Port Gibson Crossing Bayou Pierre, the jaded troops, who had marched all day without food, prepared to cook their rations, but a second courier from Bowen ordered an immediate advance to support Gen. Green. Tracy reached thefield at 10 p. m., with troops exhausted by a march of forty miles in twenty-four hours. So many had broken down en route that he brought only 1,500 men into action.

This brigade formed the right wing of the Confederate line, being sta-



3. Exploits in War between the States--------(continued)

The Battle of Magnolia Church----------(continued)

tioned near the Andrews farmhouse which was not on the Magnolia Church Road, but on a plantation road diverging therefrom just in front of Green's position. The two roads forming a rude ellipse, unite again one mile from Port Gibson. Thus, Green's weak force was divided for the defense of two almost parallel roads, between which communication was slow and difficult.

Brig.-Gen. Wm. E. Baldwin was also hurrying to Bowen's aid with the Seventeenth and Thirty-first Louisiana and the Fourth and Forty-sixth Mississippi. This brigade left Vicksburg at 5 p.m. on the 29th and at 1 p.m. next day halted at Big Black for instructions. About sunset they were ordered to Magnolia Church, and by marching half the night they reached that locality at 11 a.m. May 1, and at once went into action with 1,814 men.

Such was the strength and such the preparations of the Confederates.

THE BATTLE

On being fired into by the Confederate picket at 1 a.m.(May 1st), the Federals continued to advance, but were greeted, says Col. Stone, "by a tremendous volley of musketry." The Confederates then opened at short range with their battery, which was answered by an Iowa and an Indiana battery. Stone's report says:

"The fire of the Rebel batteries(battery* was accurate, and disabled many of our men and horses. The darkness, the bursting of shells, the rattle

3. Exploits in War between the States----------(continued)

The Battle of Magnolia Church----------(continued)

of groups through fences and timber rendered the scene one of terrific grandeur."

Finally, according to this officer, the Confederate guns were "driven from the field and silenced", but his report elsewhere admits that "the enemy held their position during the night". This contradiction of his former statement agrees with report of Gen. Green, who says that "after two hours' hard fighting, the enemy ceased firing and withdrew a short distance, we hold our position."

At sunrise, in response to urgent messages from Green, Tracy sent him the Twenty-third Alabama, and two guns. This small reinforcement, which gave Green a total of 1,100 men and six guns, reached him at 8 o'clock, two hours after the attack had reopened. The Federal attack was led by the two brigades of Carr's Division, embracing eight regiments. One brigade was posted on and about the road near Green's position; the other, which formed the Federal right, was posted in the woods and fields east of the road. The latter brigade was soon strengthened on the extreme right by the nine regiments(two brigades) of Hovey's Division, and later in the forenoon by a brigade of A. J. Smith's Division. These twenty-one regiments were supported by six batteries, but this large force was probably not all engaged at the same time, some regiments being withdrawn and rested while fresher troops replaced them.

Aided by strong positions, Green, with his five regiments and six guns, obstinately held his ground, repulsing repeated attempts to dislodge him.



3. Exploits in War between the States----------(continued)

The Battle of Magnolia Church----------(continued)

At 11 o'clock, however, flanked in heavy force on their left, the Confederates yielded to a charge of Hovey's Division and retreated, losing many prisoners and two guns, of which the horses had nearly been killed. Gen. Hovey claims that over 300 prisoners were taken here.

After falling back a mile and a half Green met Baldwin's brigade coming to his assistance, accompanied by Gen. Bowen. Green's wearied brigade was sent to the Andrew's road, where Tracy's men were struggling against hopeless odds; while with Baldwin's four regiments and the Third and Fifth Missouri, just arriving from Grand Gulf, and bringing additional artillery--in all about 2,400 men--Bowen undertook to check the Federal advance.

The rugged nature of the country, and the effective service of his guns, enabled Bowen to maintain himself until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Perceiving then that his left flank was about to be turned, he charged the enemy's right with the two Missouri regiments. According to his report the enemy's first line (four regiments) was routed, but the rear line "held its place and forced us, after a protracted contest, to retire." This episode is thus described by the Federal General, McClernand:

"Discovering that the enemy was massing a formidable force to turn my right flank, I order Gen. (A. J.) Smith to send a brigade to support that flank. Burbridge's moved forward, while Gen. Hovey massed his artillery and opened a destructive fire. The effect of these movements was to force the enemy back with considerable loss." This desperate

3. Exploits in War between the States----------(continued)

The Battle of Magnolia Church----------(continued)

charge of the Missourians saved Bowen's troops from capture and held the enemy in check until preparations could be made for the retreat which began about sunset.

On the Andrews Road Tracy's Brigade posted about two miles from the church, had likewise been all day engaged in unequal contest. At 6:30 a.m. Gen. Osterhaus attacked with his first and soon after with his second brigade, ten regiments in all; and this force was strengthened at midday by Gen. J. E. Smith's Brigade numbering five regiments. Gen. Tracy was killed early in the action and Col. I. W. Garrott assumed command. His weak line made a brave resistance, in which it was greatly aided by Johnston's, four guns, posted at the center. Capt. Lamphere, whose battery, (Seventh Michigan" was opposed to Johnston's says in his report:

"For two hours and a half my battery was worked under a most galling fire from the enemy's artillery, their guns being worked with great skill."

But by 10 o'clock Johnston's position had become untenable and he was forced to retire, abandoning two guns which had been disabled. At this juncture, as Garrott reports, "the enemy attempted to charge this position (center and right), but as soon as they emerged from cover they wererepulsed." His corroborated by McClernand who, describing the operations in this quarter, said:



3. Exploits in War Between the States----------(continued)

The Battle of Magnolia Church----------(continued)

"Gen. Osterhaus pressed forward until obstacles in the nature of the ground and its exposure to the fire of the enemy arrested his progress."

He adds that afterwards "Smith's Brigade came up and attempted to carry the position by such an attack (front attack) but failed to do so."

At 1 o'clock Garrott was reinforced by Green's Brigade from the other road and by a fresh regiment from Grand Gulf, the Sixth Mississippi, 400 strong strong, under Col. Eugene Erwin. Taking position on Garrott's left Erwin charged, forced the enemy back a quarter of a mile, recaptured Johnston's two disabled guns and established himself in the position thus won. Gen. Green, now in command, was unable to advance the rest of his line but succedded in holding his ground until 6 p.m., when he got orders to retreat through Port Gibson.

Col. Erwin was not informed of this order and his regiment from its advanced position narrowly escaped capture, but these brave troops showed a bold front and finally regained their retreating comrades without serious loss. Pursuit was checked by the rapid and accurate fire of two guns which says Lieut. Kimball of the First Wisconsin Battery, were"brought to bear on us with great effect from an open field about a mile off. Green's retreat began a little earlier than Baldwin's, the latter bringing up the rear. The enemy did not venture to follow them, and by 9 p.m. the little Confederate army had crossed Bayon Pierre at points two miles apart, burning two bridges behind them.

The stubborn resistance of the Confederates greatly misled the enemy

3. Exploits in War between the States----------(continued)

The Battle of Magnolia Church----------(continued)

as to their numbers, thus saving these exhausted troops from pursuit and almost certain capture. Gen. Benton, for instance, whose brigade was engaged with Green's left wing near the church, reported that "for at least two hours, single-handed, the First Brigade fought three brigades of the enemy"--a ridiculous exaggeration, as the Confederate force on that road consisted of but four regiments and one battalion. In like manner Col. Merrill of the Twenty-first Iowa, the leading column at the time of the midnight artillery duel, says: "Our column received the fire of the enemy's batteries, seven in number," whereas in reality Green had only one.

Bowen's official report states that on both roads he had but 5,164 men engaged, namely:

| | |
|---|---|
| Part of Green's Brigade, Sixth Mississipoi, and part of the Hudson battery | 775 |
| Tracy's Brigade, and Anderson's(or Johnston's) Battery | 2,516 |
| Part of Cockrell's Brigade, Gulber's Battery, and part of Landis' Battery | 1,150 |
| Baldwin's Brigade | 1,614 |
| | 5,164 |

Bowen admitted a loss of 68 killed, 380 wounded, 384 missing; total, 832. But this did not include the casualties in the Twenty-third Alabama, Sixth Mississippi and some of the batteries, which would doubtless swell the totals to upwards of 900. It should be added that Grant reported the capture of 500 prisoners. If this is correct, the Confederate losses were probably little short of 1,200.



3. Exploits in War between the States----------(continued)

The Battle of Magnolia Church----------(continued)

The Federal losses, as officially reported, were 131 killed, 719 wounded, 25 missing; total, 875.

Among the Confederate officers prominent in the engagement was Col. Francis M. Cockrell, now United States Senator from Missouri; Gen. Green and Col. Erwin, also Missourians, who distinguished themselves on this hardfought field, were killed a few weeks later at the siege of Vicksburg.

In his report, Gen. Grant said:
"The move by Bruinsburg undoubtedly took the enemy by surprise. Gen. Bowen's defense was a very bold one and well carried out. My force, however, was too heavy for his."

This was a just tribute to the defeated Confederates, who had sustained themselves manfully from sunrise to sunset against an enemy far superior in numbers and equipment. Their achievement is the more remarkable in view of the exhausted condition in which Tracy's and Baldwin's men arrived on the field after a very severe forced march."(1)

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor

1. Port Gibson Reveille(Semi-Centennial Edition), Aug. 19, 1926.

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" " Herald Nov. 27,1846, Sept 25, 1846

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June 26,1847

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Record of Confederate Soldiers, Clarbone Co.1861-1865 by
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Official & Statistical Register, 1908-Dunbar Rowland p.183
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" " " Apr. 21,1898, Feb.16,1899
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" " " Dec.26,1918
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World War Port Gibson Reveille, Aug.11,1919
" " " Dec.26,1918
Adjutant Generals Office, Jackson

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #22

Reconstruction

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I.(a) Government of the County

With the enfranchisement of the blacks and their consequent power, together with that of their carpet bag associates, to control the state government; and with the disbarment from the suffrage of those southern white men who had not yet taken the oath of allegiance to the United States Government, or who had been disfranchised because of their participation in the war, many problems faced the county as to its government.

In the first Minutes on record after the war, of the county Board of Police of date December 9, 1865 (1), the following are given as members of this Board: Thomas J. Aby, president; John R. McAlpine, D.J. Dohan, Jno. R. Davis, Geo. H. Fulkerson, sheriff; James A. Gage, clerk;--all good democrats so far as we know.

At this meeting licenses to retail were granted to four firms. A committee that had been appointed "to audit the account of the Messrs Weldon for work on Bridges in 1863 reported the amount due for the same after deducting the credits, to be $2884.50, on which there is interest due to the amount of $864.60, for which a warrant is ordered, and the balance to be divided into three equal parts and warrants issued for the same, payable in 1,2, and 3 years, from the 1st of January, 1866, the interest at 6% per annum to be paid annually, said warrants will be for $961.50 each."

It was ordered among other things that the sheriff of this county hold an election at the precincts in District 5 for the purpose of electing one Justice of the Peace. Also that the following claims a-

1. The Standard of Jan. 20, 1866

Reconstruction

I(a) -continued

gainst the county be allowed and that warrants be issued for the same towit:

To Charles McDougal, returning officer at election on 2nd Oct., 1866, and horse hire 2 days-----$8.00

To Dr.A. H. Peck, as physician to the Poor House for 1862,3,4,5------$50.00 per year000----$200.00

To Eliza Ritchie, boarding paupers to 2nd March,1865--$233.50

To Mary E. Nance, " " Jan.1,1866----- 57.25

And the following statement: "All persons not having license to retail vinous and spiritous liquors in less quantites than one gallon will be liable to indictment for a violation of the law.

The Board of Police of the county had been authorized by the state legislature which had adjourned Dec. 11 to let out by contract the work on the public roads and bridges." (1)

In the proceedings of the Board for Feb. 10, 1866,(2) is given the list of those to be summoned to act as Grand Jurors for Circuit Court "to be holden" the first Monday in March. Also the levy of county taxes for the year 1865 is given. It was ordered that the following claims, among others against the county, be allowed and warrants issued for same:

To J. S. Morris, salary as Probate Judge in full--$750.00 .

At the March meeting of 1866,(3) the resignation of Hon. George F. Abbay, Judge of the Probate, was received and an election ordered for the purpose of filling his place. Commissioners are named for laying out a new public road; and various licenses are granted for ferries

1. The Standard of Dec. 9, 1865
2. " " Feb. 10, 1866
3. " " March 23, 1866

Reconstruction

I(a)--continued

and rates of toll thereon fixed. The proposal of Dr. W. D. Sprott (a scalaway) to rebuild a bridge over Bayou Pierre on the Grand Gulf road was accepted.

The debts of the county at this time amounting to about $60,000.00, the need of immediate large expenditures to put bridges and roads in proper condition was weighing on the minds of thoughtful citizens. It was felt that the best men of the county were needed on the Board of Police--men of intelligence and experience, of business ability. "Skill and talent and enlarged capacity to manage county affairs for the next two years were wanted."(1)

At the special meeting of the Board of Police held March 8,9, 1866, the resignation of Hon. Geo. F. Abbay, now Judge of Probate, was received. Commissioners to lay out a public road were appointed. Warrants for care of paupers were issued. A license was granted for keeping the ferry over Bayou Pierre at Port Gibson, and another for keeping the ferry over the Mississippi at Bruinsburg. And the proposal of Dr. Sprott to rebuild bridge No. 1 over the Bayou Pierre on Grand Gulf road was accepted. The rest of the meeting was taken up with consideration of claims for work on other bridges,for fixing taxes, etc.(2)

In regard to an election in November, 1867, the following is found:(3) "The election passed off very quietly on last Tuesday and Wednesday. The following is the number of votes polled in the three precincts in the county:

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1. The Standard of Sept. 15, 1866
2. " " March 23, 1866
3. " " Nov. 9, 1867

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

I. (a)----continued

| | Black | White | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Port Gibson------ | 615 | 6 | 621 |
| Pattona ---------- | 229 | 0 | 229 |
| Bethel --- | 162 | 3 | 165 |

(Just what this election was for could not be discovered.)

"On February 16, 1869, by order of Congress, Ames began his crusade against all officers in the State, removing Democrats and supplying their places with 'loyal men'." (1) At the meeting of the Board of Police Nov. 1, 1869, James Page, negro, appeared and presented his credentials from Ames. The oath of office was administered to him.(2) At this time John J. Smith, a radical,was sheriff. Of all county offices probably the most desired was that of sheriff, for the opportunity for excessive fees and all forms of graft was great here. This office was, therefore, held here during this period by carpetbaggers, negroes and scalawagd.

Routine matters were disposed of at the November and December meetings, such as reports from road overseers, requests for sale of spirituous liquors, paying of bills concerning paupers, reports on bridges and school commettees, etc. At the meeting of Jan. 3, 1870, James Page, the negro, was appointed president pro tem. (3)

There is surprisingly little of importance going on at these meetings that seems to indicate troublous times. Reports on roads, bridges, grants of licence to retail liquors. There is an investigating committee on school funds, of whose work we should like to know more. There is the provision for the caring for and burying of paupers.

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1. Publications Miss. Hist. Soc. Vol. 10, p. 118
2. Original Minutes of the Board in court house valuts.
3. " "

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

I. (a)- continued

In 1870 the name of the Board is changed to Supervisors Court, or Board of Supervisors. In June of this year, we find this:(1)

"The following persons having been appointed and confirmed by the Senate as members of the Board of Supervisors, towit:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Dist.--Alfred Mott | 3rd.Dist. H.C.J.Powers |
| 2nd " --Thos. Bland | 4th " Mack Barnes |

5th Dist. W.B. Andrews

We take this to be the first fully new board under Ames' administration. Bland was a negro. We do not know of the others. J. J. Smith, radical, was now sheriff. A report made by Smith on taxes collected May 1, 1869 to May 1, 1870 was as follows:

$7845.50 on cotton; $440.76 on collections from Transient Vendors, such as flat boats, circuses, etc.; $134.00 on fees and fines; $3347.40 on collections from the Personal Roll for the fiscal year 1868, amounting in sum total to $11,767.66, which said amount has been paid over to Joseph Bolander, the county treasurer, by J.J. Smith, Sheriff according to said report; and said report further shows that said Smith has in his possession the sum of $1464.42 which he collected as additional collections from ~~1868 to 1870~~ the following sources, towit: from the personal roll 1868 to Feb.1,1870 to May 1, 1870.(2)

In 1871 Smith, radical sheriff, is again a candidate for the same office against another radical and negro, Matthew T. Newsom. On the ticket with Newsom were several other colored men, among them for representative Joseph Smothers, and several for board of supervisors.(3)

---

1. Original Minutes
2. " "
3. The Standard of Sept. 29, 1871

I. (a) continued Reconstruction

Says the press of that period: "In view of the fact that the largest portion of the taxes is paid by the whites, and the further fact that the county is largely in debt already, and slowly to be encumbered with an additional debt of $30,000.00 for building the bridge across Bayou Pierre on the Grand Gulf road, we need such a man as Smith to collect this tax----------True, Smith claims to be a radical, but still he is a white man----the most available man the white people can get into the office at the present time." (1) And further on the same subject: (2)

"With the exception of the candidate for assessor there are no candidates in the field but Radicals; and we shall probably be forced to make our selection from among carpet baggers, scalawags, and negroes. To be obliged to vote against a candidate from either of these classes will be bad enough in all conscience; but I can see no way of avoiding it. This being the case, what will be the duty of the white voters? To vote against any and every negro who offers himself for office."

Of the county court in 1868, we find the following: (3) "The county court opened, did its business, and closed with a whirl, the proceedings lasting about as long as a Radical promise. Court lasted ten minutes. Nobody hurt."

Says a county paper of the period: "We believe, however, that we have seen the darkest days of our history; and we start ---under brighter and more encouraging auspices." (4) Little did the writer realize how many dark days were still ahead.

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1. Standard of Oct. 6, 1871
2. " Oct.27, 1871
3. " June 5, 1868
4. " Oct.30, 1868

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

I. (b) Transportation in the County

Within the borders of the county was fought one of the battles of the war. As a result of this, the suspension bridge spanning the south fork of the Bayou Pierre just north of Port Gibson suffered. When General Grant defeated the small confederate forces at Magnolia Church in the Battle of Port Gibson, a part of the defeated troops burned the wood work of this structure to impede as much as possible Grant's advance on Vicksburg.(1) The Grandstone Ford Bridge over Big Bayou Pierre was partly destroyed also during the war. It was twice repaired (probably inadequately because of shortage of funds) until in 1874 it broke through in an attempt to drive over it a drove of 130 Texas horses, seventeen of these horses being killed and about forty injured in the unfortunate accident.(2)

There was but one railroad in the county, The Grand Gulf and Port Gibson Railroad, of great importance as a highway to the river. There is no record of any injury to it from invading forces. We know however that its affairs were almost insolvent at the close of the war, for we find the following notice: "The Grand Gulf and Port Gibson Railroad is to be sold at public sale at the court house on the 17th inst. We hope someone will buy it and run the machine again."(3) For a time its future hung by a thread. In regard to its continuance, the editor of the local paper said: "If this work has to be given up, we have only to say to the energetic and industrious portion of the people of the town, go hence, for you can't survive the supiness and inertness that already exhibit themselves."----------"If our people will take hold of it with energy ------we can save the railroad property---and soon have it again in operation." (4)

1. Port Gibson Reveille of Aug. 19, 1926
2. " " Standard of July 17, 1874
3. " " " June 3, 1866
4. " " " Sept. 22, 1866

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

I. (b) Transportation in the County

Due to inadequate transportation facilities delivery of mails was greatly hindered. For awhile directly after the close of the war no mails were being sent either into, or from, the county. The editor was asked to have the paper delivered by anyone coming in the desired direction.(1) A year or two later efforts were being made to reestablish direct communication between this county and Raymond. Poeple in the county had been greatly inconvenienced because mails came in only from Grand Gulf and Hazlehurst and from the latter place only twice a week. Anything tending to facilitate either traveling, or mail communications with interior towns was urgently desired.(2)

Claiborne's problem of transportation was somewhat mitigated by access to the river. Stage lines from Port Gibson connected with all leading packets on the Mississippi River, and there were telegraphic arrangements by which passengers from the boats could make arrangements to have the stage meet them at the Gulf at any time day or night.(3) Produce and to some extent passengers traversed the bayou to Port Gibson.(4)

That roads and bridges had been neglected during the war was necessarily true, as men were away at the front and all the home resources were going to keep them supplied with arms and supplies. Consequently a pressing problem at the close of the war was the building and repairing of these arteries of traffic. The earliest paper available after the war states that "the Board of Police was authorixed to let out by contract the work on public roads and bridges.(5) Overseers

1. Port Gibson Standard of Dec. 23, 1865
2. " " " July 24, 1868
3. " " " Sept. 4, 1868
4. " " " March 24, 1866
5. " " " Dec. 9, 1865

L. (b) continued.

were being requested to have their roads worked and report same as in perfect order at next meeting of the Board.[1] At one meeting about this time the whole time was taken up in reports from overseers, who gave assurances that the roads were in good condition. However complaints were coming in to such an extent on the bad condition of the highways all over the county that the Board called the attention of the Grand Jury to the matter.[2]

The following must have been applicable to many roads of this period:[3] "If we wanted to send the half dozen white scalawags of this county, who call themselves Radicals, to the great Buzzard Roost below, we would put them all in a broken down wagon, behind a pair of runaway mules, with tow string harness, and start them out on the Fayette Road. There would be no doubt about their reaching their destination by a very short cut. But unless some such expedition is to be started, we would respectfully call the attention of the proper authorities to the condition of that road. It is absolutely dangerous."

1. Port Gibson Standard of Deb. 10, 1866
2. Original Minutes of Board 1869-1873 in vault room
3. Port Gibson Standard of June 5, 1868.



I. (c) Farm and Plantations

Men returned from the war to find on their broad acres desolation and dilapidation. Horses and mules had been stolen and driven off. Houses, barns, and fences had been destroyed, or denuded of their contents, or perhaps just fallen into decay because no men were left at home to repair them. With slaves freed, there was no possibility of raising a crop unless the blacks were willing to work[1] and often the willingness was lacking, as shown in the following:[2] "We have a fine stand of that cotton which is up. Have nearly one-third of our force sick, or pretending to be. Well, I will give you a sample of today's annoyances: Heck comes in and says he don't want to work; he is entirely worthless; Rosa lays up because it is a wet day- slight sprinkle before breadfast this morning; Jackson is down with a bilious attack; Jim is sick-always sick when there is any hard job like rolling logs on hand; Steve has gone to court; the two Henrys and Dick are first rate hands- but they are gone too as witnesses in a case of quarrel between the two ladies, Emma and Harriet."

The labor situation becoming serious, cotton growers associations were formed but did not always meet the need as we see in the following sarcasm headed: "Cotton Growers Associations-Headquarters Jackson, Miss., headquarters in every county, even in each Police Distrixt of the state, and what for? Why to let cotton buyers find out the very thing they want to know-that is, how much of the staple the State of Mississippi is likely to furnish for the wants of our New England masters and the rest of mankind this year. If the supply is likely to be short, they will send their money to other markets- Brazil, East

1. Our Chapter on Interviews shows all this.
2. The Standard of June 16, 1866.

Reconstruction

I. (c) Farms and Plantations (continued)

Indies, Africa, Australia, for all these countries make cotton."

"A suggestion by one of the planters is, besides finding sales and the probable crop of 1866, that they find out something of the cotton grower's expenses and wants--mules, ploughs, hoes, bacon, rope and bagging, groceries, calico--and allow a little whisky, and where the money is to come from to pay, for we don't buy on 'tic', and labor too, by far the heaviest expense of the farm."(1)

Complaints were coming from every quarter that "the freedmen are abandoning their crops and suffering it rather to rot and waste in the fields than to prepare it for market. The reason given by the freedmen for this course of conduct is that they will derive no benefit fmmm the proceeds of their crops when sold, that they are indebted to merchants and their employers to an amount more than enough to require all their crop to pay it. They have consumed the supplies advanced, and as they can now derive no further benefit, they ignore all principles of right, justice and honesty, and considering that they are now, as they express it, 'working for a dead horse', they leave their creditors in the lurch and go forth in search of other fields of operation and new victims."(2)

"There is but remedy, a remedy which has been applied with eminant success some portions of the country, and which will ere long be a universal of application as is the disease. It is the importation of an honest; intelligent, industrious class of laborers-------who have other thoughts than the present gratification of their animal appetites.

1. The Standard of June 16, 1866
2. " " Dec. 2, 1870

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

I. (c) continued

----------Men who will feel some interest in the future of this country----------. It is fast becoming no longer a mere question of expediency, but one of absolute necessity. Many were disposed to wait to give the negro a fair trial, believing that he was by nature and physical education best adapted to our soil and climate and that, after the first excitement consequent on the change in his social and political status had passed off, he would settle down and become an industrious and honest citizen, acting well his part in his peculiar sphere. We have given them a fair and impartial trial. More than five years have lapsed since his shackles were stricken from him and he elevated to a civil and political level with the whole white race. And yet in place of improving mentally and morally as so confidently expected, they have as a class deteriorated. Less reliance is to be placed in them today than in 1866. And each day is growing worse."(1)

The wives on the farms had their troubles with servants in the house also. "It is growing apparent", we find, "that the pets of the Bureau are getting to be very high strung in so much that it is hard to live in peace and comfort with them. They work when they feel inclined to, but never do full work."(2)

1. The Standard of Dec. 2, 1870
2. " " June 23, 1866

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

I. (d) Social Life in the County

Social life immediately after the war seems to have been full and varied. However, it is noticeable that many of the social affairs were given for benevolent purposes. This was to be expected, as there were many calls for money, and in the impoverished condition of the people, this commodity had to be raised in some way.

In 1866 the young men of Port Gibson organized a dramatic club "for the purpose of contributing to benevolent purposes," and were soon giving a play for "the benefit of the graveyard".(1) About the same time a concert was given by "our young ladies and gentlemen" at the Odd Fellows Hall, the proceeds to be divided between Mrs. Jeff Davis and the widow of Stonewall Jackson.(2)

The churches had to be kept going, and we find entertainments and suppers given by the ladies.(3) At one of these which seemed a particularly brilliant affair given at the Odd Fellows Hall for the benefit of the Methodist Church, $300.00 was the net profit of the evening. "Everyone seemed overflowing with good humor and benevolence; and considering things are not what they used to be gave material proof of the spirit which animated them."

The Masonic Order seems to have been active and gave several brilliant social entertainments. Of one it was said:(4) "Never have we seen in an assembly of the same size so many charming ladies, the young beaming with the native light of buoyant life and innocence, and the matron of the graver though no less agreeable countenance. We thought, if the character of a society can be judged by its friends, then is Masonry one of the noblest ever instituted."

1. The Standard of June 16, 1866
2. " " Jan. 6, 1866
3. " " Nov. 24, 1871
4. " " Dec. 29 "



I. (d) continued

During the winter months "the entertaining, popular, and healthful amusement of skating" took firm hold of popular favor. It was considered "the perfection of calisthenics for female enjoyment and development." For gentlemen, the exercise was thought "to present the same facilities for the acquirement of a graceful, easy bearing and a healthy, juscular development." On occasions, the "excellent Brass Band" added to the gaiety. And often the proceeds taken in at the door were donated to benevolent and religious causes.(1)

1. The Standard of March 15, 1872

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

II. (a) Political Adjustment

With the former ruling class mostly barred from participation in their own government and with their former slaves, in association with carpet baggers and scalaways, in the supremacy, the people of Claiborne County, like those over the South,seem for awhile to have endured in partial silence, and one could well believe in almost hopelessness.

The press of the county, as elsewhere, was muzzled. In a local paper issued soon after the close of the war appears a statement of General Grant's call for copies of papers containing "sentiments hostile and disloyal to the government with a view to their suppression. Editorial comment adds: "We are rejoiced to feel perfect surety that our Standard will not be furled. We have been eminently docile." (1)

However, it was not the nature of the proud race of Southerners to long endure the indignities of negro and carpet bag rule. If the press was forced to be silent for a time, there were other methods that could be used, and hope revived. And before long the press gained courage and became a powerful ally. By 1868 we find the following in regard to the efforts to secure a radical legislature: "Men of Claiborne, do not stand ye idle. Are you prepared for the domination of Ignorance and Vice? For the official insolence of the wretches who propose to become your rulers? For the burdens of taxation which will cripple your industrial energies and eventually strip you of your just possessions? For the political and social degradation which awaits you and yours? For the insult and wrong which will be meted out to

1.The Standard of March 3, 1866

Reconstruction

II. (a) continued

you under a wicked administration of wicked laws? For the dangers which threaten yourselves and your household? If you are not prepared for these evils and would avert them, go to work like brave men, organize for contest, be at back the invaders of your rights and the spoilers of your homes." (1)

Courage was reviving. Two weeks later it was proudly declared; "The Democrats of old Claiborne have not made as big a fuss as some, but they have been doing a big business."(2) Frequent meetings were being held throughout the county by both white and negro democratic clubs, at which rousing sppeches were made by representative men of both races. There seemed to be the friendliest feeling between the races. It was believed "that a great change is going on in the minds of the colored men of this county. Many of them have discovered that they have been deceived by the lying promise of the miserable rapscullions of the radical party." A writer says: I find the colored people delighted with the idea of affiliating with their old friends and citizens of our own state. They meet us with welcome hearts and open hands------I have been informed that a colored Democratic club has been formed at Port Gibson andhas created quite a panic in the Radical ranks. (3)

It was felt that in the approaching election Claiborne would give a good account of itself, and these high hopes of the Democrats were realized in Claiborne as over the state. "The constitution was defeated; the Radical Party overthrown." (4)

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1/ Standard of May 2[illegible], 1868
2. " June 12, 1868
3. " June 1, 1868
4. " July 24, 1868

II. (a) continued

In a grand torch light procession held in Port Gibson Radicalism and its Constitution was buried out of sight, their bodies being first consumed by fire. The following colorful description of the obsequies and attendant funeral oration bear giving in full: (1)

"The Grand Torch Light Procession"

"Radicalism and its Constitution Buried out of Sight."

"The funeral of Radicalism and its monstrous progeny was celebrated last Tuesday night in Port Gibson with imposing solemnity. The peoples of the earth were assembled on the occasion- Europe, America, Africa, and Jerusalem each contributed in large numbers to the pageant. Fat pine to the amount of pyramids had been provided by the county. The streets were illuminated with blazing piles of torch wood, and the innumerable strains of light that poured from every starlit window. Shortly after dark the readiness of the show was signalled to the distant quarters of the town by the ringing of bells, the booming of anvil artillery, and vast volumes of illuminated smoke that rose high in the air and hung like cloud cliffs over the town."

"The procession moved from the Court House square, consisting of men, women and children of every size, sex and complexion, hundreds, if not thousands of them, bearing transparencies, showing quaint devices and ingenious mottoes and inscriptions expressive of the varied sentiments of those who bore them. These inscriptions were various as the varieties of human conception and too numerous to mention. But for the benefit of Gen. Ames, it may be told that the people asserted the saturnalian privilege of the occasion to display their estimate of carpet baggers, scalawags, and intruders. "Old Veto is our only Gov-

1. Standard of July 17, 1868

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

II. (a) continued

ernor. Benjamin G. Humphreys is the rightful Governor of Mississippi." and such like, were the inscriptions of frequent recurrence. The moving column of fire, as it proceeded through the streets with flying banners and martial music, made asperfect a success as we remember ever to have witnessed. But the procession was, if possible, excelled by the funeral ceremonies which were celebrated by Parson Thrasher, and Deacon Kelledy. Nothing that they did or said could have been omitted, or otherwise said or done, without detriment."

"The two coffins containing the remains of the Radical Republican Party of Mississippi and its deformed and monstrous offspring were laid by the pall bearers in a grave, where it was intended to hide them from the sight of men. But for greater assurance, they were consumed by fire that they might never be reached by the voice of the trump of resurrection."

"We give below a sketch of Mr. Steven Thrasher's funeral oration: 'Friends and fellow citizens of this vast assemblage, we have met together upon this solemn occasion to consign to its eternal resting place all that remains earthly of the bogus constitution, the offspring of that radical party which once lifted its head proudly in the State of Mississippi. After a lingering and painful illness, the details of which will be presently given, it took its departure to 'that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns'; ~~but charity and the decco~~ without leaving behind a single friend to give it sepulture; but charity and that decent respect for death, inherent in the breast of every man, makes it necessary for its enemies to perform that last duty.'"

"'Like Mark Anthony, I am no orator like Brutus is', and unlike Mark Anthony, I cannot call upon you to shed tears, for I do not feel

II. (a) Continued

like crying myself, but will at once to my funeral story.""

"' The Radical Party, the parent of that infamous machine that lies cold within that coffin and which falls with it, was born among the frozen hills and inhospitable slopes of New England, and nursed in the lap of Anna Dickinson and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, under the immediate guidance of hell-born Thad Stevens and cross eyed Ben Butler. It could not flourish in the sunshine of the South. The soil and climate was not congenial to its growth. The constitution after being able to keep its feet for some time was taken violently sick on Monday 22nd day of June last, but in the evening it exhibited symptoms of being better, and its few white friends stood around its bedside & looking somewhat hopefully, and Dr. Joshua S. Morris gave it a dose of Blue Mass, his favorite remedy for all disorders, but he became discouraged and left without seeing the effects of his medicine. It however soon relapsed and during the week it grew worse and Dr. General McDowell U.S.A., who had before tried to cure General Beauregard of an itching palpri to stampede the Yankee army at Bull Run, but failed, next tried his skill, and administered opiates and other stimulants to it in Vicksburg until 12 o'clock on Saturday night, but all was to no purpose. Its tail wiggled a little in Copiah until Wednesday of the ensuing Week, when it all became still. The last sound heard as body and soul departed was an unearthly cry for water, which gave some indication of the character of its reception in the next world.'"

"'Well, my friends, it is getting late and the long march through the streets has made us all tired, and all that I can say in conclusion is that, if there is any unfortunate sould, one disconsolate heart, within the sound of my voice, who feels himself left an orphan, let him come forward, and I will wipe the tears from his eyes with

Reconstruction

II. (a) continued

Aunt Dinah's head-handkerchief. I thank you for your attention.'"

Many negro men who had voted the Radical ticket now came over to the Democrats and were instrumental in bringing into this party numbers of their race.(1)

An enumeration of the inhabitants of Claiborne County made at this time under an act of the Legislature showed total number of inhabitants 13,284; colored voters 2096; White voters 846.(2) Thus so greatly in the minority, is it to be wondered at that the whites said to themselves: "We have for the sake of peace borne these outrages long and patiently. We have put up with much which, under ordinary circumstances, would be promptly and effectively punished. But knowing how apt we are at this particular time to be misrepresented, our submission to wrong and insults has verged upon pusillanimity."(3) Is it any wonder that, with the great preponderance of black voters, we find the people being urged always, in case of a choice between a negro and a white candidate, to vote for the white. For instance: "With the exception of the candidate for assessor, there are no candidates in the field but Radicals; and we shall probably be forced to make our selection from among carpet baggers, scalawags, and negroes------This being the case, what will be the duty of the white voters? To vote against any and every negro who offers himself for an office."(4)

And yet the feeling between the better class of negroes and the old line Democrats was kindly, and the aid rendered by the former in bringing about better conditions was freely acknowledged as in the following in regard to Thomas Rand, negro: "Bland was free-born, and is well known to many of our citizens as a man of integrity and worth. His advice to the negroes generally was salutary and good and if followed

1. The Standard of Aug. 7, 1869
2. " " Sept.30,1870
3. Standard of Sept. 11, 1868
4. " Oct. 27, 1871

II. (a) continued

will result in much good to all classes. He assured them that liberty and lazyness were two things and that while it was impossible to feed on freedom, it was a good thing if used in a proper sense in connection with sobriety, honesty and economy. He advised the negroes to be faithful to their contracts, for even if they lost money by it, they would gain in the end, as fidelity always meets with its proper reward. All of Tom's brief speech was a crowded nut shell of good sense." (1) The same sentiments are generally expressed by citizens familiar with that period in regard to Tom Richardson, negro, who served ~~the county~~ Port Gibson for so long after the war as postmaster with entire satisfaction to all.

But for the interference of the scalawags and carpet baggers, political adjustment would have been effected far more rapidly and easily. The following shows what the southern men were up against in this respect: (2) "The means of threats which are used to deter colored men from attending the Democratic meetings and hearing the Democratic side of the question are pretty well known as well as the persons who are guilty of the outrage; and we say to them plainly that, not only will all such be punished by the Civil authorities but by the Military. The citizens of this county have never attempted nor desired to interfere with the Radical meetings, nor to prevent the colored people attending them. They have always been willing that the colored people should hear both sides of the question. The Radicals, however, are not willing that the colored people should hear both sides of the question. They have been telling such outrageous lies that they shrink from having these lies exposed, as they are sure to be at the Democratic meetings. We say

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1. The Standard of July 14, 1868
2. The Standard of June 12, 1868

Reconstruction

II. (a) continued

to our colored friends come out to the meetings."

" The man, white or black, who interferes with you will be dealt with according to law and the orders of Gen. Gillem. The military authorities are determined that there shall be neither threatening, driving, nor bribing in this election, but that all parties shall have an equal chance to vote as they please. ----------The citizens of this county ~~have been~~ and the colored Democrats of the county have been very patient and put up with a great deal of this kind of bullying from a set of mean niggers and low down whites; and they have determined that no one shall interfere with their rights."

Negroes were of course serving on juries. In 1872 a notice of a trial shows the jury consisted of five whites and seven blacks.(1) As late as 1879, we find the following account in regard to a session of the Circuit Court:(2) "Our Circuit Court is now in session, and a brief visit will open the eyes of the thoughtful citizen, as he sees the grotesque burlesque of the trial by jury, and he will not be long in deciding who are the sufferers from the Civil Rights Bill. Two thirds of all the jurors are as black as tar, as ignorant and solemn as so many black crows, and nineteen out of every twenty of them don't know the difference between the meaning of the words guilty or not guilty, or plaintiff and defendant. Such a thing as hearing evidence they scorn, and that may be as well, as some fallen word might reach a hidden prejudice. Such a thing as digesting evidence-------the instructions of the court or the speeches of lawyers, or the reading of the books, or rendering a verdict, is to them a riddle---the whole thing is a mockery of courts, degrading to jurispurdence, and an insult to all intelligence."

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1. Standard of March 15, 1872
2. The Southern Reveille of May 31, 1879

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Assignment #22

Reconstruction

II. (a) continued

Proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Alderman in 1872 show James Page, negro, Mayor and President.(1) In the same year this James Page and John J. Smith, carpet bagger, represented the Radical Party of Claiborne County in the Philadelphia convention.(2)

An acute situation arose in the county in 1874 in the marriage of a negro and a white woman, and from that time on an increased determination on the part of the southern whites to assert their supremacy was manifest. Quoting: "It is not the intention of the whites at this time----------to interfere----unless they are forced into it by considerations of honor and safety, in which event they will not lack either the means or the courage to protect themselves. An armed crowd like that of Sunday, parading the streets can be regarded as nothing but a menace to the peace of the community. It can do no good and the less of such the better." (3)

In connection with this situation, Sheriff Bland, negro, issued a proclamation concerning which the press said: "While we have a sincere belief that our sheriff is upright, and does what he considers best for all, yet his actions strike us as very inconsistent. Why did he countenance that Sunday parade of armed negroes-------? -------The fact is the white men are beginning to see the necessity of a firm stand, and when said actions become well defined, our officers cannot but assist them in their efforts to abide by the law-------." (4)

Doubtless the following taken from a Port Gibson paper written by the editor expresses the general feeling at that time, and hence we quote it:(5)

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1. The Standard of March 29, 1872
2. The Standard of May 24, 1872
3. " " July 24, 1872
4. " " Aug.14,1874
5. " " " " "

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

II. (a) continued

"During the first years of the Standard's existence, it was decidedly Democratic, opposing carpet-baggers, scalawags, and the,then, unaccomplished Radical measures of giving the vote and a seat upon juries to all negroes, and the admission to office of men without constitutional citizenship or educational qualifications. The Radical schemes under partial military surveillance were vigorously prosecuted, and in the election of Alcorn fully accomplished. In this campaign many of the 'true blue' did not vote at all; some of them voted for Dent and some for Alcorn. It is not for us to blame any one for the action then taken. The disposal of a vote was at that time indeed a puzzling question, but we are satisfied that the Standard was unsuspected of any ant of faithfulness in endeavoring to promote the interest of true Mississippians- those who were born or long resident here, and who meant to stay here if they could, and do their duty by the State. Some of the Radical works then done were obviously permanent, built into the masonry of the constitution. Opposition to them was of no further use. Renewing warfare with the poor side-arms which were left with us after defeat, was more Quixotic than sensible. The Standard was not the only paper that virtually, if not professedly, quit fighting it out on that line and gave up parlyism, because there was no use for it. Still the press had a duty to perform in encouraging enterprise and honesty, in quelling animosities, exposing villany and keeping alive the hopes of the people for a better day. This was our aim and had our patronage been equal to our sincerity, we might have been able to do our work in a more efficient manner.

II. (a) continued.

We have lately perceived that there was a possibility the next State election might be made a grand success for the reestablishment of the rule of enlightened patriotism. It now appears that the white line will divide the parties, since the blacks have heretofore clung together so tenaciously that a change in this respect could hardly be looked for. We have felt that in counties and municipalities in this polic[illegible] ought not to be tried without cause- such cause as existed in Vicksburg. We have thought that the cooperation of both races in electing good and capable men to town and county offices would promote a better feeling between them, tend to maintain peace, conduce to the interests of productive labor, and give the whole State a better reputation outside of its limits. These considerations are not trifling and we are not ashamed to have entertained them.

"If the informants and correspondents of the Vicksburger had sent us communications advocating the "White Line Policy", they would have at least done a fair and candid thing, and if persons in various parts of the county, and the leading men of Port Gibson had given us an intimation that the white people of the town and county desired to inaugurate the issue of drawing the Color Line, it would have been enough for us. We did not hear nor witness anything, not receive any communications pointing that way until after the first attack made on us by the Vicksburger. ----------

----------As to the political color line policy, our feelings have always been with and for the white people; when it comes to a choice between serving and pleasing them or their opponents, we can have no hesitation. We will 'Chalk' the mark and toe it too, and say 'The White Man' now, and the 'White Man' forever!"



II. (a) continued

Sweeping the state at this time was the movement to form a White Man's Party, and the white citizens of Claiborne County resolved to lend all their strength to promote its success, having reached the conclusion that patience had ceased to be a virtue. [illegible] They resolved now "to stand together shoulder to shoulder for the overthrow of selfish ambition, fraud, and public extravagance."(1) The following are extracts from the platform of "The White Man's Party of Port Gibson": (2) For the better accomplishment of our purpose as well as for a more comprehensive understanding of our intentions, we do hereby place ourselves in all our relations to the general interest of the county on the broad and distinct basis of what is known as the Color Line. And while we recognize the civil and political rights of all citizens, yet we ignore any political affiliation with any other race, or with corrupt and designing men of our own race, whether adventurers from abroad or living in our midst as native citizens, or otherwise, but we pledge ourselves with all our influence and power to protect in all his rights and interests any man white or black who may come forward to aid us in the overthrow of corrupt rulers and officials, and in placing our public interests in all their ramifications under the guidance and control and rule of white men."

To this solemn document were signed the names of 180 of the most prominent citizens of town, and all white people of every precinct in the county were invited to cooperate in similar organization.

In regard to an approaching town election the determination of the whites to carry out the terms of the platform is expressed in these

1. The Standard of Aug. 28, 1874
2. " " Nov. 17, 1874

II. (a) continued

words: (1) "Our people are in earnest and mean all they have said on the subject of negro rule. We are tired of it in Port Gibson and Claiborne County, and it is the settled determination of the White Man's Party of both that it shall cease.

"The time for conciliation and coaxing have passed. Eight years experience have taught us that the negro is not to be reasoned with. He is governed only by notions of self interest and his blind faith in his carpet bag leaders. The time has come when he is to be taught the practical lesson that it is not for his interest longer to trample the white man's rights under foot. The white citizens of this community have endured the outrageous conduct and insulting demeanor of drunken negro officials as long as they mean to, and God help the white man who shall assist them to perpetuate their misrule."

The White Man's Party was 'all out' on election day, and the victory was theirs. "It was the most orderly election that we ever witnessed in this town.----------The negroes throughout the day were sullenly passive and contented themselves with voting in a body against, because nearly all the white people in town were in favor of it. ----------It is none the less a victory because the enemy retired from the field. Their want of leadership and courage was all that prevented a pitched battle. That ever present conciousness of inferiority that never leaves the negro when he comes in contact with the white man yielded us the day without a struggle." (2)

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1. The Standard of Dec. 4, 1874
2. " " Dec. 11, 1874



II. (a) continued

But diligence was still urged. The battle had been fought and won, but the results of the victory had not yet been secured. One of the men most active in securing victory for The White Man's Party was John McCaleb Martin, and there are in the library in Port Gibson the original letters written to him by various Democratic clubs of the county acknowledging their indebtedness to him. Quoting: "And whereas we, the Shiloh Club of the County of Claiborne, State of Mississippi, in view of the fact that we believe the political redemption and salvation of our county, is in the largest part, if not entirely due to the ceaseless vigils of our young fellow countryman, John McC. Martin, do hereby! etc.

Captain De Courcy in command of federal troops stationed in Port Gibson was very popular with all classes, and this popularity was further increased by the "noble, gallant and unselfish efforts" the Captain and his men made in putting out a disastrous conflagration.(1) The gratitude of the people was expressed in such words as: "Defenders in peace and war, may you all long live in the enjoyment of a life well spent in the service of your country."(2) And a grand picnic was planned by the citizens in honor of these brave men.(3)

In July of 1876 we find:(4) "The Republican Party in Claiborne and in the State is dead. Give it a substantial funeral and bury it so deep that resurrection will be impossible. Invite the colored people in each precinct to join your clubs. Talk with them, teach them, and take them by the hand. They are free, let us increase their freedom. And by all means let us make them feel that we are their earnest, honest and best friends." (5)

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1. Southern Reveille of April 22, 1876 ; 2. So.Rev. April 29,1876
3. " " May 6,1876 ; 4. So. Rev. July 8, 1876

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II. (a) continued

There was still some lawlessness in the county to contend with[1] and there were several atrocious murders in the years immediately following. At least two sheriffs lost their lives in this way.[2] But on the whole "recent events enabled the people of the county to look out on/~~over~~ aurora of cheerfulness, and to anticipate the fruition due to patient suffering and protracted forbearance." (3)

In a Port Gibson paper of August 18, 1876 we find the following: "Two Miles of Democrats on the War Path and No Bloody Shirt"

"Two Hundred and Fifty Colored Democrats in the Column"

"Not in the annals of Old Claiborne nor in the memory of the oldest citizen was ever such a day witnessed within her borders as that of last Saturday. From the plantations and the workshops and the counting rooms came pouring forth the eager thousands of the land oppressed, long distressed, tax burdened people to take counsel together- to act together- and to shout and rejoice together over the dawning day of promised deliverance."----------

----------"It was the long-anticipated twelfth day of August, and joy and amazement sat upon every countenance, each contending for empire. It was a day that will be precious to memory; and never were people so overjoyed." There follows a colorful description of the procession and the speech making--all to honor General Chalmers in his visit to the county.------ -"It was in all respects the grandest political entertainment and the most orderly and decorous gathering of people we ever witnessed in the county."

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1.So. Reveille of July 8, 1876
2. " " Nov.30,1878
3. " " Feb. 12, 1876

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

II. (a) continued

"It was almost difficult to realize how such quietude and silence could follow such a day, and night calmly fold her dark pinions over a town and county whose people had been so jubilant in patriotism and were yet so full of the sublime dignity that belongs to the usages of peace and good order."

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

## Reconstruction

II. (b) Economic Adjustment

In December of 1865, we find these words being written: "The people are overwhelmed with debt, and most of their resources annihilated by the late war.--------We are in a condition never before known in these southern states.----------the most prodent and honest men have been deprived of the property with which to pay their debts-----through no fault of their own.--------It is making the disaster of war fall more heavily on the Debtor than the creditor to hold that the security survives when the property has been taken for use of the government,or destroyed."(1) And yet, in the face of such conditions, debtors were being urged to come forward and settle their debts for years past.(1)×

A writer on this subject of debts and debtors had this to say of the situation:(2) "A creditor whose claim was secured on some cotton which escaped burning and plunder, was informed that his claim would be paid in full. His claim was left with his merchant by request for payment to be made as soon as the cotton could be disposed of. This merchant held one of many notes secured on property three-fold their amount at the time the security was given, but by loss of all the personal property and depreciation of the real estate, not enough is left to pay twenty per cent, and on notifying the debtor that he held one of his notes, was informed that he was unable to pay until he could sell property, but that he wished to do the best for his creditors; the merchant went into the market and bought the paper of debtor. This was illiberal and impolitic. Avarice often overshoots the mark. The writer is both creditor and debtor, but between the poverty of his debtors and

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1. Port Gibson Standard of Deb. 16, 1865 × See close of II (b). for paragraph To be inserted here
2. " " " " " "

II. (b) continued.

and stay laws, he knows not that he will ever collect a dollar. His only available resource is cotton made before the war. To guard this from thieves cost ten per cent; loss by thieves notwithstanding, two per cent; by mules stolen needed for preparing it for market, one per cent; cost in preparing it for market, ten per cent; total twenty-three per cent. Hauling to the river $2 per bale; freight, taxes, commissions etc. $25 per bale. It thus takes about thirty-three per cent to cover all charges. With no reliable labor to make crops in future, there is little prospect to the planter of making a profit in his vocation, and many are seeking employment in business for which they have not been trained. And yet it is said debtors can get out of debt easier than ever before. How?"

With regard to the advisability of calling a convention of cotton growers to stimulate the growth of cotton, it was felt that the first important consideration toward economic adjustment was to establish a basis upon which the freedmen were to stand. "If Congress will let us alone", it was said, "and not interpose continual difficulties to a proper unravelling of the 'tangled hand', we may get along and gradually stimulate the growth of cotton. But if we are not to be allowed to make our own contracts under our own laws, with of course the approval of the Freedman's Bureau, then it is the ------extremest madness to attempt to plow or plant, or even to live in any relation with freedmen at all."(1)

A county Cotton Growers Association had been organized, and members were being urged in July, 1866, tomake a report at once on the following items: How many men and women? How many acres in cotton?

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1. The Standard of Dec. 9, 1865

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Reconstruction

II. (b) continued)

How many bales? Are your hands working full? How is the stand and condition of crop?(1)

In 1868 crops were decidedly good, and an optimistic note prevailed: "Let us thank God,"people were saying," for the plentiful harvest, for absence of the caterpillar, and the exodus of the carpet bagger."(2)

1869 marked the beginning of share rentals in the county and signing of agreements and contracts before Clerk of Probate Court between freed negro slaves and former owners. We find agreements with tenants to work on halves with land owners, share of crops raised consisting of cotton and corn.(3)

Many items in the press of the period indicate that economic conditions are in the main good. A business directory of 1870 shows 59 business establishments in Port Gibson alone, with numerous individuals in addition listed as carrpenters, insurance agents, lawyers and other trades and professions. An imposing directory indeed.(4) A new business center was being built, worthy of being visited by people from any part of the known world, it was enthusiastically said.(5)

But taxes were oppresive, and we find it being suggested particularly for the benefit of the farmer that the time for payment of county taxes be extended until he had time to get more crops to market. The first cotton gathered had been absorbed in payment of supply bills, "which in most cases were secured by morthages and had to be paid, or parties would be broken up."(6) However, the Board of Supervisors did

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1. P. G. Standard of July 7, 1866
2. " Aug. 28, 1868
3. Vol.8 of double letters. Deed Record H.H.1869-70-vault room court house
4. P.G. Standard of Aug. 5, 1870. 5. Standard Nov. 18,1870
5. " Nov. 17, 1871

Reconstruction

II. (b) continued.

not see fit to do this, though the "whole county tax is 450% on the State Tax."(1)

Many of the citizens of Claiborne desiring to restore the county to a firm financial condition, and feeling that the taxes "are already as great as can be borne, think the best way for relief is retrenchment and economy in regard to county expense" and determined to memorialize the Board of Supervisors to this end. The "do without" and "make shift" policy, these economists felt could be extended from their individual affairs farther into county matters.(2)

There had been "a good deal said of the squandering and misappropriation of public money" about this time. A card issued by ex-sheriff Bland(negro) and published in the local paper was so well answered by the editor and is so illuminating as to the economic donditions of the period that we quote it in full:(3)

"A Card"

"Mr. Editor-Sir: For the past years there had been a good deal said through the columns of your paper of the squandering and misappropriating of the public money by the late administration of the county."

"I do not propose to enter any comment upon this matter, but shall simply bring before the eyes of the people of Claiborne County and the state at large, a plain and brief exhibit of the financial state of the county, as it was and as it is today, taking as my motto that old common proverb, which says, figures will tell better than words."

"In 1867 a committee consisting of Messrs H.T. Ellett, William

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1. The Standard of Dec. 1, 1871
2. " " May 8, 1874
3. So. Rev. Feb. 12,1876

II. (b) continued

Sillars, and J.T. Kennard appointed by the board of police to investigate and ascertain the amount of the indebtedness of Claiborne County, reported that the warrants, allowances, and other liabilities carried and outstanding against the county, amounted on Nov. the 1st to $52,480.79 of which, however, a warrant for $1550,63 was represented and declared to be erroneous. Now what is the financial condition of the county at this present day?"

"The treasurer report submitted to the Board of Supervisors on the first Monday of January 1876 presents the following fact:

No warrants out and following funds on hand:

| | |
|---|---|
| General county fund---------- | 2922.79 |
| Judiciary ---------- | 3727.35 |
| Bridge ---------- | 187.63 |
| Poor House ---------- | 784.84 |
| Court House and jail --------- | 613.48 |
| School House ---------- | 2860.55 |
| Teachers ---------- | 10108.10 |
| Total --------- | 20704.80 " |

This marks end of the card. Editor answers as follows:

"The circumstances which prompted the appointment of the committee in 1867 to ascertain the absolute indebtedness of the county are fresh in memory and of record; and stablish the fact that the debt, as shown by the committee was a war legacy. During the war the county issued change notes to the extent of many thousand dollars, and during the same period military commissioners were appointed, with full authority to disburse large appropriations for the equipment and maintenance of the volunteers from the county. During the same period large contracts

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Assignment #22

Reconstruction

II. (b) continued.

were made for building bridges, with the Weddons and others, and thus the debt was greatly increased for legitimate county purposes."

"After the close of the war, it is well known that the payment of county debts contracted for war purposes was interdicted, and thus it became necessary that the bona fide debt should be separated from the aggregate indebtedness, and hence the appointment of the committee. By reference to the records the amount of indebtedness is shown to be $49,000 and not $52,000 and about $35,000 of this was due the Weldons for bridge work, etc., done during the war; and that it might not burden the people, a settlement was made with the Weldons, by which $30,000 of the amount was divided into six annual payments, bearing interest at 6%. It was impossible to pay the large disbursements for war purposes and carry on bridge building, and escape indebtedness, without oppressing the people by onerous taxation- a thing not common in ante-bellum days."

"If the writer of 'A Card' had been more candid and less crafty, he would not have based his boasting upon the debt of 1867, without giving its historic explanation. And if he had been a little more thoughtful, he would have said nothing of the large surplus left in the treasury, and wrung from the people, without justification, at a time when gaunt famine threatened, and starvation peeped in at every door."

"But if the distinguished 'amanuensis' desires to ascertain which dynasty gave the best evidences of a wholesome, economical administration, we invite him to take the tax of any year, or of any series of years, before the war and compare it with the tax of any year, or any series of years, from 1869 to Jan. 1876- the years of the new regime."

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

II. (b) continued.

"prior to the war the value of the property of Claiborne County was immensely greater than it is now; and yet in 1857 the state and county tax aggregated for all purposes, $38000; in 1859 about the same. In 1874 under the new order of things, what was left of Claiborne County paid a tax of $56,000 and in 1875 the lowest tax during the reign of the new dynasty, that tax reached about $47,000. Prior to the war embracing a period of fifteen years, the County of Claiborne was the best bridged county in the South. Caruthers had built a chain of bridges to the Copiah line, other contractors had spanned every streeam between this county and Jefferson, and the Weldons had erected several costly bridges and a new jail, and yet this period of colossal improvements, no such taxes were levied as we have groaned under during the new dispensation. And what have we to show for it? One considerable bridge, a gorgeous temple, which modesty forbids us to name in print."

"But we ask why it was that $20,000 more than was needed was assessed and collected in 1875. We are too charitable to suppose that those who foresaw the 'coming judgment' were preparing to dodge the sleepless vigilance of the Tax Payers' League, by securing so large a sum, intending to leave for parts unknown. Why was it? Was it for the fun or the glory of making those industrious colored men, Silas Ford, pay $48 taxes, instead of $30; or John Wolly pay $32 instead of $20; or James Page pay $120 instead of $75; or Stephen McLeod pay $48 instead of $30?----------We have no charges to make----no man ever thought Thomas Bland dishonest. No man thinks James Page dishonest, and all had confidence and yet have in his excellent agent."

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

II. (b) continued

The following is to be inserted after (1) x on first page of this section II (b):

To illustrate the loss of property we cite the sheriff's sale, soon after the close of the war, of Bloomfield Plantation in one of the rich cotton sections of the county, for $16,000.00 for a debt incurred during the war, to aid and equip soldiers and to help defend the invasion of General Grant's march into Claiborne County.(1) Also the record of chattel mortgage March 1, 1866 to John Burnet of Port Gibson, "one of the most noted foreclosures in Claiborne County, the cause of great financial loss of lands after the war between the states to some of the richest planters in Claiborne County, as their slaves were freed and mules were confiscated by the invading army.(2)

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1. Vol. G.S. 1867-1869, page 1 -court house vaults

2. Deed Record EE 1865-67, p. 99.

Both above statements given us by Miss Montgomery of Federal Records Project.

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

II. (c) Social Adjustment

The southern white man understood the negro and how to get along with him. It was only under the incitement of the scalawag and the carpet-bagger that what had been a happy, good feeling between the races was disturbed. That there might be some difficulty by way of social adjustment became early apparent after the close of the war, when we find such sentiments as the following: "The pets of the Bureau are getting to be very high-strung in so much that it is hard to live in peace and comfort with them.---------They are complaining and unhappy, restless and turbulent." It was felt that "under the instructions of the elegant scions of refinement that are sent out to teach them to shoot and sprout, and by the combination of freedom and folly the deluded negro is travelling the road to grief." A measure "of mischief" was being brewed that would prove detrimental to their patrons and pupils. Education was well and good, it was said, "but they should be taught that labor is the duty of life and that politeness is essential to success."(1)

The acute situation that arose when a negro married a white woman in 1874 marked an increased determination on the part of the southern white to assert their supremacy and no doubt precipitated their determination to draw the color line and establish the White Line Policy. "The white citizens of the county have endured the outrageous conduct and insulting demeanor of drunken negro officials as long as they mean to", was the determined utterance at this point.(2) Social degradation marked the road ahead, dangers threatened the home, unless the southern whites organized to beat back the spoilers of the homes. The white revolution of 1875 was the answer.

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1. The Standard of June 23, 1866
2. The Standard of Dec. 11, 1874.

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

## Reconstruction

II. (d) Educational and Religious Adjustment

Education had suffered through the war, and now efforts had to be made for reconstruction along this line. Oakland College had to close its doors, but by the fall of 1866, it was advertising its reopening "with a faculty equal to any in the South". (1) Advertisements of numbers of other schools in the county were appearing to such an extent that the press within a year after the close of the war was saying: "We have several splendid schools, from the unpretending A-B-C, to spire-topped colleges, for our own people believe that

"'Tis education forms the common mind." (2)

What seems to have been an excellent and well attended Teachers Institute was held in Port Gibson in 1872. Among the subjects discussed were: The Best Method of Teaching Geography; Methods of Explaining the Multiplication of Common Fractions; An Education of the Square Root; Practical Illustration of Map Drawing." (3)

Nor was education for the negroes neglected. A night school for freedmen was opened in October, 1867, and a day school for their children. Terms $1.50 per month. (4)

In addition to education in its ordinarily accepted meaning, there were various educational organizations and agencies for the grown-ups. In Port Gibson there was formed a Literary Association, which in reality was a men's debating club; and a News and Library Association (5) with annual dues of $6.00. It received the important newspapers and

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1. The Standard of July 14, 1866
2. " " Sept. 22, 1866
3. " " March 29, 1872
4. The Standard of Sept.28,67
5 " " Oct.12,67

Reconstruction

II. (d) Educational and Religious Adjustment (continued)

magazines in the country and many from foreign countries.(1)

The churches had become involved in debt, growing out of the great political events that had submerged so many private fortunes beyond the powers of speedy recuperation.(2) It is because of this that we find so many church benefits being given in the years following the war. In 1872 the ladies of several churches were by such means aiding even in the purchase of homes for their pastors.(3) "A Church Register of Port Gibson" for 1873 shows regular services in Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Catholic, and Baptist Churches, with services also in negro Methodist and Baptist Churches.(4)

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1. Port Gibson Standard of Feb. 2, 1872
2. " " " Aug. 11, 1866
3. " " " March 15 and May 17, 1872
4. " " " April 4, 1873



Reconstruction

III. (a) Carpet-baggers

"The democrats had won the election in 1875. The radical leaders were determined to leave no stone unturned, to spare no effort to wrest the government from the honest and capable hands in which it was at that time. They asked this question, 'Shall we be less energetic and earnest for good than they for evil?' The answer we seek to the question is the complete and thorough organization of all good citizens for the approaching election."

"The campaign was quite tame by comparison with that in the other black states, and that Mississippi had gone through the year before. Except in the river district there was no Republican hope of electing a congressman from the state. And in that one, where the Democrats had nominated General J.R. Chalmers, in spite of an overwhelming negro majority, all of the aggressiveness of the canvass was on the Democratic side. Troops were stationed at a number of points in the state. In a few instances deputy marshals sought to prove the people as they were directed to under the Taft circular. One of them, Deputy W.D. Sprott, commanded the negroes of Claiborne County to attend the speaking of the Republican candidate John R. Lynch, armed. He was obeyed by them and a bloody collision was only averted by the heart failure of his dupes, who left their arms behind them before reaching town. Sprott rode away from them when his scheme, which was proven to be a deep laid out plot for provoking a clash for political used, failed. But it answered for him to manufacture out of it a story of intimidation to be published in Northern papers and perchance to serve in a contest procedure. Though as the troops at Port Gibson did not move to rescue Sprott, who was arrested and bound over to appear before the grand jury. Attorney General Taft's theory of the suprema-

III. (a) Carpet-baggers - continued

cy of United States Marshals and their deputies failed in Mississippi. Several negroes were arrested and jailed also, and out of Sprott's deviltry, there was subsequently a bloody sequence, in which two valuable citizens and officials were slain." (1)

III. (b) Scalawags

"The carpet-bag scalawag negro regime, with which the state and city are cursed, is probably the most corrupt political concern on the face of God's earth. There is scarcely a man holding office here calling himself Republican, whose hands are not stained by fraud, and the victims of his fraud a people struggling hard to recover from the terribly depressing consequences of the war. From the capital to the custom house, thieves and tricksters have complete control."

"Plunder is the order of the day and honesty is a thing forgotten. Men, who, at the close of the war, had hardly a decent suit to don in the morning, now roll in luxury, sporting fine equipages and living generally in the manner of Hon. Thomas Shoddy of New York, whose sudden greatness is the wonder of all who do not know how he swindles for his money."

"There were things for barter and sale such as sugar and cotton. One man said to me that no measure could possibly be got into the Legislature unless the payment of whatever it might be considered worth was guaranteed beforehand. A person desiring the passage of a bill would have to give satisfactory security that a certain sum would be

1. Pub. Miss. Hist. Society, Vol. page 483-War and Reconstruction



III. (b) Scalawags-continued

paid for the favor, otherwise his request and would receive no attention whatever."

"Negro Barber and bootblacks turned lawmakers, even though they cannot write their own name, lord it over the intelligent and refined planters and merchants who were lately their masters, taxing them down to poverty, and are aided by thieving carpet-baggers and soulless scalawags who have no thought that is not mercenary, and will do no act that does not promise to bring the money of other people into their own plunder-stuffed pockets." (1)

The following resolutions introduced into the senate by Senator Gray (colored) show what the negroes thought about the way the carpet-baggers and Republicans were treating them: "Where as, peace and harmony are two of the great supports to our political institutions, and calculated to carry out the great principles of a nation's property, and build up a successful system of government, therefor, be it Resolved, That as colored Republicans of this state, we do now pledge our cooperation with that party in the future which will guarantee the honest support and full enjoyment of all rights in common with other citizens of the state, now enjoyed under the Constitution, and demand of the present legislature that no infringement be attempted to in any wise abridge our rights as a class."

"We cannot, says the Clarion, disguise our gratification at this indication of independent thought and action by the colored voters. To our mind nothing can benefit them more than to do their own thinking, and to determine for themselves without prejudice, their own line of conduct. They have experienced the duplicity, the selfishness, the base ingratitude of their carpet-bag leaders, who have only lured them

1. Standard of Nov. 17, 1871

Reconstruction

III. (b) continued)

to their destruction, used them as beasts of burden and have even sacrificed the lives of colored men on the altar of their unhallowed ambition. It was Ames who said that the blood of colored people would be good for the Republican party, meaning self seeking adventurers like himself, and who straightway put in motion the diabolical machinery for carrying his atrocious theory into practice. The Democrats and Conservatives would be glad to have rest from all this turmoil and strife between the races, which have been fomented by the Radical leaders, and in token of their determination to comply with every declaration they have made of equal laws and just dealing to all, without partiality or discrimination, they can point to their recorded acts since they have obtained control of the legislative department. It is for the colored people themselves to determine where they will stand; and what shall be the future political relations between the races. The resolutions of Senator Gray are a favorable augury of peace and good will." (1)

(c) Conservatives

"There should be a conservative meeting at an early day in this county for the purpose of nominating candidates for county offices. It would facilitate the business if candidates would immediately announce themselves and let the meeting, if it choose, ratify their candidacy. An early start will insure a better race." (2)

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1. The Southern Reveille of March 25, 1876
2. The Standard of June 23, 1871

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

IV. Agencies of Reconstruction
(a) Freedman's Bureau

The following extracts from a speech made in Vicksburg, Mississippi by Col. Thomas on June 2, 1866 to the colored people of the state will show what the negroes in the Freedman's Bureau were doing.[1] "Having been charged with the affairs of the Freedman's Bureau in Mississippi, I am your lawful protector and advisor; and to some extent I am responsible for your conduct. If you suffer, or become idle and vicious, blame is attached to me and my officers, even when the fault is not ours."

"With the end of 1865, your contracts expired. My officers approved the contracts, and did all they could to compel both you and your empolyers to live up to them. In many places these contracts did not secure you more than food and clothes, because you contracted so late that it was impossible to raise a crop."

Then Thomas tells them that complaints had been made about their not keeping to their contracts. It was said they visited when they pleased, deserted their crops, and acted as they pleased when they knew their employer would lose by it. Then they complained when their employers failed to pay them and said thy treated them cruelly. He continued by telling his race they were wrong to do these things. He urged them to make their contracts early, not to crowd into town, but to stay at home and work. He explained to them the nature of a contract and urged obedience to law and order.

In Claiborne County on July 4, 1866, the Freedman's Bureau staged a big celebration with about 3000 present, among these several hundred whites. Speeches were made by leaders of the negro race, de-

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1. The Standard of Feb. 16, 1866.

Reconstruction

IV. Freedman's Bureau (continued)

ploring the bad conduct of some of their fellows and admonishing that good conduct alone could give them friends and a good name.

"It was a happy scene graced with moderation, sobriety, prudence, all that could make it an innocent demonstration of a people rejoicing in their new status, and wishing to join hands in friendship and peace with their former masters. The whites seemed anxious to meet on the common ground of cordiality and kind feelings, and we were delighted to witness it as one of the grandest triumphs of society, under its new organization that the mind could have conceived of." (1)

In the press of 1865, we find the statement: "We have the Agents of the Freedman's Bureau among us, and they are getting to comprehend the situation, and as far as we know are cooperating in a spirit of kindness in advancing the general good. So long as this is so and unless Congress shall upset what the state legislatures have done, we see no necessity for public conventions of any sort." This was said in regard to a suggestion for a cotton convention. (2)

(b) Loyal League

Dunbar Rowland has this to say of this organization: "As a result of the negro vote in Mississippi on the issues of the constitutional convention, thirty-three of the sixty-three counties indicated that the blacks were in a majority, and that sixteen had been selected ad delegates to that body. Some of them could neither read nor write, and many of the white delegates were nearly as ignorant and often far more unscrupulous."

"The councils of the Loyal League, or Union League, were the most effective leverages by which the military authorities and the north-

1. Standard July 7, 1866
2. " Dec. 6, 1865



Reconstruction

IV. Freedman's Bureau
Loyal League-continued

ern politicians pried the entire colored vote into the Republican Party. Originally organized in the North, during the war, to oppose the Copperheads and Knights of the Golden Circle, the League consisted of white members. Afterward Whigs and ex-soldiers of the Union army, as well as officers of the regular army, who had become residents of the South, formed councils of the League, ostensibly for self-protection. The year after the war, the organization of negro councils began, and before the end of 1867 the negroes monopolized the League in the South, but still looked to unscrupulous white leaders for political instruction." (1)

(c) Republican Party

"The divided cohorts of republicanism in this county headed respectively by Smith and Nelson are gradually becoming more and more opposed to one another, and the election race between them bids fair to be pretty exciting." Smith was a carpet-bagger and Nelson a negro and the press was urging votes for the white man, Smith, as a duty white voters owed their county. (2)

1. Heart of the South, Vol. II, page 143---Dunbar Rowland
2. The Standard of Oct. 6, 1871

Nothing is known of the league in this County.

Claiborne County
Assignment #22

Reconstruction

III. (d) Ku Klux Klan

This Klan was organized at the close of the War Between the States by the whites as a means of self protection. The state was being rules by carpet-baggers, scalawags, and negroes, and the whites of the Old South had to protect themselves in some way, since they could not depend upon the law enforcing bodies. The Klan was a secret organization engaged in a very dangerous undertaking. When on duty the klansmen wore white masks and robes and rode horseback, operating most often at night. Their object was to frighten the negroes into behaving. Most of the meetings of the Klan were held in the cemetery. The superstitious negroes,seeing their white robed figures moving about to the flickering of strange lights, gave the place a wide berth. To further play on the negroes fear of what seemed the supernatural, sometimes the Klan would resort to this trick: They would ride up to a cabin by night and call for a drink of water, insisting that it be brought in a bucket. The whole bucket of water would seemingly be drained at a swallow and more would be called for and this too would be taken at one gulp with a demand for more. The poor negro, sure that he had a creature from the lower world to deal with, would prove a willing listener to such exhortations as it was wished to give him. At one time the negroes of the community planned an uprising, meeting just across the bayou to the south of Port Gibson. The Klan surrounded the crowd and easily dispersed it.(1) The first headquarters of the Klan is said to have been in Claiborne County at Vaucluse.(2) The following was the oath taken by Klansmen:(3)

1. Told by Mrs. Fannie Humphreys Mf Port Gibson, remembered from her father's stories of the period.
2. History of Port Gibson, p.234--Rev. M.G. Hawkins
3. The Standard of Dec. 29, 1871



III. (d) Ku Klux Klan-continued

I(name) before the Immaculate Judge of heaven and earth, and upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do, of my own free will and accord subscribe to the following sacredly binding obligation:

1. We are on the side of justice, humanity and constitutional liberty, as bequeathed to us in its purity by our forefathers.

2. We oppose and reject the principles of the Radical party.

3. We pledge mutual aid to each other in sickness, distress and pecuniary embarrassment.

4. Females, friends, widows, and their households shall ever be special objects of regard and attention.

(e) The Enforcement Acts

Speaking on this subject, we find in a Port Gibson paper of 1871 the following: "Suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, imprisonments and fine are some of the provisions of the bill to be meted out not only to actual and convicted transgressors of the 14th Amendment, but to persons who know anything of any one's having violated or contemplated the violation of this noble amendment and keeping the knowledge to themselves. It is very obvious why this article of the Constitution should be selected for special protection above all others. It is of party making for party purposes, and for t is reason must be distinguished by a peculiar enforcement."

"A pretext will now be assiduously sought to justify or at least excuse the sending of United States troops into various districts to 'hold a fretful realm in ", and to have a finger in the election pie. The bill gives to Grant the power to send troops any

Reconstruction

III. (e) The Enforcement Acts- continued

where he pleases, and when, in his judgment, the public safety shall require it, to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus."

"It also gives to the judges of the United States courts the power to administer a discretionary oath to jurors and thereby pack the jury. All that is left for us to do is to hope that in the infallible 'judgment' it may not be deemed necessary to send United States troops amongst us. The bill is bad enough, but the billet would be worse." (1)

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond, Historian

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1. The Standard of May 5, 1871

Enid Richmond

COMPILATION

Claiborne County

Chapter IX

OUTLAW DAYS

Gang and Feud Leaders

The earlier settlers of this county evidently were of Puritan or perhaps Quaker origin, for their decendants who have been leading figures in the county have stood for peace,law and order. Feuds have never been known, nor have robber bands. Sincesthe settlement of the county all Christian demominations have been represented which in itself is a most potent factor for peace and the spirit of good will.

In the very early part of the nineteenth century between the years 1800 and 1810 there came along the Natchez Trace several outlaws and their bands and tradition says they stopped at the old Red House at Rocky Springs. Mason and his band, it is said, had a hiding place six miles southwest of Port Gibson in the hills which has since been known as Mason Hill. Tradition also gives the names of Little Harp and Big Harp as outlaws traversing the Natchez Trace and stopping in the county. One story handed down is that of a Frenchman whose name was Rapalje. He was a man of considerable means and supposed to have been a victim of the Mason gang. He was killed at the ford of a creek which was afterwards known as Rapalje Creek in Claiborne County. The robber was dissapointed to find that Rapalje did not have the money he sought on his person. A negro reporting later that the money had been entrusted to him.

One instance is given that shows the presence of Mason in Claiborne County. Governor Claiborne wrote to Daniel Burnet, in com-

MAND of the Claiborne County Militia, yet unorganized, to take fifteen or twenty volunteers, proceed to the Walnut Hills and scour the county for Mason and his party. He wrote to the same effect to Lieutenant S. Kennick, commanding a detachment of United State troops at Grindstone Ford in Claiborne County. The Governor also offered a reward of $2,000 for the capture of the gang. There are several stories as to its final dispersal. (1)

Another notice of their presence in 1802 is the following: "A month later, definite news was had that the gang's hideout lay near the Rocky Springs, forty miles north of the Natchez along the Trace. A general hunt was started. Men plunged into the thicket, reached the camp, but found it deserted. Thwarted, they spent their energies digging for the treasure the bandits were supposed to have buried there. Theyyfound none; none has ever been found, but there are still vague rumors that Mason's gold hoard lies somewhere there, sunk in the swampy ground." (2)

These small bands were not originated in Claiborne County, nor did they tarry very long along this particular part of the Natchez Trace.

The government of the state gave the citizens almost no protection. The white people therefore had to protect themselves without the help of sheriff or police. In 1866 a secret organization, known as the KU KLUX KLAN, was started. The members of the order dressed in white robes. With hoods over their faces they would ride by night to the homes of negroes or carpetbaggers who were causing trouble, and warn them to behave. Usually the Ku Klux Klan was able

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(1) Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi the Heart of the South Vol. 1. p 333
(2) Hobert Coates, The Outlaw Years-The History of Land Pirates of the Natchez Trace-p 149

to frighten the negroes into better behavior. If they continued to act in a disorderly way, on the next visit the whip was used. Some negroes and some of their white leaders were hanged or shot. This was of course illegal, but the "legal" officers did not truly represent the people of the county.and were not enforcing the laws. Most of the actsmof the Klan can therefore be justified on the grounds of grim necessity. In 1871 by order of Congress the Klan was ~~dissolved~~ dissolved. As the government gave the people more protection, there was no need to continue the work of the Ku Klux Klan. Soon it dissapeared from the state. (1)

(1) Sydnor and Bennett, Mississippi History- pp 217-218

Riots

Claiborne County has ~~had~~ no records of riots. Differences have always been settled by leaders possessed of calm head and wise judgement, thus sparing the community the suffering and embarrassment of riots. However a hatred arose between the races that had not been known in the days of slavery and there was much disorder and lawlessness.

During the election of November 1875, the negroes were coming to the polling places in large crowds, and the white voters were afraid there would be difficulty in overthrowing the negro voters. White ladies and children were gathered together and guards placed around them. Churches were used for this purpose. In Port Gibson the Claiborne County Malitia was called out. After the soldiers fired a few shots into the air the negroes fled in confusion. Throughout the county no actual trouble was experienced with freed men, as was anticipated. Thus a riot was avoided.

One negro came to town on a mule and hitched ~~him~~ him to a store. When the shooting commenced he thought the white people were after him. He was working for a white man, Mr. Ellis, about three miles from town. The negro ran so fast that his heart beat so hard that he almost gave out by the time he reached the home. When Mr. Ellis saw him he said, "What's the matter, Jim?" Jim said,"O, Lord, Master, they're after me. I hear their horses hoofs." Mr. Ellis said, "Why, Jim, no one is after you, that's your heart thumping."

## White Caps and Bull Doossers

Claiborne County has known nothing of "White Caps and Bull Doozers".

## Saloon Days

In early saloon days whiskey was sold in practically every store. A good many years before the state became dry the whiskey business was centralized into saloons. Claiborne County had four in Port Gibson and four elsewhere in the county. The saloons were conducted in an orderly way as directed by law.

Of course there was a division of opinion on the subject as there is now and always will be. But the sentiment of the majority must have been against saloons as Claiborne was one of the first counties to vote out liquor under the local option laws in 1894.

In later years no organization is worthier of mention than the W.C.T.U. The women of the county gave unsparingly of their time and energy to the great drive which was on at that time to stamp out liquor. Miss May Russell, (See chap. 17 The Arts) a national W.C.T.U. organizer, was a resident of this county.

## Early Horse Thieves and Cattle Rustlers

In the eighteenth century there was scattered horse thieves in Claiborne County as elsewhere throughout the country. They usually had what they termed a thieving line enabling them to pass the stolen property from one to another. But there came a day when the law abiding citizens decided thay would no longer permit such unlawfulness by thieves; the result being the lining up of several thieves whom they caught in the act of stealing horses and riddling their bodies with bullets. On this occasion one made his escape. In relating this incident my source of information stated that the names of this par-

ticular band were ~~not~~ known, but could not be called due to fact that they had decendants in the county today. Very little is heard of horse thieving today. Occasionally an individual is convicted of cattle stealing. But even this is not as common in this county as in some others.

Periodic Outlaws and Deserters

After interviewing many well-informed citizens of pioneer families and searching in court and prison records, newspaper files, and scrapbooks we are unable to discover any information on periodic outlaws and deserters.

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July 31, 1936

State-Wide Historical Research Project
County History
Assignment Fourteen

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasann
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Gang and feud leaders

The early settlers of this county evidently were of Puritan or perhaps Quaker origin, for their descendants who have been leading figures in the county have stood for peace, law, and order. Feuds have never been known, nor have robber bands. Since the settlement of the county all Christian denominations have been represented which in itself is a most potent factor for peace and the spirit of good will.

In the very early part of the 19th century between the years 1800and 1810 there came along the Natchez Trace several outlaws and their bands and tradition says they stopped at the old Red House at Rocky Springs.

Mason and his band, it is said, had a hiding place six miles southwest of Port Gibson in the hills which has since been known as Mason Hill. Tradition also gives the names of Little Harp and Big Harp as outlaws traversing the Natchez Trace and stopping in this count y. One story handed down is that of a Frenchman whose name was Rapalje. He was a man of considerable means and supposed to have been a victim of the Mason gang. He was killed at the ford of a creek which was afterwards known as Rapalje Creek in Claiborne County. The robber was disappointed to find that Rapalje did not have the money he sought on his person. A negro reporting later that the money had been entrusted to him.

Assignment Fourteen.

I. Gang and feud leaders----------(continued)

One instance is given that shows the presence of Mason in Claiborne County. "As early as 1802 there was a detachment of United States troops here(Grindstone Ford). Governor Claiborne wrote to Lieut. S. Rennick, who was in command of the United States troops at this place to scour the country for Mason and his band of robbers."(1)

Another notice of their presence in 1802 is the following:
"A month later, definite news was had that the gang's hideout lay near the Rocky Springs, forty miles north of Natchez along the Trace. A general hunt was started. Men plunged into the thicket, reached the camp, but found it deserted. Thwarted, they spent their energies digging for the treasure the bandits were supposed to have buried there. They found none; none has ever been found but there are still vague rumors that Mason's hoard lies somewhere there, sunk in the swampy ground."(2)

These small bands were not originated in Claiborne County, nor did they tarry very long along this particular part of the Natchez Trace.

II. Riots

Claiborne County has no records of riots. Differences have always been settled by leaders possessed of calm head and wise judgment, thus sparing the community the suffering and embarrassment of riots.

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1. Mississippi, the Heart of the South, Vol. I, by Dunbar Rowland, P. 383
2. The Outlaw Years-The History of the Land Pirates of the Natchez Trace by Robert Coates- Page149.

II. Riots----------(continued)

During the election of November, 1875, the negroes were coming to the polling places in large crowds, and the white voters were afraid there would be difficulty in overthrowing the negro voters. White ladies and children were gathered together and guards placed around them. Churches were used for this purpose. In Port Gibson the Claiborne County Militia was called out. After the soldiers fired a few shots into the air the negroes fled in confusion. Throughout the county no actual trouble was experienced with freed men, as was anticipated. Thus a riot was avoided.

One negro came to town on a mule and hitched him near a store. When the shooting commenced he thought the white people were after him. He was working for a white man, Mr. Ellis, about three miles from town. This negro ran so fast and his heart beat so hard that he almost gave out by the time he reached home. When Mr. Ellis saw him he said, "What's the matter, Jim?" Jim said,"O, Lord, Master, they're after me. I hear their horses hoofs." Mr. Ellis said, "Why, Jim, no one is after you, that's your heart thumping."

III. "White Caps and Bull Doozers"

Claiborne County has known nothing of "White Caps and Bull Doozers".

IV. Saloon Days

In early saloon days whiskey was sold in practically every store. A good many years before the state became dry the whiskey business was centralized into saloons. Claiborne County had four in Port Gibson



IV. Saloon Days----------(continued)

and four elsewhere in the county. The saloons were conducted in an orderly way as directed by law.

Of course there was a division of opinion on the subject then as there is now and always will be. But the sentiment of the majority must have been against saloons as it was one of the first to vote out liquor under the local option laws in 1894.

In later years no organization is worthier of mention than the W.C.T.U. The women of the county gave unsparingly of their time and energy to the great drive which was on at that time to stamp out liquor.

Miss May Russell, a national W.C.T.U. organizer, was a resident of this county.

V. Early Horse Thieves and Cattle Rustlers.

In the late eighteenth century there were scattered horse thieves in Claiborne County as as elsewhere throughout the country. They usually had what they termed a thieving line enabling them to pass the stolen property from one to another.

But there came a day when the law abiding citizens decided they would no longer permit such unlawfulness in the county. They stationed officers on points which were frequented by thieves; the result being the lining up of several thieves whom they caught in the act of stealing horses and riddling their bodies with bullets. On this occasion one made his escape. In relating this incident my source of information stated that the names of this particular band

Assignment Fourteen.

V. Early Horse Thieves and Cattle Rustlers.----------(continued)

were known, but could not be called due to the fact that they had descendants in the county today.

Very little is heard of horse thievery today. Occasionally an individual is convicted of cattle stealing. But even this is not as common in this county as in many others.

VI. Periodic Outlaws and Deserters

After interviewing many well-informed citizens of pioneer families and searching in court and prison records, newspaper files, and scrapBooks we were unable to discover any information on periodic outlaws and deserters.

VII. Kidnappers. --------- None.

VIII. General Method of Extermination.

Enid Richmond

Mrs Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

Claiborne Co.
Outlaws

Virgil A. Stewart - Port Gibson Correspondent - November 4, 1837

The Grand Jury of this county last week found a true bill against Virgil A. Stewart, for petty larceny, founded on the accusation of Matthew Clanton. The friends of Mr. Stewart have cause to regret the course he has seen fit to pursue toward some of our best citizens, whose names are needlessly paraded before the public gaze. "The Minters, the Talbots, the Harrisons, the Powers, the Lakes, and the Marberry's, are among the most respected citizens of Yalobusha; and in classing such families with friends of Murrelism," the forces of corruption, it seems to us is stopping not far short, if any, of grossly traducing the whole county. We have not time to say all that should be said on this subject at present. Mr. Stewarts trial will probably take place in Choctaw County next week.

Coffeeville Pioneer.

*This is the man who was supposed to have run down and captured John Murrell.

accepted
S.2.

CLAIBORNE COUNTY Page 1.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Assignment Ten

1. The census of 1930 showed the white population to be 3116, the negro 9036, no Indians, one Chinese and no Japanese. There are no other races represented in the county.

2. The Indians have been fully discussed under Assignment #9.

3. The negroes have ~~been~~ recognized industrial education as a veritable way of life. They have entered industrial schools and obtained education in that field and some have been very successful.

The negroes of Port Gibson rank considerably above the average town of its size from an educational standpoint. It is the home of more than 50 college graduates and a large number of undergraduates.

There have been no outstanding achievements in literature. There is a school in Port Gibson which offers both literary and industrial courses.

As shown by the records in the County Agent's office there are 390 negro farm owners, with an average farm of 266.7 acres.

There are about 16,048 share croppers averaging about 36.4 acres. A few negro farm owners have share croppers or renters on their own farms.

There are 9 negro stores in the county, either small grocery stores or lunch counters, only one large store, ~~this being~~ located at Alcorn.

There are a few carpenters and painters. Few work in the mills. The majority are engaged in farming.

Claiborne County Page 2.

Assignment Ten

3. Negro-----(continued)

Two negro doctors practice medicine, one in Port Gibson and one at Alcorn. There are no lawyers or any other professional men in this county.

Claiborne County has forty-three (43) colored schools. There is a total enrollment in the rural schools of 2588. The Port Gibson grammar and high school has an enrollment of 386.

During the past ten years the negroes have made a vast improvement educationally speaking. The qualifications of teachers have been raised which automatically raises the standards of the schools.

At the present time Claiborne County has a very efficient supervisor in (Mrs.)A. L. Patton. One-half of her salary is paid by the Jeanes supervisory fund and one-half by the county. She gives every school in the county individual attention. Her duties involving the investigation of teachers' training and methods of teaching, instruction in beautification of play grounds, together with the loyal cooperation of the teachers she has organized a "Claiborne County Teachers' Work Shop". At this center they have regular meetings and the supervisor gives instructions along all lines.

In several schools they have active Parent Teachers Associations. Our Superintendent of Education speaks of them as being most interested in advancement.

Concerts and "Community Singings" are given in order to raise funds to repair the buildings and defray other expenses for which the county makes no allowance.

3. (Continued)

One great drawback is the lack of school books among the extremely underprivileged. For this kind the teachers have special oral lessons..

In many schools water facilities have been installed where heretofore there ~~were~~ was none. In most instances fuel is provided by interested patrons who formerly were indifferent to the cause.

The teachers in a large number of the schools have been instrumental in the organization of 4-H clubs.

The adults in the county are responding to the educational opportunities being offered them by the present program. Our adult educational supervisor, Mrs. Myles Person, states that many are interested in fine arts and should they be given the chance would develop along this line.

John Green, a native of Port Gibson, is the principal of the negro high school at Vulfport.

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Information above secured from L. M. Parker, principal of the Port Gibson Negro School, a graduate of Alcorn, and from Mr. J. M. Jones, former Superintendent of Education of Claiborne County.

Lela Ethel Hamilton
Canvasser

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

Assignment Ten

Races and Nationalities of County

3. Negro

a. What they have done

2. Educationally

Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College (1)

Alcorn University opened in 1871, a colored institution supported by the state. In order to secure federal aid, the name of the school was changed to its present title, Alcorn A. and M. College.

Since its opening the development of the school has been almost steady. Newer and better buildings have replaced old ones. Into both new and old buildings modern dormitory conveniences have been installed. The curriculum has been strengthened visibly. The faculty is of immensely higher caliber than was ever dreamed of.

The industrial shops have been stocked with up-to-date equipment, the cost of which soared far into the thousands of dollars. Along with this equipment electrical power has been harnessed to give a greater and higher degree of capability and efficiency than ever before possible. The farm machinery is of an infinitely higher grade than it formerly was.

All of these things have been greatly conducive to increased enrollment, especially from the time of the admission of young women to the institution. All dormitories are crowded to an unusual degree. Scores of prospective students have been turned away for lack

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"College Centennial and 1936 Program"

3. Negro (Continued from Page 1)
a. What they have done
2. Educationally

of room. Classes in the high school are larger now than at any other time in the history of the institution.

The curriculum has been strengthened to the extent that now it is comparable with that of almost any school for the race. New subjects, better text books, and more teachers have been the contributing factors to the higher standards of scholarship here.

In the various branches of industrial work, the young men and women have achieved results worthy of approval by the severely critical. A great interest is manifested in club work. Clubs of various import have recently sprung up, each bidding to outdo the other. Literary societies from time to time render programs of a distinct kind and quantity.

The two Christian Associations are annually represented in the usual number of conferences; they stage their annual funds campaign and picnic, as well as a May day affair, and they succeed in bringing to the grounds prominent Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. workers.

Athletics, too, in its various phases, is on the upward trend. The football team wins a majority of games they play in competition. The state baseball trophy has been won for several years.

The girls of the domestic science department are daily demonstrating their knowledge of as well as their interest in the various complexities of the culinary art, while the sewing girls are displaying their marvelous dexterity with more astuteness than ever before.

Of late years people from the outside are manifesting unusual interest in the college. They have been graced with the presence



3. Negro (continued from page 2)
a. What they have done
2. Educationally

of the highest caliber and art and with artists in other lines.

The number receiving high school diplomas in the class of 1936 was 22. Junior College diplomas in Education were five in number. Nine degrees of Bachelor of Science in Education were awarded, while three B.S. degrees in Agriculture were given. Two B.A. degrees were awarded and the same number of B.S. degrees. Six degrees of B.S. in Home Economics were presented.

Prizes are given for outstanding work by various clubs and individuals, and many pupils were recipients of these.

The faculty numbers twenty-eight, all with college degrees.

Miss Enid Richmond
County Supervisor

4. Other Races

a. Contributions----------none.

1. Industrially---------none.
2. Economically---------none.
3. Socially-------------none.

b. Prominent Leaders---------none.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

Enid Richmond's assignment 11

CLAIBORNE COUNTY



State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Data On Colored Schools

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs.S.T.Hamilton

"The public school system of Mississippi as we know it today was created in 1870 when a law was passed providing that every county should have at least four months of school each year. In addition, provision had to be made for the negro children as well as for the white children."(1) This is the earliest record we have of the State Public School System. There are no records of private colored schools in Claiborne County. From the County Superintendent's records we find there are forty three (43) schools for colored children in Claiborne County. This number does not include the Alcorn High School. In the forty two (42) county schools there are 2,556 pupils enrolled with sixty (60) teachers. The majority of these schools are one teacher schools, however, one school has four teachers, two of these schools have three teachers and ten have two teachers. Claiborne County has three (3) colored vocational teachers. These vocational teachers are Alcorn graduates. They have under their supervision two schools each. Watson Chapel and Pine Grove each having three teachers are supervised by Earl Travillion; Beechland and Bethel each having two teachers are supervised by J.C. Dunbar; Jeffresville and Pisgah, the former having four teachers and the latter two teachers, are supervised by U. S. Johnson. These teachers have organized three main clubs: the "New Farmers of Mississippi" for boys; the"Better Homes Club" for girls and women teaching them to improve their homes; and "The Live At Home Club" for boys to create an interest in farm life to keep them from going to the cities. The Federal government pays 50% of their

1. Mississippi History by Sydnor-Bennett, Page 240.

salary and the county 50% of their salary. This is under the Smith Hughes Act. These vocational teachers are doing all in their power to make them industrious, intelligent and self supporting men and women and the negroes, themselves are striving for higher standards. The teachers often give aid to colored farmers in terracing land, improving homes, and breeding cattle and hogs. At times they visit other schools of the county, advising and giving aid to these teachers.

The majority of the colored school buildings throughout the county are in fairly good condition but poorly equipped. However, there are some exceptions. Then we find a nice modern building, comfortable and well equipped. During the last decade the negroes have made vast improvement, educationally speaking. The qualifications of teachers have been raised, thus raising the standard of the schools. These county schools use the regular course of study adopted by the State Board of Education for the public schools.

At the present time Claiborne County has a very efficient supervisor in (Mrs.) A. L. Patton. One half of her salary is paid by the Jeanes supervisory fund and one half by the county. She gives every school in the county individual attention. Her duties involve the investigation of teachers' training and methods of teaching and instructions in beautification of play grounds. Together with the loyal cooperation of the teachers she has organized a "Claiborne County Teachers Work Shop". At this center they have regular monthly meetings and the supervisor gives instructions along all lines.

ThebPort Gibson High School No. I is a separate school district, partly under the supervision of the Principal of the (White) Port Gibson High School No. 2. L. M. Parker, an Alcorn graduate, is principal of this school.



There are eleven (11) grades in the Port Gibson High School No. I (colored) with the regular course of study for all grades. There is a domestic science department supervised by Mrs. Evelyn Watson and a manual training school with L. M. Parker, the principal, in charge of this department. Helen Parker, wife of the principal, L. M. Parker, and a graduate of Texas College, teaches public school music. L. M. Parker is band instructor. This school has a nine piece orchestra. This high school has an enrollment of three hundred and thirty five (335) pupils. It employs eight (8) teachers: three are college graduates, and the other six are very highly ranking undergraduates. S. G. Gooden, the assistant principal, is a graduate of Alcorn.

Alcorn High School is operated in connection with Alcorn College and one teacher is paid by Claiborne County for six (6) months and the others by the Alcorn Fund. Classes in the high school are larger now than at any other time since the Institution's incipiency. The high school pupils have advantage of the various branches of industrial work provided by the college, and are interested in club work and literary societies.

Alcorn A & M College, Claiborne County.

Alcorn University opened in 1871, a colored institution supported by the state. In order to secure federal aid the name of the school was changed to its present title, Alcorn A & A College. Since that time the school's development has been almost steady. Newer and better buildings have replaced old ones. Into the new and old buildings modern dormitory conveniences have been installed. The curriculum has been strengthened visibly. The faculty is of an immensely higher caliber than was before dreamed of. The industrial shops have been stocked with up to date equipment,,the cost of which soared far into the thousands. Along with this equipment, electrical power has been harnessed

to give a greater and higher degree of capability and efficiency than ever before possible. The farm machinery is of an infinitely higher grade than it formerly was. All of these things have been greatly conducive to increased enrollment, especially from the time of the admission of young women to the institution. All dormitories are crowded to an unusual degree. Scores of prospective students have been turned away for lack of room. The curriculum has been strengthened to the extent that now it is comparable with that of almost any school for the race. New subjects, better text books, and more teachers have been the contributing factors to the higher standards of scholarship here. In the various branches of industrial work the young men and women have achieved results worthy of approval by the severely critical. A great interest is manifested in club work. Clubs of various import have recently sprung up, each bidding to out do the other. Literary societies from time to time render programs of a distinct kind and quality. The two Christian Associations are annually represented in the usual number of conferences; they stage their annual funds campaign and picnic, as well as a May day affair and they succeed in bringing to the grounds prominent Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. workers. Athletics, too, in its various phases, is on the upward trend. The football team wins a majority of games they play. Alcorn has won the state baseball trophy several years. The girls of the domestic department are daily demonstrating their knowledge of as well as their interest in the various complexities of the culinary art, while the sewing girls are displaying their marvelous dexterity with more astuteness than ever before. Of late years people from the outside are manifesting unusual interest in Alcorn. They have been graced with the presence of musicians of the highest caliber and art.

The number receiving high school diplomas in 1936 was 22.

Data On Colored Schools.

Junior College diplomas in Education were five in number.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bacholor of Science Education | Nine |
| Bachelor of Arts | Two |
| Science | Two |
| Bachelor of Science in Agriculture | Three |
| Bachelor of Science in Home Economics | Six |

Prizes are given for outstanding work by various clubs and individuals and many pupils were recipients of these. The faculty numbers twenty-eight all with college degrees. (1)

Some of the Claiborne County graduates of Alcorn College who have achieved success in their professions are:

J. T. Walker of Tillman is President of Universal Life Insurance Company (colored) of Memphis, Tenn.

Henry Litterton, Pattison, in insurance business in Clarksdale, Miss.

Joe Addison, Port Gibson, Principal of Training School in Coahoma County.

Charley Brezand, Port Gibson, Principal of School in Lorman, Miss.

John Turnipseed, Port Gibson, Vocational Training School at Canton, Miss.

L. A. Patton, prominent farmer and teacher in Claiborne County.

Dr. Riley Thomas, M.D. of Port Gibson, located in Washington, D. C.

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1. All above information on Alcorn College is from the College Centennial and 1936 program.

Data On Colored Schools.

Dr. T. J. Barnes, M.D. (line of Jefferson and Claiborne) at Laurel.
Dr. Milton Quigless, M.D. of Port Gibson is located in Kentucky.
Mrs. Smith of Alcorn is Home Economics teacher in Alcorn College.
Miss Thelma Quigless is music teacher at Canton.
The late President Rowan of Alcorn was a product of Claiborne County.

Other graduates of Alcorn, not born in Claiborne County, have distinguished themselves as ministers, druggists, mail clerks, embalmers, undertakers, teachers, and dentists.

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

CLAIBORNE COUNTY.
ASSIGNMENT TEN

1. The census of 1930 showed the white population to be 3,116, the negro 9,036, no Indians, one Chinese and no Japanese. There are no other races represented in the County.

2. The Indians have been fully discussed under assignment # 9.

3. The negroes have recognized industrial education as a veritable way of life. They have entered industrial schools and obtained education in that field and some have been very successful.

The negroes of Port Gibson rank considerably above the average town of its size from an educational standpoint. It is the home of more than 50 college graduates and a large number of undergraduates.

There have been no outstanding achievements in literature. There is a school in Port Gibson which offers both literary and industrial courses.

As shown by the records in the County Agent's office there are 330 negro farm owners, with an average farm of 266.7 acres.

There are about 16,048 share-croppers averaging about 36.4 acres.

A few negro farmlowners have share-croppers or renters on their own farms.

There are 9 negro stores in the County, either small grocery stores or lunch counters, only one large store, which is located at Alcorn.

There are a few carpenters and painters. Few work in the mills.

The majority are engaged in farming.

Two negro doctors practice medicine, one in Port Gibson and one at Alcorn. There are no lawyers or any other professional men in this County.

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Prizes are given for outstanding work by various clubs and individuals, and many pupils were recipients of these.

The faculty numbers twenty-eight, all with college degrees.

Other races- None.

Ref.: L.M. Parker - - principal Port Gibson Negro School

Mr. J.M.Jones - - former Supt. of Education of Claiborne County.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #10 SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Races and Nationalities of County

3. Negro

b. What they are doing

2. Industrially

E. H. & L. A. Patton, General Merchandise, Alcorn, Miss.(1)

This firm was established in the year 1906 by the original owners, Edward H. Patton and his wife Lenora A. Patton, both of whom were natives of Claiborne County and had spent their entire lives in said county. Edward died in 1920 at the age of 60 and Lenora died in 1924 at the same age.

The business firm is located at Alcorn College on property which was bought by Edward Patton in 1891, and has been continuously operated since its beginning, present owners being heirs of the estate.

Edward Patton and his wife Lenora lived industrious lives and stressed the importance of rendering service to the community in which one lives.

The firm deals in general merchandise and enjoys splendid patronage from Alcorn College and surrounding territory.

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1. Information furnished by M. T. Patton

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #10

Subject: Races and Nationalities of County

3. Prominent Negro Leaders

Leonard M. Parker(1)

Leonard M. Parker is the son of Henderson E. Parker, a substantial Negro teacher and farmer formerly of Jefferson County, Mississippi. The father was one to whom his fellow teachers naturally turned for light and learning, and one to whom the white people looked for conservative influence upon and among the colored people. The influence of such a father has left its indelible impression upon the son, and as to sound, conservative, and wholesome advice given to the colored people of South Mississippi by Professor Parker in matters affecting their social, civic, and economic well-being, hundreds of the best white people will gladly testify.

Professor Parker was born April 20, 1901, near Red Lick, Mississippi. His mother had the misfortune of being accidently burned to death while Leonard was but seven years of age and the oldest of six children. At this time there were new parental responsibilities, that of caring for his younger sisters and brothers, ushered upon young Leonard, consequently he was eleven years of age before he had the privilege of attending public school. However, at the age of fifteen, he had successfully completed the first five grades of the public school and went to Alcorn A. & M. College where he passed an examination for the seventh grade and remained there for ten consecutive years as a work student. During the years spent at Alcorn College, Professor Parker completed seventh and eighth grades, four years of high school work, a complete course in shoe making, a course in Vocational Agriculture, and four years of college work. He was awarded the degree of Bachelor

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1. Written by Professor Parker at our request.

Claiborne County
Assignment #10

Subject: Races and Nationalities of County
3. Prominent Negro Leaders

Leonard M. Parker (continued)

of Science in May, 1926.

During the summer months while at Alcorn, young Parker sought and found employment on the college farm, while in later years the summer months were spent in different parts of the North working with the Armour Packing Company, the Illinois Steel Company, and the Pullman Company. For the last six winter months at Alcorn his winter employment included: foreman of the Shoemaking Department, Director and teacher of the College brass band and orchestra. Through these sources of employment, Parker took care of all of his expenses while at college and made a record that me the approval of all who knew him.

After finishing college, Parker went to Chicago and completed a course in Life Insurance and worked in this field in Louisville, Ky. for a period of one year, then was called to Louisiana by the State Department of Education where he served as Principal of Training School and teacher of Vocational Agriculture.

It was in the school system of Louisiana that Professor Parker men Helen Finch, a teacher and the daughter of John Fince, Tyler, Texas. They were acquainted but for a few month when their short romance culminated in their marriage March 3, 1928, with the understanding that his wife would continue to teach and assist him to attend Medical College that he might enter life as a physician. This plan did not materialize, however, for their first child, Marcheta, was born January 20, 1929, and the need of providing for his family over shadowed the desire for a medical education.

On July 15, 1929, Professor Parker was called to Port Gibson to accept the position as Supervising Principal of the Separate Dist-

Claiborne County
Assignment #10

Subject: Races and Nationalities of County
3. Prominent Negro Leaders

Leonard M. Parker (continued)

rict Colored Schools, where he is employed at present. However, many offers have come to him during the years that he has served the schools here, most of these offers promised more financial reward and better working conditions, but with a steadfastness of purpose which is highly creditable, he has turned them all away, as he feels that he is needed in Port Gibson to render a worth while service to his people.

V. E. Shipp, M. D.(1)

Born in Grenada County, Mississippi in 1875, but reared in Kentucky (Jefferson County). Finished High School Department at Jackson College, Jackson, Mississippi in 1900. Studied in Roger Williams University Theological Department 1901-1902, Nashville, Tennessee. Graduate with A. B. degree of Fisk University, Nashville, 1905. Teacher in Carroll County, Mississippi for several years. Graduate of Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee in 1925. Practiced medicine in Louisville, Ky. 1927-1935, since which time he has been practicing medicine in Port Gibson, Mississippi.

(2)
John Percy Sherrod, M.D. (deceased)

Bonn Macon, Mississippi, of slave parents. Educated in Macon public schools and Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee. First practiced medicine in Tennessee, later in Warren County, Mississippi. He came to Claiborne County in 1895 where he practiced medicine until his death in 1935. When he took the state medical examination, questions were made very difficult due to race prejudice, but he made a high

1. Information furnished by Dr. Shipp
2. Information given by

Claiborne County
Assignment #10

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Races and Nationalities of County
3. Prominent Negro Leaders

Dr. John Percy Sherrod (continued)

grade nevertheless. From a childhood of poverty, he had become prosperous, having acquired a modest estate to be divided among his sisters and brothers. He was a member of the Baptist Church and a generous contributor to it. He was known to be charitable in the practice of his profession, freely giving medical attention to the under privileged. During his long life in Port Gibson as a practicing physician, he gained the esteem not only of the negro race but also of the white people of the county.

Thomas Richardson

Tom, as he was generally called, served Port Gibson as postmaster intermittently over a period of thirty-five years,(1) being first appointed to this office in 1870. An early paper(2) has this to say of his at that time:

"Those who are acquainted with Mr. Richardson are well satisfied with his appointment, though he is called in common parlance "a man of color". We have inquired into his antecedents and find that his record is clear and honorable. His mother was a mulattress and his father a white man. His mother being free appreticed him early in life to a Mr. John Bird, an honest and reputable colored man, who was long a barber and hair dresser in our town. Mr. Bird gave Thomas an admirable training not only in all matters pertaining to a well conducted barber shop, but also morally and intellectually. There being

1. Mr. J. J. Kelly, old citizen of Port Gibson
2. Port Gibson Standard of Dec. 2, 1870

Claiborne County
Assignment #10

Subject: Races and Nationalities of County
3. Prominent Negro Leaders

Thomas Richardson (continued)

no regular school then for the education of colored children, Mr. Bird taught Thomas at home and encouraged him to spend all his leisure time in the acquisition of knowledge. Mr. Richardson learned how to study, and having acquired a thirst for knowledge, improved himself by reading and study until he became a well educated man. He betook himself to the study of law, and within a year or so past, after due examination, was licensed to practice. In his personal appearance, manners, and intercourse with society, so far as we can see, he is a polished gentleman, and deserves the confidence and encouragement of his fellow citizens generally. If he does not make us a prompt, correct, and accommodating post master good antecedents are not to be depended on."

As postmaster he did prove thoroughly efficient and was highly esteemed by the white people of the county. His sound common sense was most helpful in the trying period of the Reconstruction, keeping him always on the side of the better element in both races and opposed to the excesses of both.

Tom lived in the community up to the time of his death in 1929, continuing to hold the esteem of both white and colored to the end. (1)

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1. Mr. J. J. Kelly, Gold citizen of Port Gibson

STATE WIDE HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
Claiborne County
Assignment #10

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Races and Nationalities of County

5. Prominent Negro Leaders

P. S. Bowles (1)

"P. S. Bowles, Director Division of Agriculture, Alcorn College, Retires From Service of the College After a Continuous Period of Thirty-one Years."

"Professor Bowles is a native of Claiborne County, having been born there on a plantation known as Caledonia, in 1869. His parents moved away from Claiborne County up into Warren when the boy was about four months old. There he lived and played and spent his boyhood as other boys, and there began the tedious struggle of climbing the educational ladder in the rural schools of his home community, at the age of seven years. His attendance at school was of a rather desultory sort, as the free school system at that early date, after the Civil War, was just getting established and the terms were rarely ever more than three or four months long, and the teachers poorly prepared. Moreover, Professor Bowles had been born of slave parents who had received their emancipation only four years when the boy was born, and who recognized that any chance at all to learn the "Three R's" in any sort of school was far beyond anything they had ever enjoyed; and therefore they could not adequately appreciate the necessity of having their son take advantage of what meager opportunities for real training the poorly organized public school system at that time offered."

"However, it was in the midst of such an uninviting educational environment that the boy was forced to make his initial efforts at education; and early gave evidence of a precocity beyond his years, and

1. From the college Annual of the Alcorn A. & M. College for year 1936.
Given us by Bowles himself

Claiborne County
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SUPPLEMENT

P. S. Bowles (continued)

stimulated the hopes of parents, friends, and teachers that he would yet make good and that there was more truth than poetry in the oft-repeated saying that "Honor and fame from no conditions rise; act well your part; there all the honor lies." The boy was sent off to college at the age of 17, evidently entering what would now be calledthe tenth grade, or second year high school. He remained at college seven years, graduating and receiving his bachelor's degree at the age of 25 at the head of his class. He entered the profession of teaching in the rural schools of his state and there brought the same painstaking assiduity to the task of teaching that he had given evidence of in the jcb of learning."

"He assisted in building and organizing the first high schools in Lawrence and Marion Counties, where he spent the first ten years of his after-school life, and where the results of his labors are still in evidence in the communities which he served."

"After having been away from the college ten years, he was recalled by his alma mater to join the forces of those on the college staff who were to 'train the young idea how to shoot'. He returned to serve his alma mater as an assistant professor in the department of English. It so happened that much of the English taught to students at the time was in the form of emphasis upon formal grammar. His keen perception in the appropriate use of words enabled him to blaze new paths in the work of the English department and shift the emphasis from that of mere statement of rules and cannons to a discovery of the purpose of those rules and a considerable improvement in the use of the English sentence by the students in the department."

SUPPLEMENT

P. S. Bowles (continued)

"Nevertheless, in addition to the new highs which he was able to establish in the mastery of English speech, his many-sided interests in the major purpose for which the institution was established constrained him to discover that the use to which the facilities of the department of agriculture were being put was falling far short of reasonable expectations. He at once began to call the attention of the administration to this serious lack and to insist upon a more purposeful use of the department's facilities towards the training of the students, in the business of farming, and upon an enlargement of those facilities for more adequate use."

"A communication addressed to the President emphasizing this point was read before the Board of Trustees for clarity of statement of need in this field, to secure favorable action; and the masterly presentation of the case so gripped the attention of the Board that they passed an order in that meeting directing that the author of that communication be transferred to the department of agriculture, and passed other measures recommended in the communication, and having the president's approval. He was thus made an assistant professor in the department of agriculture and placed in charge of the institution's newly purchased dairy herd of Jersey cattle. And, as he had done in the department of English, so he did in his new field. He 'stepped up' production and methods of care and management of the herd to new highs and won for himself deserved commendation."

"A vacancy, by death, occurred in the head of the English department at this time, and, the president remembering the good work Professor Bowles had done as under professor in that department, requested

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SUPPLEMENT

P. S. Bowles (continued)

him to return to the English department and to accept its headship."

"Professor Bowles, however, remained at the head of the English department only one year; when, with the passage of the National Vocational Education Act in 1917, and the necessity for the organization of a new department for the training of teachers of vocational agriculture at Alcorn College, caused the recall of Professor Bowles to head up that new department. The lamented Dr. H. O. Sargent, who had been placed in charge of the development of this new field of service among the Negroes, after visiting the college and conversing with a number of the members of the teaching staff with a view of selecting a suitable head for the new department, recommended to the administration and the state officials the appointment of Professor Bowles. Professor Bowles accepted the responsibility with a full knowledge of his limitations for the new service and began at once as best he could to qualify for the job while on the job, and the results of his labors to date bear incontestible evidence of the extent to which his ambitions in that direction have been realized."

"Mississippi stands out among the foremost states in the number of departments of vocational agriculture established and the number of teachers trained and placed. And in the first national contest for efficiency of training among the boys being trained in farm skills by the teachers heading these departments, which contest was held at Tuskegee Institute last August, Mississippi won all first honors on practically every event."

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(Prof.B. did resign, as title of this article states. But his resignation was not accepted. He was presuaded to remain and is still at the college.)

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SUPPLEMENT

Dr. Levi J. Rowan, late President of Alcorn A.& M. College (1)

"Born in the little town of Rodney, Jefferson County, Mississippi, August 7, 1871, only six years after the flag of the Southern Confederacy had been furled, and the nation had again begun to learn the arts of peace, of parents who had then but recently begun a life of freedom and responsibility, it is needless to say that he was born to poverty, and amid very humble surroundings."

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"He attended the public schools of his native town and state in a sort of 'catch-ascatch-could' manner, until he was sixteen years old, when he matriculated September 1887 as a student of Alcorn A.& M. College. Little Levi Rowan (as he was generally called), the boy, soon began to give evidences of what Mr. Rowan the man and prospective worthy president would afterwards become."

"Though the youngest member of his class, he was easily the closest student and the ripest scholar." ********** "He struggled on, nothing daunting him, till the year 1893, when he finished his course, graduating with the honors of his alma mater."

"Having fitted himself as a teacher, he taught continuously in the common public schools of Mississippi for four years after graduation, when he married one Miss Mattie V. Foote ******* of Yazoo City."

**********

"Having continued in his chosen profession as a teacher for five years after finishing his education, his rare proficiency manifested in the school room whereever he taught, in the County Teachers' Insti-

1. Taken from articles furnished us by P. S. Bowles of Alcorn.

SUPPLEMENT

Dr. Levi J. Rowan (continued)

tutes, and State Teachers' Normals, soon made it evident that he was destined for higher honors. Accordingly in 1898, at the age of twenty-seven, he was elected as tutor in the English Department of the College.Having in him the elements which make for success in almost any sphere, he soon outgrew his place. He was promotedin rapid succession from a tutorship to an assistant professorship, and from thence to a full professorship at the head of the English Department. And from this position he was elected, without his application, to the presidency of the college in which but a few years before he earned his means of support by washing dishes and doing other dining-room service."

"After Mr. Rowan's accession to the presidency of the college, it enjoyed a freedom from friction in all of its parts, a quiet, harmonious and business-like administration unknown for many years of its history. Though the youngest president the college has ever had, he seemed peculiarly fitted for his station and possessed in a remarkable degree the art of the successful manipulation of affairs and of making friends. Being upright and conscientious in all of his acts, he enjoyed the absolute confidence of his Faculty and the respect and obedience of the entire student body throughout his administration."

"No better token of his peculiar fitness for the place, and of the excellent character of services can be had than the fact that after serving as president for five consecutive years the white Board of Trustees of the institution which he served passed very complimentary resolutions respecting the man and his efficient service, and without solicitation on his part they conferred upon him the honorary degree of PH.D."

"Another of the outstanding characteristics of the subject of

SUPPLEMENT

Dr. Levi J. Rowan (continued)

this sketch was his unpurchasable integrity. In the handling and transacting of thousands upon thousands of dollars worth of the state's business, with all sorts of opportunities for short-changing and for mis-appropriation of the state's money or other property, there was never a hint or a whisper of any mis-use of the state's funds, nor the slightest evidence of a deliberate, purposeful dishonest act in any transaction or relationship where the state's or students' interests were involved. His was the longest continuous administration in the history of the College, and, without doubt, he was the most widely and genuinely beloved. The warm and generous friendships which he enjoyed personally and which came to him the institution over which he presided because of him, knew no bounds of creed or color."

"First among the crowning virtues of his strangely eventful life was his surpassingly beautiful humility of heart and freedom from vanity and egotism. ********** He was never influenced to say or do things in order that he might be thought great or called great. He simply did them for their own sakes, for the good he thought they would do, and because he honestly believed that they were the things that should be done at the time and for the purpose. So that in spite of his wide popularity, and of the unusually high esteem in which he was uniformly held by all classes, he always kept his heart sweetly humble and his acts free from the taint of snobbishness. **********"

"Dr. Rowan did not know how to deliberately deceive anybody. He was never a man to say he would do one thing and then do another. The clarity of his acts and the purity of his motives could be read as clear as crystal through his eyes, which were more than commonly the actual windows of his soul."

Claiborne County
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SUPPLEMENT

Dr. Levi J. Rowan (continued)

**********

"Many times he knew that he was maligned and slandered, and that he was made the object of the most bitter, unkind, and unreasonable criticism, yet he never answered back, never wavered in his kind and courteous treatment, even of his harshest critics. He never stuck back."

********** ---**********

He had great faith in his people, and great hope for their future in this country. He did not believe in a senseless, ceaseless agitation for those things which, though perhaps rightly belong to us, as citizens of this country, yet, on account of the unpreparedness of public opinion to so accord them at this time, they are denied; but believed that this is the Negro's opportunity to win by his deserts a worthy place in the esteem of mankind, and to deserve if necessary, without getting, rather than to get without deserving, the recognition due as citizens of this country."

"He had great faith in God and in right living, and was often heard in his talks to his students to admonish them to live the blameless life, and thus win a bloodless victory over prejudice and proscription, and whatever other forms of opposition it might be their lots to meet in the struggle for life and livelihood."

Annie Lee Patton[1]

" I, (Mrs. Annie Lee (Bowman) Patton, was born in Grenada, Mississippi, September 4, 1911. At the age of 5, my parents placed me in a private educational institution at Morehead, Mississippi, from which

1. Sketch written by herself.

SUPPLEMENT

Annie Lee Patton (continued)

I graduated. Immediately following my graduation from this elementary institution, I entered high school at New Orleans University. I graduated from New Orleans University's High School department with honor in 1928."

"It was my pleasure to have the opportunity to teach the next four years in the city system of Greenwood, Mississippi. During this period of teaching I met my husband, who is a professor at Alcorn A. & M. College. The warm friendship that rapidly developed between us soon changed my future plans; and during the summer of 1930 we married. This happy union gave me, in addition to a husband, a splendid opportunity to further my educational development. At the close of the school term of that year I resigned my position as teacher in the Greenwood system and came to live with my husband at Alcorn College. The very first year of my stay (1932) I enrolled in the freshman class of Alcorn College. It was my pleasure to continue my study continuously, and fortunately my scholarship and other qualities permitted me to complete my college course in three years. I graduated with honor from Alcorn College in 1935. At graduation I was awarded The Miller Prize; (a prize for the highest scholarship of the class). Immediately following graduation from college, I followed my husband for summer study and enrolled with him in THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, in the department of elementary education. Evidently my efforts were not deleterious because immediately after my return to the college from summer study, I was offered the position of Jeanes Supervisor of Claiborne County by Mr. J. Mack Jones, County Superintendent of Education. I accepted this position and today marks the completion of two encouraging and progressive years for the Negro Teachers of Claiborne in an educational way."

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SUPPDEMENT

Annie Lee Patton (continued)

"As Jeanes Supervisor of Claiborne County, I have had a rather difficult but interesting job. Among the many things attempted, I am most grateful for the elevation of the appreciation for educational advancement among Negroes of this county."

"Six new schools have been built under my administration; all have been repaired, and at least 25% have been painted. This year we built a Colored Teachers Work Home at Port Gibson. The objective of this home is to afford an opportunity for the teachers, patrons, and friends to learn to sew, cook, and make material with which to teach; and especially for the teachers to have access to better educational practices of the times."

Enid Richmond

Enid Richmond, County Historian

County History

Division of Folk Customs.

Particular Days.

Memorial Days (Mrs. Sessions Moorehead.)

The interesting thing always about any place is its background. In this little peaceful village of Port Gibson, nestled among the Claiborne hills, vanished traditions still live-traditi ns founded upon the deeds and accomplishments of a distant past.

Long years ago, the battle of Port Gibson was fought on the first of May. In consequence, posterity pays tribute to its soldier dead on this date,(May 1st) rather than the usual one celebrated in April.

The enactment of the drama of the sixties is retold beautifully and reverently every year with a distinguished speaker on the stand. Chamberlain Hunt Academy cadets fire a salute, and public school children march and strew flowers on the graves of the atic of the Confederacy. Always a prayer is said, the ritual read by the chaplain of the day, and then the chosen orator gives forth his message.

Until their passing, the few veterans of the county were always present at these ceremonies. Those brave fellows had taken defeat as it came, harbored no bitter memories, and had accepted disappointment with a valiant spirit. (all are now peacefully sleeping.)

In recent years, the speaker of the day has been chosen from among the outstanding young men of the community. He generally relates some incident in the story of the sixties, and tries to impress upon his hearers that they have a tradition to follow and a responsibility to uphold. It is a lovely and reverent ceremonial. Long may it live!

## Superstitions

There is a superstition about putting umbrellas on beds. They claim if you put an umbrella on a bed some one in the house will die.

A hat belonging to a person in mourning. "I was visiting in the home of some friends at one time when another friend came who had lost her mother. She was wearing deep mourning. She put her hat down and I thought it was a very pretty one, so I decided to try it on. As soon as she saw what I was about to do she screamed," Take it off. Take it off. If you put it on you'll die soon."

There are some people who think if you plant a Spanish dagger near the house some bad luck will befall the inmates. The one most commonly known is fire.

Some people like to plant cedars around the house because of the odor of the cedar. There are people who say if you plant a cedar near the house, as soon as it grows high enough to make a shadow long enough to cover a coffin, the person who planted the tree would die.

## Customs of Dress

Customs of dress-Long years ago "Slat Bonnets", "Fascinators", "Mother Hubbards" and capes, were worn by a great many people. Since the advent of good roads, automobiles, rural delivery, these customs have gradually passed out of existence.

## Relegious Customs

Once a year the Rocky Springs and the Burtonton churches have "Home Comings." Everyone is invited. In the morning service they have a sermon by some minister, either the one stationed there or some guest, songs, talks, historical papers read, histories of the citizens who have died or moved away. At noon a delicious dinner is served to which everybody is invited. In the afternoon they have open meetings in which anyone that wishes may take part. At Rocky Springs the visitors are carried to see Uncle Tommie Owens' (the founder of the church) grave.

Protracted meetings-Before the advent of automobiles, due to the fact that people had to come and go in wagons and buggies, church meetings were held all day long. There was a service in the morning, then "dinner on the grounds" in which everyone spread lunch together, and a service in the afternoon. This was to allow time for the people to return home in time to do their chores before dark.

## Religious customs among the Negroes

In this county when new members are taken in the Christian, Baptist, and the majority of the Methodist churches adults are submerged in the waters of a nearby creek. Ther are brought back to the church, stood in a row, and every member of the church gives them a "right" hand fellowship shake. Then they are seated and the minister proceeds to instruct them on church rulings.

Years ago they were withdrawn from the church roll on a charge of violating church rules. But, at the present time, failure to contribute to the support of the church is the only charge for which they are dismissed.

At their services they resort to various types of worship, some shouting, some mourning, some laughing.

They have a meeting called "Determination Meeting" with a certain Sunday set aside for this, at which they tell of their determination to do better, live more for Christ. Many confess sins which the congregation prays away so they can start out new, sinless.

Two and three times a year rallies are held and four and five preachers are invited to speak, raising their own collection. Often a basket is brought and dinner is served on the grounds. Occasionally the brothers furnish lemonade and the sisters, cake. Once in a while a "dry rally is held and each member pledges a certain amount-cash contribution called "pledge" by them.

## Negro Folk Customs

On New Year's night the colored people of a certain denomination hold a meeting to watch the Old Year out and the New Year in. They first have a religious service consisting of prayers, talks, and songs. At the end of the service

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they have a general foot washing. Only members of this religious sect are allowed to be present at t e washing of the feet.

It is a custom among the colored people to keep awake with their dead, not less than six sitting up all night. Along about nine o'clock they hold a prayer service lasting about an hour and again at four o'clock in the morning another prayer service is held lasting for the above mentioned time. Each member offers a prayer. At twelve coffee is served. The family is never left alone. In addition to the prayers they sing what they call "hallies" all through the night, for example-

"Oh, Lord, will you come by me"

" " " " " ", etc.

As a general thing the immediate family retires.

After the rema ins are placed in the church, and the scripture read by the minister, he conducts prayers for the soul of the individual. He then turns the service over to the sisters of the church who have already prepared a program concerning the life of the individual. As many members as choose get up and make remarks telling what they wish about the life of the deceased. Following this discussion a member rises and gives the age and length of membership. After this the service is turned back to the minister who completes it.

Pounding the preacher is a custom today as well as in the past. This pounding is known as the "Good Thinking Club." A president is elected. The president appoints any member she chooses to hold the pounding at her home. Enough groceries are collected to last the minister over a period of a month. On other occasions this "Good Thinking Club" calls a meeting and collects hats and dry goods for the pastor.



Many believe that it was necessary for them to fast forty days up to twelve o clock in order to seek faith in Christ. Praying continuously up to this hour, they had all the children kneel while a prayer is said at such a pitch that it could be heard.

Begin next page

## Madstone found in 1877

Mr. William ". Holder, has in his possession a madstone which he found in the stomach of a deer. "e says he always looked for these when he killed a deer. But it wasn't until 1877 that he found one. This little stone is about the size of a Stewart pecan and of a light tan color. The stone is in layers, supposedly forming in the deer's stomach. If the stone is boiled for a short while in water and then placed on a mad dog's bite it will prevent rabies.

## David McCaleb

David McCaleb, when a lad, lived in South Carolina, Pendleton District. His father, Captain William McCaleb, was serving in the Continenal army of the American Revolution, but often sought an opportunity to look in upon his family at home. One day he killed a deer and proceeded to dress the animal to leave as meat for his loved ones, when suddenly his wife, Anne, gave warning. A body of Red Coats came riding up to their door, searched the house, saw the half-dressed deer, then demanded the where-abouts of Captain McCaleb. They well knew the small son, David, and his mother had not killed the deer. The heartless British Scouts tried in every way to learn where the husband had gone, but to no avail. Young David was seized and a bridle rein put about his neck to force him to tell, but he said, "I'll die before I shall tell." The boy was hung to a limb and all but dead before his agonized mother, when, praised be God's name, up rode Marion's men. The British fled into the thick woods. David was cut down and revived.

In 1789 Captain "cCaleb and his children all moved to Claiborne Co. near what is not Carlisle on Bayou Pierre. Captain William McCaleb opened what is now known as Hermita ge while David settled at Cold Springs not far distant. The old spring is still in use and stands today as a memorial to David McCaleb wo sleeps beneath a marble shaft on the hillside cemetery of Cold Springs.

David McCalb's father, sleeps, after his hardships as an officer in the Revolutionary War. He and his wife are buried in Hermitage family burying ground. His descendants are numerous and are residing in different parts of the United States.

Mrs. Mary Hunt McCaleb of Vicksburg, a talented writer and poet, wrote the story of Little David in verse about fifty years ago and a number of copies have been preserved in old family scrap books.

Miscellaneous customs.

Negro folklore is the only folklore of mention in Claiborne County. It would be impossible for anyone today to give an interpretation that would compare with Irwin Russell's "Christmas Night in the Quarters". "e sensed their spirits and inner souls to such a degree that he was able to impart negro dialect to the world. One has only to read his poems to get a complete conception of folklore among the negroes. Among the best examples are "Christmas Night in the Quarters". "Nebuchadnezzar", "Precepts at Parts", "Half-Way Doin's" and "Selling a Dog".

Haunted Cabin.

Near Russum there was a cabin with one or two rooms and a loft above. There was a fireplace in the room with a brick chimney perfectly intact with every brick in it. The negroes would move into the house and in a very short time move our.



They would go to Mr. Magruder, the fathe of the lady who told this story to me, to see what he could do for them. They told him as soon as they moved in, a brick would fall to the floor near them and they could not find out where it came from. Mr. "agruder decided he would investigate the matter. So he took two gentlemen with him. He stationed the two men on two sides of the cabin while he went in. "e had been in the cabin but a few minutes when right in front of him appeared a brick. "e looked everywhere to see where the brick came from but could see no vacant place. "e examined the brick and found it marked by a company not in this part of the country while the bricks in the fireplace and chimney had the marks of a company in the South. "e then went outside to see what the other two men had seen, but nothing had happened on the outside. One of them told him that he had been in the house once before and the same thing had happened to him. He said he had taken the brick home with him and it had disappeared. Mr. Magruder wrapped up the brick, took it home and put it away. He didn't tell any of the family about it. In a short time he went to look for the brick but it had disappeared. Mr. "agruder said they never did find where the bricks came from and they did not find where the bricks went. No one would live in the old cabin so it fell to pieces at last.

Following is the story in ve se taken from the scrap book of Mrs. Corndlia F. Glarke: (See "Old Slave Story" in notes of Mrs Hal Headley)

The Old Slave's Story of "ittle David

The sun hung low in the west
'Mid clouds of gold and amber;
The cows came lowing home
From green and fragrant pasture;
The milk maids over the lawn
Went singing on to the cowpen,
Past Uncle Simon's cabin
Gaily chaffing each other.

The old man sat in the doorway
Feeding his numerous chickens;
Under the brim of his hat
His crisp white hair was matted
Where the snowy beard had crept
And helped to cover his temples.
Softly the twilight came
Adown the Bayou Pierre Valley
And, dim in the shadows, lay
The busy scene at the "quarter".
The men were in from the field,
The women were cooking their suppers,
And every hand was busy,
All hearts seemed beating with pleasure.
The children played in the door yards
And danced to the songs of their mothers;
Out from the low-roofed cabin
Came sounds of a beautiful measure--
The songs of the women were hushed
To hear Uncle Simon playing.
There on his doorstept sitting,
His bow swayed backward and forward.
His white beard falling and clinging
Like snow on the strings of his fiddle--
The old man smiled as he played,
And tapped his foot on the doorsill.
Contented and peaceful there
With his master's children about him
Fair little forms had come
And chased away all his chickens;
Hands that were dimpled and white
Had brought Uncle Simon his supper.
For, since Aunt Crecy had died,
There was no one to cook for her husband.
He, too, was well on in years,
And the old slave rested from labor.
So morning, and noon, and night,
His master's beautiful children
Came to the white-washed cabin
With food for the faithful creature.
And many a tale he told
Of wonderful, strange adventure.
In the twlight's dusky shade
With the children gathered around him.
Now clinging about his knees,
The little ones hovered entreating,
"O, tell us the beautiful story
You promised to tell us this evening."



Old Simon drew with his bow
One last long quiver of music, Then laid his fiddle down
Inside of the rugged doorway.
He leaned his arms on his knees
And thus he spoke to the children.
"The tale I promised to tell
Lies many a yere behind me;
It was long before I was born
And I heard it all from my father;
But every word is true,
And happened just as I tell it.
In the war of the Revolution
Way over in South Carolina,
Near the little town of Pickens,
That lies in the Pendleton District;
Your great, great grand father lived
With his wife and little children
He was one of Marion's men--
And none of the band were braver--
He rode like an Indian chief
On his beautiful coal black charger
His love for his fair young wife
was strong and deep in his bosm;
His children grew from himself
Like limbs from a strong young maple
They were proud of their blood and their name--
And proud of their stainless honor.
All steady, and strong and true--
Not one of the race was a coward;
Now this time was when men
Were tried in a furnace of fire;
When the hearts of women were seared,
As if with a red hot iron.
Brave Marion and his men
Were the terror of all the British;
And a price of gold was set
On the head of Captain "' Caleb.

One evening, just as the sun
Was lost in his crimson glory,
My father's master came
To his home, in haste and danger
To kiss his wife and babes;
Then like a loyal soldier,
He tore himself away
And rode off through the shadows.
His eldest son was David--
Tall, handsome like his father,
My father was his playmate,
His friend and loved companion.

The two boys grew together, The slave and his young master,
Scarce feeling that they were so, So strong the love between them.
Ten sunny years had fallen
On the head of little David
When in the rosy gloaming
His father kissed his mothe ;
kissed and told her where to find him
In case of any danger.
David heard the words he uttered,
Knew the place where he was going,
Heard with pride his father saying,
'o his mother, he could trust him;
Then his childish heart grew stronger
And he longed for some fierce danger;
Longed to do and dare and suffer
For his noble, honored father.
The other little children,
In their snowly gowns were lying
Fast asleep, like little angels,
David walked beside his mother:
With his boyish arm about her,
Up and down the long veranda--
Tried to comfort her and cheer her
With the sweetness of affection.
Then the steady tramp of horses
Smote the air along the valley;
And a waving line of shadow
Cleft the moonlight in the distance
Coming nearer still nearer,
Like a serpent, huge and crawling.
The mother gazed in horror,
Pressed her hand on David's shoulder
Till he sank upon his knees, There
White and trembling in the moonlight,
'Tis the Tories '. O! My darling!
They are coming for your father
Swear, my son. And little David
Spoke the oath that she demanded.
Swore to bravely die, if need be
Soone than betray his father.
On they came, like clouds of thunder,
Sweeping downward through the valley;
Tore the great gates from their hinges
Flung the dust in clouds behind them,
As they rode up to the doorway.
There brave, and strong and fearless,
Stood the Lady of McCaleb--
With her little son beside her,
Perfect image of his father--
Stood and faced those British soldiers
Flashing scornful eyes upon them.



One, who seemed to be their leader,
Roughly asked her for her husband,
"We seek the Captain called McCaleb
Is he here?" her brow grew pallid,
"He is not"-she slowly uttered.
"Then where is he?" said the soldier,
"Where he should be" came the answer
"He is with his brave commander
General Marion." "Ha! we know
That he has been here;
That his parting step yet lingers
Warm upon this very threshold.
Woman, all the friends of Hades
Shall not cheat us of this capture!
Will you speak?" She answered "Never,
Never will his wife betray him!"
"Then by the God above us,
The boy shall tell the secret;
Where can we find your father?"
And his hand. with mighty anger,
Fell on little David's shoulder.
The child nor paled nor faltered
As he answered almost fiercely,
"I will die before I tell you."
"Ha! you cursed little rebel!
You shall die or tell the secret.
Ho! there! seize him--fetch a halter!"
Then they laid rude hands upon him,
Tore him roughly from his mother,
Dragged him out into the moonlight
Where the children's swing was swaying:
Bound his little hands behind him,
From the swing rope made a halter,
For his childish throat so white.
Still he bravely stood nor trembled
When they knotted it about him.
The mother looked in horror,
But she neither wept nor pleaded.
Her voice rang clear and steady
As she said, "My boy, remember
You're a soldier 's son, and wear
The proud name of McCaleb."
From her lips, firm and unshaken,
The words had scarcely fallen
When, cruelly and sudden,
The childish form sprang upward;
Then poised in air convulsive
With agonizing struggles--
She saw her child, with eyeballs
Bursting from their sockets,
His face grown livid, purple,
Pressed by the cruel halter,
His little tongue protruding,

His sweet lips twitching, writhing.
His mother knolt there preying;
Shutting out the awful picture
With her white hands pressi g tightly
To her trembling, tear wet lashes.
Praying God to keep him faithful
Unto death, to save his fathe .
Never, for an instant, yielding
Never dreaming of surrender.
Knowing well the boyish bosom
Held the strong heart of his father.
Brave, courageous as a lion,
Knowing naught of fear or danger--
Worthy son of such a sire--
Facing death before dishonor.
Then a cruel oath resounded
Through the length of the veranda;
And her eyes were slowly lifted
As her fingers fell and trembled,
Fell and twined about each other.
They had loosed the rope and flung him--
Flung him senseless to his mother.
With a cry she bent above him,
Felt his heart was faintly beating--
Beating feebly in his bosom.
Then she tried hare to revive him
Till at last he looked upon her;
Looked up at her, bravely smiling,
Faltered out, "I did not tell them
And I will not, though they kill me."
Then again they seized a nd hung him,
Hung him once again before her;
Telling her to speak, or bid him
To direct them to his father .
But the boyish lips were silent
While the mother stood beside him;
Even laid her hand upon him
Telling him to die, if need be,
Die-but not betray his father.
Thrice she saw him swung before her
In that fearful, awful struggle,
Dying like a little hero.
Putting pain and death beneath him,
With a god-like resolution
Then the mighty conflict ended,
And the little hero's figure
Swung in silence in the moonlight, Showing not the slightest motion.

Loud and clear across the mountain
Came the shrill blast of a bugle,
Winding warbling through the valley
And the Tories paused and listened;



Listened to that danger signal
For an instance there in silence.
"Marion's men! they quickly shouted;
At the words of their commander
Every man sprang to his saddle;
Every coward of them trembled,
As they thought of Marion's vengeance
Should his brave men dash upon them.
One, relenting, drew his sabre,
As he passed the swinging figure,
Cut the rope-the childish body
Swayed and fell before his mother,
With a dull dead thud of horror,
Like the first clods on a coffin
Then his old black nurse rushed wildly
Pressed him closely to her bosom;
Saying, "Blessed Cord! he's living!
I can feel his heart a beating'
Jis a tremble- but I feel it."
Then she bore hi to his chamber
While his mother followed after-
Followed like a dreaming woman
Far adown the verdant valley
Lying eastward of the mountain,
Came the gallant men of Marion
With their brave and daring leader
Bearing down upon the Tories,
Right and left they came upon them,
Taking not a single captive,
For their war-cry was "no quarter"
And few indeed were living
When their vengenance had been sated;
One of two crawled through the bushes
Bleeding, weakly seeking shelter
On their hands and knees they grovelled,
Making slow and painful headway,
From the bloody field of battle.
When the gory struggle ended,
And the valley with its ghastly
Load of death and blood was littered,
Then the gallant General Marion
Called his valiant men around him,
Gave them sad and glo my orders-
For the dead must all be buried
And the living must attend them.
Then he rode in silence onwar,
To the homestead of McCaleb
With his loved and loyal captain
Riding swiftly on beside him.
When they reached the grand old mansion
There where lights in all the windows:
Many forms were flitting past them
In the hurry of excitement.

McCaleb's foot scarce rested
On the broad and open doorway
When his wife rushed out to meet him
Falling senseless on his bosom.
When the eyes of little David
Opened up to life and reason,
His father knelt beside him--
Weeping, sobbing on his pillow.
The childish fingers rested
Softly on the soldier's temple,
And the first words that he uttered
Were, --"I did not tell them, father,
I did as mother bade me;
I would have died to save you."
Then they all knelt there about him
Knelt in silence, thanking heaven
For the son spared to the father
Through the courage of his mother,
And his own undaunted spirit.
Not a whispered word was spoken,--
Words seemed meaningless and idle--
While this saintly, baby hero
Rose above them, grand and lovely;
Dwarfing all their boasted courage
With the greatness born within him
Like the Christ child in the temple
There among them crowned with glory.

A hundred years have blossomed
Borne their fruitage, and have fallen
And those war clouds long have vanished
From the peaceful skied above us,
Little David, loved and honored,
Grew to brifht and happy manhood.
Left his father and his mother,
Sought the rolling Mississippi
In the vale of Bayou Pierre
Brought a fair young wife beside him,
Sons and daughters grew about him
Strong and manly, sweet and pleasing;
Peace and plenty crowned his hearth-stone,
Filled his years with happy measure.
From the broad old-fashioned windows
Of the mansion that he builded,
One can see the gleaming marble,
Of his tomb upon the hillside
Trees he planted bend above him
Like a silent gurad of honor.
Where six generations slumber
Of the grand race of McCaleb.

Old Simon's voice grew fainter
Fainter still, as darkness gathered;
And the children listened-listened-
Crep up to him, leaned upon him;
But the silence and the darkness
Wrapped him closely like a mantle--
The old man had told his story
And had died there as he told it.(1)

1898 Mary Hunt McCaleb

1. Taken from clippings of the Port Gibson Reveille from an old scrapbook belonging to Mrs. Cornelia Clarke.

CHURCH HISTORY

WHITE

I. STATISTICS: 1. Number churches of all denomination in county-20

a. Name of pastor and frequency of service.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Methodist churches:** | | |
| Port Gibson | J. E. Gray | Every Sunday |
| Hermanville | S. B. Watkins | These churches are all on one circuit, having services once a month, the smaller ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ charges in the afternoon |
| Rocky Springs | | |
| Carlisle | | |
| Hickory Ridge | | |
| Pattison | | |
| Sarepta | | |
| Willows | On the Lorman, Jefferson County circuit. | |
| Brandywine | On Copiah County circuit. Services once a month. (1) | |
| **Baptist churches:** | | |
| Port Gibson | Reed Polk | Every Sunday |
| Hermanville | Delton Walker | Once a month |
| Pattison | B. L. Mohon | Once a month |
| Ingleside | A. J. Hughes | Once a month |
| Beechgrove | B. L. Mohon | Once a month (2) |
| **Presbyterian churches:** | | |
| Port Gibson | Wade H. Harrell | Every Sunday |
| Bethel | Wade H. Harrell | Twice a month (3) |

(1) Information on Methodist churches from S. B. Watkins, pastor of Hermanville church.
(2) Information on Baptist churches from J. McJones, clerk of Union Baptist Church.
3. Information on Presbyterian churches from a member of the Presbyterian Church in Port Gibson.

CHURCH HISTORY

I. a. Name of Pastor and frequency of service.-cont'd.

Catholic churches:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Port Gibson | Rev. Father Quinn | Once a month (1) |

Hebrew :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gamiluth Chassed, Port Gibson | Has no regular services. A member of the congregation holds the service for them.(2) | |

Episcopal churches:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Port Gibson | Rev. Joseph Kuehnle | Once a month (3) |
| Hermanville | Rev.Clifford | Fifth Sundays only |

b. Name | Location | Membership

District One

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Methodist | Port Gibson | 175-250 |
| Baptist. | Port Gibson | 250 to 300 |
| Presbyterian | Port Gibson | 200 to 250 |
| Catholic | Port Gibson | 12 to 15 |
| Hebrew (Gamiluth Chassed) | Port Gibson | About 25 |
| Episcopal | Port Gibson | 20 to 25 |
| Presbyterian | Bethel | Varies |

Since membership in the county churches increases and diminishes so rapidly it is impossible to give the exact number of members

District Two

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Shiloh (Baptist) | Ingleside | Varies |

District Three

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Methodist | Hickory Ridge | Varies |
| Methodist | Rocky Springs | Varies |
| Methodist | Willows | Varies |

1. Mrs. G. Acker, member of the Catholic church, Port Gibson.
2. Mrs. Karl Weil, member of the Hebrew temple, Port Gibson.
3. Mrs. E. L. Chamberlain, member of Episcopal church, Port Gibson.

I. b.

| Name | Location | Membership-cont'd |
|---|---|---|
| | DISTRICT FOUR | |
| Baptist | Hermanville | Varies |
| Methodist | Hermanville | Varies |
| Episcopal | Hermanville | Varies |
| Methodist | Carlisle | Varies |
| | District Five | |
| Methodist | Pattison | Varies |
| Baptist | Pattison | Varies |
| Methodist | Sarepta | Varies |
| Methodist | Brandywine | Varies |
| Baptist | Beechgrove | Varies |

c. State Denominational Institutions in your County:

| Name | Location |
|---|---|
| Chamberlain Hunt Academy | Port Gibson, Mississippi |



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

Port Gibson Presbyterian Church.

"Allison Ross, a wealthy young planter in the vicinity of Port Gibson, had graduated in the college at Princeton, New Jersey, in the same class with Zebulon Butler, and cherished for his class mate an ardent personal esteem and friendship. He told the citizens of Port Gibson he would recommend to them a preacher, and endorse him as a gentleman, with every qualification which they could reasonably ask.

Soon afterward, one day an exceedingly handsome young man, of youthful appearance, was seen riding through the streets, on horseback. Inquiry discovered that he was the young preacher recommended them by Allison Ross, on his way from Clinton to a religious meeting at Bethel Church, in the vicinity of Oakland College.. A few days afterward the handsome young man was seen riding, on horseback, through the streets on his return to Clinton; he was halted and a letter was place in his hands; its purport was to inform him, that $300 were deposited in the bank for him, and a subscription of $12,000 was raised, and the citizens of Port Gibson desirded him to preach the gospel to them; if the salary was not sufficient, he was requested to name the amount. If a voice had called audibly to him from heaven, he would not have been more profoundly amazed. He put the letter in his pocket to pray over it. He showed the letter to his brethren in the ministry, who were unanimous in construing it into a divine call to him. The circumstances all combined to warrant the belief that God, who by His Spirit had called him to preach the Gospel, by His Special Providence had opended and pointed out his field of labor. He could not doubt the manifest hand of God in this call, under the solemn conviction that the duty was laid upon him by the same divine authority which called him to preach the

II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized-------contd.

Port Gibson Presbyterian Church----------contd.

gospel, which he dared not, and desired not to disobey. He accepted the invitation and entered upon his ministry at Port Gibson in 1827. He faithfully and with a burning zeal, which never grew cold, preached the gospel, and labored at that place from that time to the end of his life. He died on Christmas, 1860.

He built one of the largest and most influential churches in the Southwest, and exerted a great influence for good, over an extensive section of the county. "He left a name universally honored and loved." "1

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1. Taken from the Southwestern Presbyterian of Nov. 2, 1871, found in a scrap book of A. P. Montgomery now in possession of Mrs. Marion B. Person.



II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized.------contd.

Bethel Church.

In the year 1828 the Legislature of Mississippi granted a charter to that portion of Bethel Congregation now worshiping in Rodney under the name of the 'Presbyterian Congregation of Petit Gulf' and designated David Hunt, Jno. Savage, John Watt and James Conden, as trustees with the power of appointing their successors at the same time and in the same act, the Legislature granted a charter to that portion of the congregation worshipping at Bethel, two miles from the college (Oakland) under the style and name of the 'Presbyterian Congregation of Bethel' and named Wm. Young, Lewellin Price, Jno. Magruder, and Smith C. Daniell, trustees of the same with the power of electing their successors. The first building for public worship erected by this double congregation, was located in the rear of the plantation of the late Smith Hubbard and James Batchelor, about three miles east of the town of Rodney. In a short time the little church became inconvenient and about 1824, efforts were made to build two houses, one at Bethel Cross Roads, and another at Rodney. The prominent actors in this new enterprise were Daniel Hunt, Jno. Bolls, Smith Hubbard, Dr. Rush Nutt, Jno. Murdock, Sen. M. McClutchy, and also Matthew Bolls.

"The first stated minister of the church was Rev. Samuel Hunter, a native of Ireland, who preached at different points in the vicinity; and about 1826 organized Bethel Church, an offshoot of the old Bethel near Fayette, made up of members principally from the Old Bayou Pierre Church, which worshipped formerly in a log building, on the road now leading from Mrs. Crane's residence to Port Gibson, and near the residence of Mr. Venable.

II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized------contd.

Bethel Church----------contd.

The original members composing the Bayou Pierre Church and then incorporated into Bethel Church, were John Bolls, Elder, Mrs. Catherine Crane, Lewellin Price, Wm. Young, Dr. Rush Nutt, Mrs. Nutt, Mrs. Elisa Kerr, David Hunt, Mrs. Anna F. Hunt and others. Early in the spring of 1828 Mr. Hunter retired from the care of Bethel and Rodney churches and the Rev. Zebulon Butler took charge of the congregation in conjunction with the church at Port Gibson, for one year.
In addition to his position as President of Oakland College, Dr. Chamberlain preached at Rodney and Bethel alternately for seven years. (1)

1. Information on Bethel Church taken from the Southwestern Presbyterian of Sept. 14, 1871.



II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized----------contd.

Methodist Church at Port Gibson.

"Ministers of the Methodist church preached occasionally at Port Gibson before 1820, but no regular organization was made until 1827, when Rev. Thomas Griffin gathered some persons into the church. Port Gibson at that period was considered quite an irreligious community, and Mr. Griffin met great opposition. Among the early members were the Humphreys and Jeffries families, Joshua Kelley and his wife, Mrs. Isabella Kelley, Thomas Loury and Mrs. Susan Loury and Mr. James Mason and J. L. Foote. In the early history of the church it was favored with the ministrations of those eminent men Dr. William Winans, Dr. Bill Drake, Rev. John G. Jones and Rev. Elias Porter. For a time the congregation, as all others, worshipped in the courthouse. A church was erected in 1830, which was in a few years destroyed by fire. Another was then built on the same spot. This was removed, and the present imposing brick structure was completed on the old site in 1859, costing $20,000.(1)

1. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. II, Page 216.

II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized.----------contd.

St. James Episcopal Church, Port Gibson

"One of the four churches represented at the first Diocesan Council, in Natchez, was the St. John's, Port Gibson. The Rev. Albert A. Muller, reported to the convention that on April 9. 1826, he had this parish which was represented in council by the Rev. John Murts Cloud, newly elected rector, the Hon. Joshua Clarke, Chancellor of the State, and J. W. Foote, lay delegates.

In 1848 the parish was reorganized by the Rev. F. W. Boyd and the name changed from St. John's to St. James' Church.

The great need of the parish had always been a church building. The congregation had worshipped in the Court House, the Odd Fellows Hall, and in an abandoned church. In 1860 the sum of $500 had been subscribed, but the "War Between the States ensued and in the general impoverishment of the country the amount was never realized--even a lot purchased and partly paid for was lost." The Ladies Aid Association of St. James raised $2500 and bought a lot with a house on it and surrounded by ample grounds for the erection of a church at some future time. The house, one of the town's old landmarks, and pointed out to this day as the home of the poet Irwin Russell, was converted into a rectory and first occupied by the Rev. James S. Johnston.

The required sum was realized through the efforts of the Rev. Nowell Logan the vestry, the Aid Association, the parishioners, and their friends for the building of a church. The corner stone of and the new church was laid October 30, 1884.

PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized.----------contd.

St. James Episcopal Church, Port Gibson.----------contd.

Having existed since 1826 without a charter the parish was duly incorporated under the laws of the State, March 28, 1882, under the name: "The Wardens and Vestryment of St. James Church." After the church was completed the untiring and energetic labors of the capable and winning Dr. Logan centered in the building up of a strong Sunday School in which he was able assisted by the superintendent, Capt. N. S. Walker, his two gifted sisters, Misses K. M. and M. A. Logan, Miss Julia Muir, and others.

Under the leadership of the Reb. Arthur Hosard Noll, a bell tower was erected and a peal of three bells installed, as well as other beautiful memorials. While the Rev. W. E. Dakin was rector a new rectory was built--and a branch of the Woman's Auxiliary was organized." (1)

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1. The Church News of the Diocese of Mississippi (no date)

PIONEER CHURCHES: When and how organized.----------contd.

Episcopal (Epionany) - Hermanville, Mississippi.

The earliest Episcopal church, known as Epiphany, in Claiborne County was organized by a neighborhood of pioneer citizens in 1846, and located about one mile from the present post office, Carlisle. It is the second oldest rural parish in Mississippi. The land, 30 acres, was given by Joseph Jones for the site of the church and rectory. Mr. Joseph Jones financed the building of the rectory while David McCaleb, another pioneer citizen, financed the building of the church and gave a pipe organ. This organ was placed in the church in 1838. Many people of note have played on it, among them Mr. Wheeler, organist of Christ's Church, New Orleans. The pipes are made of Norwegian pine. Only once in its history has it been tuned. This make-Erben-is no longer in existence and parts can not be duplicated. (1)

1. Mrs. M. L. McCaleb, member of the Episcopal church, Hermanville.



II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized.xźx----------contd.

RockySprings Methodist Church

The first church erected at Rocky Springs was sponsored and financed by Rev. Thomas Owens and his faithful members in 1837. The brick were baken in xx a kiln close by, and a brick mason, George W. Reynolds, built the structure as we see it today. The only change in appearance during the past 97 years, was the removal of the old belfry in 1901. This was considered dangerous, and was torn away.

The palatial and well appointed home of Thomas Owens and his beloved wife, Rebecca, was for thirty years open to their friends of the Rocky Springs circuit. The pastor of this church was not entirely dependent upon his flock for a livelihood. His wife had inherited an estate with a number of slaves; and the Owens family lived in affluence, as did others of this community.

Every year brought its blessings, and at times, sorrows to each home. Prosperity, though, was ever present with these splendid people of Rocky Springs Church. In 1930 Rocky Springs church was added to Hermanville circuit. (1)

This church celebrated its hundredth anniversary, June 1937.

1. From a paper read by Mrs. W. A. Clark on Homecoming Day at Rocky Springs, Sept., 1934

II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized:----------contd.

Baptist Church at Port G ibson.

The second Baptist Church to be co nstituted on Mississippi soil was "on the Fork of Bayou Pierre" August, 1798, by Rev. Richard Curtis, then pastor of Coles Creek Church which had become known as Salen Baptist Church.

This marks the beginning of Baptist operation in the territory which later became Claiborne County. This beginning was in the vicinity of Port Gibson. Owing to the paucity of available records the exact location of the Bayou Pierre church cannot be determined. It is very probable that the Magnolia church near Port Gibson is the old Bayou Pierre church. Likewise the organization of the Magnolia Church is not authenticated: but it was active church long before the War between the States. The Magnolia church surely was a re-organization or continuation of the Bayou-Pierre church.

The Magnolia church disbanded just after the War between the States, and members went to other churches, some to Fellowship, some came to Port Gibson and in 1872 organized the Port Gibson Baptist church with a very few members. This was a re-organization of the Magnolia church and a continuation of the Bayou Pierre church in Port Gibson as the Port Gibson Baptist church.

For several years the Port Gibson Baptist church had no house of worship. They held their meetings in the school house, court house and sometimes under a brush arbor: not being able to build a house of worship. Later, about, 1880, the Lord graciously smiled upon this little struggling band to the extent that they secured a very desirable



II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized:----------contd.

Baptist Church at Port Gibson.----------contd.

in 1923 bought another pastor's house and erected a twenty-five thousand dollar brick building and furnishing in Doric style.

In the last twenty-five years the Port Gibson Baptist church has gone forward from a small frame building; a membership of twenty-five, and one fourt h time services; to a twenty-five thousand dollar building; two hundred and fifty enrolled members and full time services, also have sent out a number of Christian workers. The future prospects of the continuance of this constructive and aggresive work is very encouraging. (1)

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1. Dr. J. V. May, Church Clerk of the Baptist Church, Port Gibson.

II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 1. When and how organized: ~~6666666~~ cont'd.

Baptist Church at Port Gibson.

location and builded a very nice church house and pastor's home. Not without the debt of a few hundred dollars; which was the cause of their soon losing their property. This property was taken over by the mortgagee and convey ed to another denomination; who did not maintain a church very long. The church and home was finally used to build a dwelling and barn. In the face of such great reverses and misfortune this little band continued to work and pray and about 1895 they succeeded in securing another desirable piece of property and builded another house of worship and pa stor's home free of debt. At this time the Port Gibson Baptist church had a membership of about twenty-five and had one fourth time preaching services.

The State Mission Board has helped this church at times but never seem to give it the consideration deserved. Timely and proper aid by the Mission Board would have changed the history of this church. This church was doomed to wrestle and struggle with local problems the best she could, which she did graciously and manfully.

Owing to the small mem bership, na ture of the work and small pay it has been difficult to keep a pastor on the field very long at a time. The church in the last thirty years has been without a pastor for more than a year at a ti me; however there has not been a break in the continuance of the Sunday School and the Woman's Missionary Society in the last twenty-five years.

In 1920 the Port Gibson Baptists started another building program; and



II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 2. Architecture.

The Gothic influence is seen in the three beautiful spires on the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Catholic churches. This influence pervades in tower and steeple, mingled some features with the English Renaissance influence. The exceedingly graceful spires are distinguishing features. These churches were built during the "Gothic Revival". (Fully discussed under Fine Arts, Assign-Number Sixteen.

3. How financed.

All of the churches are finance d by donations and collections from the members of the variou s church con gregations.

4. Church activities:-

a. all day services, Fifth Sunday meetings.

During the pioneer days and even as late as the early 1900's the rural churches had all day services, with dinner on the ground during the noon hour. This arrangement of services was made, on account of the distance traveled to churches, a nd the use of carriages and horses.

When the crops were "laid by" which was usually in August, these same churches, generally the Methodist and Baptist, had protracted meetings, often lasting a week or ten days. These services were held twice a day with dinner on the ground, rather than having a night service as these trips would overtax the strength of the horses.

Protracted meetin gs were lo oked forward to with pleasure, as the

II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 4. Church activities----------contd.

a. all days services, Fifth Sunday meetings---contd,

noon hour and dinner were a social feature. Neighbors and friends, often not seeing each other for months, would meet, renew friendship, and exchange bits of neighborhood and county news.

Often on fifth Sundays, meetings were held for the purpose of discussing the business affairs of the church, with a short church service first. Sometimes they had all day services with dinner and the business meeting in the afternoon. (1)

b. camp meetings -- None

c. singing schools- None

d. grave yard workings.

In nearly all pioneer church yards, will be found grave yards. Generally every family lot was enclosed with a fence either iron or brick. These were tended by members of the families. Occasionally the entire community would gather here and clear off all under growth, care for flowers and shrubbery in gene ral, sometimes bringing lunch and spending the day.(2)

e. Church discipline--unable to get.

f. roll calls

There were no regular roll calls. Occasionally they would check to see what families had moved away or if there were new families moved in.

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1. This information has been gathered after interviewing members of various churches.

2. Information by Mrs. Mary S. Richmond, member of pioneer family.



II. PIONEER CHURCHES: 5. Church organizations:

There were Sunday Schools in nearly all the churches in the county where pupils of all ages studied the Bible. Ladies' Aid Societies were organized in nearly every church. They looked after the parsonages and other church interests. (1)

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1. Miss Mary Naasson, member of the Port Gibson Methodist Church.

CHURCH HISTORY

III. MODERN CHURCHES: 1. Architecture.

Described in II. 2 of this Assignment and in the assignment on Fine Arts, #16. Most of the churches in the county are wooden frame buildings.

2. Pastor's Home

Most of the pastor's homes were furnished and financed by the Ladies' Aid Societies.

3. Church Organizations

Only the Sunday Schools in Port Gibson are graded. However, Sunday School as a whole is held in many of the rural churches. There are missionary societies in the churches in Port Gibson and the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist churches have young peoples organizations.

4. Noted Ministers, missionaries, etc.

In the Methodist church some good ministers Rev. E. H. Mounger, Dr. Hunnicutt and others. One of the most outstanding Christian workers is Miss Katie A. Drake. This church has sent one missionary to China, Miss Nell Drake. She has been a missionary for twenty-five or thirty years.

In the Catholic church, Father Bond was one of the outstanding priests. He is now at the St. Louis Cathedral where he is a very fine priest and writer.

IV. INDIAN CHURCHES:

There are no Indian churches in Claiborne county.

CHURCH HISTORY

V. NEGRO CHURCHES: 1. Architecture.

Most of the churches are wooden framed buildings of only room. There is one brick edifice in Port Gibson, formerly a white church.

2. Pastor's homes

Very few of the negro churches have pastor's homes.

3. Church Organizations

4. Noted ministers.

We have been unable to gather enough data on the above two items. Most of the churches are so scattered and also so numerous, there being several little cross road churches in each district, that one is unable to get definite information about them.

(s) Enid Richmond

Enid Richmond
Historian, Claiborne County

"Schools of Yesterday"

"Schools of Yesterday" were at first all private schools taught in the homes of the families. A tutor or governess was employed to teach the children and the governess had complete care of the children. She ate her meals with them in order to teach them table manners; she supervised their play and saw to their being put to bed on time by the slaves. As the children grew older they were sent to higher schools, academies and then to college. Some of these early schools in Claiborne County were Port Gibson Female Academy, Willows school, three Grand Gulf schools; a girls' school began by Rev. Killkelly; a boys' school began by Mr. Gingaline; a boys' school began by Mr. William Healy; and to these was added a school for younger pupils under the supervision of Mrs. Abbot; the Elliot Academy at Port Gibson, Brashear Female Academy, the Select Dancing Academy, and the Lawrence High School.

As early as 1831 the Port Gibson Female Academy was opened in Port Gibson by Mrs. C. M. Thayer of Washington, Miss. (This was not the school later known as the Port Gibson Female Academy). The following advertisement was in the Port Gibson Correspondent of Sept. 24, 1831:

"Mrs. C. M. Thayer respectfully informs her friends and the public, that she has relinquished the superintendence of the Elizabeth Female academy at Washington and proposes to fix her permanent residence in Port Gibson, where she will be prepared to receive pupils on Monday the 17th of Oct."

"The course of education will be thorough, and Mrs. Thayer pledges her best exertions to render her academy worthy the patronage of the citizens

"Schools of Yesterday"------ -------(continued)

of Port Gibson and its vicinity. The school will be divided into three classes, the Senior, Junior, and Preparatory. In the Preparatory class pupils will be instructed in Orthography, Reading, Writing, Intellectual Arithmetic, and the elements of Geography. In the Junior, the studies of the preceding class will be continued, with the addition of Written Arithmetic, Grammar, History, and the use of the Globes. The Senior class will be instructed in Natural, Moral, and Intellectual Philosophy, Chemistry, Botany, Algebra, Geometry, and the History and Government of the United States.

Pupils belonging to either class may be instructed in the French Languages; and it is proposed to add drawing and music, as soon as suitable. Instructeresses can be obtained.

The scholastic year will consist of two sessions of 23 weeks each; at the close of which public examinations wil be held, and regular examinations will take place, on the last Fridays of every month, when the parents and the friends of education in general, are respectfully invited to attend. Visitors will also be welcome at all hours when the school is in session."

Terms

| | |
|---|---|
| "Tuition in regular classes | $40 |
| French alone | 20 |
| For those who attend regular classes, French | 10 |
| Fuel for season | 2 |

Payments to be made quarterly in advance. Pupils will not be received for a shorter period than one session and no deduction will be made for

"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

loss of time, except for indisposition.

Mrs. Thayer tends her grateful acknowledgement for the very liberal support she has heretofore received, and proffers assurances of unremitted attention to the literary and moral improvement of the young ladies committed to her care.

N. B. Boarding in private families can be obtained on reasonable terms and a few young ladies can be accommodated under the immediate superintendence of the principal.

Arrangements have been made to procure a supply of Books and Stationary

Port Gibson, Sept. 19, 1851."

Another private school was opened at the little town of Willows. This advertisement was found in the Port Gibson Correspondent of July 21, 1852

"SCHOOL"

"The citizens of Claiborne County are respectfully informed that Andrew Ross will recommence his School at the Willow Spring, ten miles north of Port Gibson, on the first Monday in August. Prices for the several branches are per session, $15, $20, $25. Boarding can be had in neighborhood in respectable families at from $ to $8 per month. Persons wishing further information are referred to Messrs. J.E. Sugg, John Burnet, D. Willis, M. or Alex McGilvery, Wm. Kennison, and Peter McIntyre, who can give any information that may be desired."

July 10, 1852.

N. B. "It is considered a very healthy place."



"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

As Grand Gulf was a flourishing little town we find that there was a large school in the above place as well as smaller ones. An interview with Mrs. Clara Harwood, a citizen of Port Gibson, but in her childhood a citizen of Grand Gulf, gives the following about the schools in that place.

"In the late 1830's the Rev. Killkelly opened a school at Grand Gulf for girls. Among his teachers were Mrs. Eliza Warren and her daughters. Among the pupils was Miss Fannie Konnard, afterward Mr. Fannie Walker of Port Gibson. There were two schools for boys conducted respectively by a Mr. Zingaline and a Mr. William Healy, a brother of the two portrait painters, George Healy of international fame and Tom Healy, well known years ago in Port Gibson. There were also schools for younger pupils conducted by a Mrs. Abbot. Among her pupils was Thomas Harwood. The following is an incident of which he was fond of relating:

"Mrs. Abbot had on the end of her mantel a life-sized statue made of chalk of a very studious youngster. Thomas Harwood, failing to concentrate as he should, Mrs. Abbot set him on the mantel that he might imbibe this very desirable quality from the chalk figure. He grew drowsy in his great effort, fell asleep, and tumbled off the mantel."

Our first public school teacher was a Mr. Barlow, a Yankee, who came on the scene just prior to the War between the States. He tried to carry out Northern methods with Southern pupils. Some of his pupils were high school pupils. Attempting to use the rod on a young lady, he found he had tried the wrong method. She grabbed him and tore his chin whiskers out. The boys mobbed him. During this high school period

"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

Mrs. Cornelia Hervey opened a private school. Mrs. A. E. Heath of Port Gibson attended this school.

After the War all was changed. A Mr. William Healy before mentioned was tutor in Dr. Benjamin Harwood's family. He was also county surveyor, so we had frequent holidays. He did not use the rod but very endearing terms. When we failed in our lessons, he called us "darling" and"sugar plums"."

When Clara Pearson, now Mrs. Harwood, was 16 years old she taught private school for several years and later conducted the Public School for five years.

Besides having schools for girls it was necessary to open schools for boys. In the Port Gibson Reveille of July 17, 1856 we find this advertisement:

Elliott Academy.

"Under the control of J. Boyd Elliott, principal and proprietor.

Foster Thayer-A. B.,Professor of Languages.

Walter Wade- B. A.,Professor of Mathematics."

"Having associated ourselves together for the purpose of advancing the educational interests of the county, as well as for our own advantage; we have made the most complete arrangements for accommodating and teaching thoroughly 60 pupils.

All maps, Globes, Apparratus, etc., are provided gratis, and we believe that we can give the most perfect preparations for the Junior class in



"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

any College or University, ever before offered to this community. Those desiring an education for any practical business can complete their studies with us.

Pupils beginning their course will be under the charge of the Principal and arrangements have been made for all who may apply from a distance to board either with the Principal or some of the Professors."

"Tuition

According to the class

| | |
|---|---|
| First Class per session of 10 months | $30 |
| Second " " " " " " | 50 |
| THird " " " " " " | 70 |
| Fourth " " " " " " | 100 |

Due when the student is enrolled and no deductions will be made except for protracted sickness.

We refer to all our former parents and students and application for further information may be had by applying to the Principal or any of the faculty.

'Port Gibson, July 17, 1856."

It has not been possible to find out the building in which this Academy was founded. It closed its doors during the early part of the War between the States.

Brashear Female Academy was another school of yesterday, with the following advertisement in the Port Gibson Reveille , June 13, 1857.

"Brashear Female Academy

"Schools of Yesterday'----------(continued)

Miss M. Marvin, Principal

Miss S. M. Warner, Assistant Teacher in English, Latin, Drawing, Painting, etc.

Miss M. Schalk, Teacher in Music, French, German, and Spanish."

"Miss Marvin takes this method of informing the public, that the next session of her school will commence on Wednesday the 1st of October in the above named Academy, which is now in course of erection in the rear of the Presbyterian Church."

"The principal finds it necessary to open a house for the accommodation of herself and Teachers, which will enable her to board a limited number of pupils.

The scholastic year will be divided into two sessions of twenty weeks each. Instruction will be given in English, French, German, Spanish, and the Latin Languages. Music upon the Piano, Guitar, Organ, also Drawing, Painting and needlework taught."

"Terms:

| | |
|---|---|
| "Instruction in English Branches per session | $25.00 |
| French, German, Latin, and Spanish | $20.00 |
| Music | $30.00 |
| Use of Instruments | $ 5.00 |
| Drawing and Needlework, each | $15.00 |
| Grecian Painting | $40.00 |
| Incidentals | $ 1.00 |
| Board including washing, fuel, and lights | $75.00 |

"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

No deduction will be made from the time of entering to the end of the session. Charges will also be made for extras from the time of commencement to the end of the session.

Port Gibson, Aug. 17, 1846."

This school was located on the corner of the lot belonging to the Presbyterian Church south east of where Brashear Academy now stands. It was a one story house and was built early in the 1850's. Miss Marvin was living in the house in which the L. P. Williams family is now living. She had a few boarders and as soon as Brashear Academy was finished in 1857, Miss Marvin moved into it.

This school did not close when Port Gibson Female College was opened. It seems th have closed during the War betweenthe States.

Most of the girls and some boys during that time attended the school/

Select Dancing Academy, Port Gibson and Rodney, Miss.

"H. St. Maur Stuart respectfully announces to the heads of families of the aforementioned communities that he will open classes for the purpose of giving instruction in polite gesture and the latest style of fashionable Dancing, introducing during the course, those especial favorites of the elite of fashion, L'Empire, Les Lanciers, and Caledonian Quadrilles. A practical knowledge of either, facilities the acquirement of that courtly elegance of manner which every youth should possess who properly values his personal appearance--

"That elegance devoid of art
That dignity that's lost in vain."

Parents or Guardians wishing to avail themselves of the present course,

"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

will please send their children in time as other engagements will prevent possibility of another visit this season. Rodney Class will meet every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3 to 6 o'clock P. M. commencing Monday, May 2nd.

Port Gibson Class will meet Thursday, Friday and Saturday, from 3 to 6 o'clock P. M. commencing Thursday, May 5th."

Terms for the course of 15 lessons $12."

Schools like this were held in the Port Gibson Opera House.

The above advertisement was found in the Weekly Southern Reveille of May 5, 1859.

Some high schools of yesterday were not public or free schools as we see from an advertisement in the Weekly Southern Reveille of May 5, 1859.

The Lawrence High School.

"The annual session of this institution will open on the Second Monday in Sept., 1858 and close on the Friday before the fourth of July following.

Patrons of the school may rely upon it, that every effort of the Principal shall be devoted to the purpose of the rapid and thorough advancement in learning of the pupils entrusted to his charge."

"Tuition

will be according to classes, and due when the student is enrolled, or the bill presented; no deductions being made for absence except in case of sickness protracted.



"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

1st Class-Just beginning with letters and First Reader, per session of ten months $30.00

2nd Class-In Spelling, Second Reader, Geography, Arithmetic, and Penmanship.

3rd Class-In Spelling and Defining, Third Reader, History of United States, Geography, Arithmetic, and Partnership.

4th Class-In Spelling and Derivation, Universal History, Geography, English Grammar, and Composition.

5th Class-In English Composition, Latin, Greek, or French Language, Algebra and Geometry, etc."

Z. M. Lawrence

Port Gibson, Miss., Aug. 14, 1858."

The following is taken from the History of Port Gibson, Mississippi BY Rev. H. G. Hawkins, Pg. 295.

"The first academy in the neighborhood of Port Gibson was the Madison Academy, about three miles away, on land owned by William Lindsay. On December 5, 1809, the Territorial Legislature passed an act of incorporation whereby "the school on the north fork of the Bayou Pierre in the neighborhood of Port Gibson, now under the direction of Henry C. Cox, is erected into an academy hereafter to bear the name of Madison Academy, etc.," but it did not prosper, and in 1814 the Legislature authorized its removal to a more eligible site, not to be more than three miles from the town of Port Gibson. Its after fate is not known."

Assignment Eleven

"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

"Port Gibson Female College was projected as far back as 1826 and under the name of Clinton Academy was incorporated by a legislative act of January 26, 1826; the trustees being R. A. Van Dorn, A. C. Prince, James Nicholls, Daniel Greenleaf, Benj. Hughes, Isaac Loring, James Moore A. K. Wooley, and James Cotton. They were empowered to raise, by lottery $2,000 for erecting the building. The academy was made exempt from taxation to the extent of $20,000.

By act of Legislature January 31, 1833, the following trustees were appointed: R. A. Van Dorn, A. W. Putnam(a grandson of General Israel Putnam B. Hughes, Eastmore Hooper, James Callender. The act provided that the proceeds from taxes on billiard tables and from sale of estrays should go to the academy.

An act of February 12, 1830, changed the name from Clinton Academy to Port Gibson Academy.

In March, 1839, Horace Clark, for the sum of $5,100, sold to the trustees square 36, subdivision St. Mary, which is its present site. It was organized under the control of the Presbyterians. The erection of the present main building in 1839 put the trustees in debt, and a new set of men (chiefly Methodists) paid it out and assumed control.

On March 3, 1854, the institution was incorporated and chartered as the Port Gibson Collegiate Academy, and in 1881 an amendment was made in the charter, changing the name to Port Gibson Female College. The old minute book of the college does not take the records back of September 11, 1843. On that date the proprietors of the Port Gibson Academy entered in

"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

to an agreement which is on record. The following parties signed their names as proprietors: D. C. Humphreys, D. S. Humphreys, H. S. Jeffries, Samuel Coburn, M. T. Millett, C. W. Humphreys, J. A. Murray, Benj. C. Humphreys, Elias Bridges, Joseph Davenport, John S. Chambliss and Peter Chambliss.

The sessions have been consecutive, except as interrupted by the War of Secession, during a part of which the college became a military hospital. John Harvie, A. M., took charge of the school in April, 1844 There is in existence one of the catalogues published by him in 1847; this catalogue is a queer relic. Its dimensions are two by three inches it was published in New York and is bound in leather. The first graduate was Miss Mary Jeffries, in 1848. She married D. Humphreys. Some of grandchildren were members of the student body during the session of 1907-1908. On June 17, 1858, it was resolved:

"That this institution will hereafter confer upon the graduates honors according to merit: first, valedictory; second, salutatory; third, reward of merit; fourth, premium."

The school seems to have attained a state of high efficiency during the administration of Rev. B. Jones, for at a meeting of the trustees in 1851 a lengthy resolution was passed complimenting him and his wife, in which it is stated that his five years at the head of the institution had secured for it a "high standing among the places of learning in the South."

The following is a list of the different presidents that the school has had: John Harvie, T. H. Capers, Ben Jones, A. L. Stark, A. J. Wright, B. Jones, R. S. Ricketts, T. W. Brown, J. A. B. Jones, T. C. Bradford,

"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

Miss Mary Compton, W. H. Huntley, Mrs. M. H. Mack, L. S. Jones and H. C. Hawkins. The degrees have usually been M. E. L., but now and then we notice an A. M., for instance, Miss Cato, in 1880. The school had one male graduate, Branch Hayes, who received the degree of B. P. in 1879.

The collegeoccupies a block of land in the beautiful residence portion of the town. In the old catalogue issued by Mr. Harvie the value of the building was estimated at $30,000. Since then there have been additions of a brick dormitory and a small frame dormitory. The college is the property of the Mississippi Conference, M. E. Church. The literary course leads to the A. B. degree, and there are departments of Music, Art, Elocution, Dress-making and Commerce."

The school closed its doors in 1928.

The Port Gibson College was nearing its century mark when, by a decree of the Mississippi Conference, the school automatically went out of existence at the end of the session, Thursday, May 30, 1928.



"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

The following article was written by Major J. W. Kennedy, the present president of Chamberlain Hunt Academy.

"The origin of Oakland College may be traced to Rev. Jeremiah Chamberlain, D.D., a native of Pennsylvania, born in the town of Gettysburg, of pious Presbyterian parents in the year 1795. At an early age he entered Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree. While at college he decided to study for the ministry. He studied theology at the Seminary at Princeton and here he graduated in 1817, a member of the first class ever educated at that institution. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery at New Brunswick in 1817 and proceeded from his own choice under a commission from the General Assembly's Board of Domestic Missions. In his journey he was accompanied by Rev. Sylvester Larned, his personal friend, and together they landed at the City of New Orleans January, 1818, two of the first Presbyterian clergymen that ever set foot in the great metropolis of the South. From this place he went to Mobile, where, it is said, no Protestant minister had ever been. Rev. Larned died of yellow fever in New Orleans and Dr. Chamberlain returned to Bedford, Pennsylvania, whither he had been called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church. He remained here until 1828, when he accepted the presidency of Center College, Danville, Kentucky, at the age of twenty-seven. He served in this capacity for four years when he received and accepted invitation to the presidency of Louisiana College at Jackson, Louisiana, where he served for three years and resigned to continue in the ministry.

"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

He then moved to the vicinity of Rodney, Mississippi, where he found a great field for labor. Rich country, money, people, but no churches and no schools. His first work was to organize old Bethel Church in this vicinity (which still stands) and soon realized the importance of establishing a college which should be under the care of Presbyterian church. He formed a plan of such an institution and submitted it to the Presbytery of Mississippi which, at that time, comprised all the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and was meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April, 1829. At this meeting there was an unusually full attendance and while this did not form a part of the ordinary business of a meeting of Presbytery, still it had a direct bearing on the interest of the church. The Presbytery resolved to sit in committee of the whole for the deliberation on the state of education in the Southwest and on the relation of Presbytery to it. There was not an institution of any kind on which the Presbytery could write its influence. After viewing these facts, a committee was appointed to go into the matter further. After much correspondence over a period of several months, this committee called a meeting of the friends of education at Bethel church January 14, 1830. This meeting was composed of gentlemen from Louisiana and Mississippi. They were in session sixdays and adopted the following resolution: "Resolved that it is expedient to establish and endow an institution of learning within our bounds, which when completed shall embrace the usual branches of Science and Literature taught in the colleges of the country, together with a preparatory English and Classical School and a Theological Professorship or Seminary." This resolution was sustained by gentlemen from all parts of the country



"Schools of Yesterday"----------(continued)

represented in the meeting. It was considered for three days of the six they were in session and finally adopted by the largest assembly ever held in this country up to that time for such an object. This resolution came forth into action. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and to make all necessary arrangements for opening the school. In April, 1830, the Presbytery received the proposal and adopted a constitution, appointed a Board of Trustees and the president of the college, who was Dr. Jeremiah Chamberlain, and the school received its charter from the state.

On May 14, 1830, the school opened with three pupils in the home of a Mrs. Dromgoole, with Dr. Chamberlain as president and faculty. After a few weeks seven other young men joined the student body, still others, then they moved to Bethel Church. In September, the pupils numbered thirty-two. Then a location for the school was agreed upon and a building was erected and in January, 1831, the pupils were moved to Oakland College and soon other buildings were erected and Christian education was under way in the Southwest. The names of the gentlemen constituting the Board of Trustees follow: Dr. Rush Watt, Daniel Hunt, James McGill, Thomas Freeland, Matthew Dallis, Smith O. Daniel, John Snodgrass, William Young, Horace Carpenter, Isaac Ross, Pierce Roland, Chas. L. Lee. The Board selected the name Oakland College. The first commencement was held in 1833 and Mr. James [illegible] Smylie was the first graduate with the A. B. degree, said to be the first native Mississippian to receive a degree in his own state. Mr. Smylie was later the vice-chancellor of Mississippi, member of the legislature, and a member of the Bar of New Orleans, Louisiana. Through a long era of prosperity the college prospered and

was known throughout the South. The college had many difficulties to overcome, one of them being financial, but it weathered the storm. Dr. Chamberlain was president from the organization until he was killed in 1871. Dr. James Garvland, L.L. was then elected president, who was later followed by Dr. Robert Stanton, D.D.

The college continued until that irrepressible conflict between the states commenced when faculty, students, and directors put aside their books for a diversion with rifles and bayonets. At the close of the war, the faculty was gone, students gone, most of them killed, the directory was apparently disorganized by death, the property of the college badly abused by the soldiers who used it for quarters for several months and the general destruction of property by those engaged in the conflict had badly diminished the revenue of the college; hence there was not much effort made to reopen the college. It was opened and operated for two years, then closed. The buildings and grounds were later purchased by the state for an institution for the education of negroes. The proceeds of the sale were used in founding and endowing a new institution which was to be made a worthy successor of Oakland College. There was considerable competition among cities and towns of the state but Port Gibson, Mississippi, manifestly offered the greater inducement and was accordingly chosen for its location.

The school was chartered anew in 1879 by the legislature under the name Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, in honor of the memory of the first president and founder of Oakland College, namely Jeremiah Chamberlain, D.D. and Levi Hunt. Levi Hunt was a generous giver to Oakland College. The Academy was opened in 1879 and has been running continuously and successfully since.

School of Yesterday----------(continued)

(1) Oakland College organized 1890.

Presidents:

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. Jeremiah Chamberlain, D.D. | 1890-1891. |
| Rev. Robt. Stanton, A.M. | 1891-1894. |
| Rev. J. S. Murrimon, D.D. | 1894-1900. |
| " A. Grandbridge | 1900-1901. |

School closed 1901 to 1907.

" was by the name of Delta was president during the two years the college operated after the war, 1890 and 1897, when the school closed.

The college was transferred from the Presbytery of Mississippi to the Synod of Mississippi October 6, 1893.

(2) One of the old negro slave stated that more than 'thousand young men attended Oakland College during its life time.

(3) The first cataloging of the alumni is given 1900. Up to this time the college has graduated 151, who filled vocations as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ministers and Students of Theology | --21 |
| Attorneys and Students of law | --39 |
| Physicians and Students of Medicine | --19 |
| Planters | --61 |
| Civil engineers | -- 3 |
| Teachers | -- 2 |
| Artists, 1; Journalists, 1; Clerks of Court, 1 | -- 3 |
| Occupation unknown | -- 7 |

This was the record of 1901. The late Rev. R. Stanton, A.M. wrote a

history of the Presbyterian Church in Mississippi (which was never published) and he told me that his study revealed that during the life of Oakland College thirty ministers went out from the institution and that prior to the organization of Oakland, nobody trained and left the ministry from the Presbytery of Mississippi.

The above 100 came from the following states:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mississippi | -- | 65 |
| Louisiana | -- | 15 |
| Texas | -- | 6 |
| California | -- | 3 |
| Virginia | -- | 2 |
| Arkansas | -- | 1 |
| Alabama | -- | 1 |
| New York | -- | 1 |
| Pennsylvania | -- | 1 |
| Philadelphia Nation | -- | 1 |
| Ohio | -- | 1 |
| Residence Unknown | -- | 4 |

We have no record for the first half.

I am unable to find any record of what institutes have founded other Presbyterian schools and colleges. The late D. L. Grafton, D.D. always said that all the Presbyterian schools of Mississippi, with Clinton in Louisiana and Southwestern in Tennessee were the outgrowth of Oakland. Rev. Robt. Price, D.D. who taught at Southwestern, was an unusual graduate. Among the ministers graduated at Oakland, there were a few of

other denominations than Presbyterian -- three Baptists and one German Reformed.

There is no record, so far as I know, of those who helped to build up and develop the State System of Education. However, since it happens that the trustees of Oakland Inn residence in Mississippi, it may be assumed that they had something to do with developing the State System of Education.

Chamberlain-Hunt Academy is the successor to Oakland College. The wealth of Oakland, which amounted to $34,000, were conveyed to a board of trustees, appointed to be used as an endowment. It is now a part of the endowment; not one dime of the principal has ever been spent or lost through poor investment.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Assignment # 19

Schools of Today

Canvassers:
Mary Maasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

1. Names of County Superintendents, etc.

Dr. W. D. Sorett

He was appointed August 2, 1872.(1) The length of term then was two years, and he served five years, or until 1877. His salary varied from year to year, or term to term, the average being about $500.00 per year.(2) There is found nothing outstanding about his work, though it is said that he did considerable visiting and organizing.(3)

Rev. E. H. Mounger

He was appointed in August 1877, serving for two years. Salary was about $500.00 per year. Nothing is known about his work. All schools then were one teacher schools except Port Gibson White and colored, each of which had three teachers.(4)

Wm. H. Kerr

He was appointed in 1880 and served until Dec. 7, 1889. Salary about $500.00 per annum. No consolidation was done and not very much on repairs and little on sanitation, except in talks by Mr. Kerr. His outstanding work was trying to improved the standerd of his teachers, encouraging them to study and to attend Institutes.(2)

1. Port Gibson Standard of Aug. 2, 1872
2. Mr. E. A. Segrest, present County Superintendent Education
3. Mr. E. L. Davis, Claiborne County attorney
4. Port Gibson Standard of Aug. 11, 1877



State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Canvassers:
Mary Maasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System
1. Names of County Superintendents, etc. (cont.)

C. K. Regan

Appointed in ~~Sept~~ December 7, 1889 and served until Feb.22, 1890. His principal work at this time was visiting schools, advising the teachers as to their reading, conducting monthly institutes. There was very little money for building new schools, for making improvements of any kind, for furnishing new equipment. Very little was done in sanitation. There were no school libraries. His salary averaged about $800.00.(1)

J. N. Brashear

Appointed Feb. 22, 1890 and served until March 4, 1892. Salary about $700.00. Most of his time was spent in visiting schools, holding Institutes, appointing text book committees, holding examinations for teachers and also for pupils for Industrial Institute and College in Columbus and for Agricultural and Mechanical College in Starkville. Three or four white schools and several negro schools were built, several schools were moved to more convenient locations, and some improvements were made in school houses. Almost nothing was doen on equipment, sanitation, and libraries. Schools lasted five months and were not consolidated.(2)

C. K. Regan

He received his appointment from the State Board of Education March 4, 1892. He made his bond of $1000.00 and served notice on J.N. Brashear, Jr. to deliver all books, papers, records, and moneys of this

1. From his record in the Claiborne Co. Record Book in office of Co.Supt. of Education
2. " " " " " " "

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Canvassers:
Mary Measson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public Schools of Today
1. Names of County Superintendents, etc. (cont.)

C. K. Regan (continued)

office to him on the 19th inst. Salary was about $900.00. He petitioned the Board of Supervisors to set aside two mills from the new levy for a supplemental school fund for county schools and received ~~from~~ this amount. He had& special Text-Book Committees and adopted "Macy's Civil Government" and "Lowry and McCardle's History of Mississippi". He also succeeded in getting a three mill levy from the town of Port Gibson.

His outstanding work was grading the public schools of the county. He said in his report of Oct. 28, "I had printed and issued to teachers "A Course of Study for Grading the Public Schools of Claiborne County" to insure uniformity in classification and course of study. This course is made mandatory." He also was instrumental in having the school term extended from six months to eight months in 1898. Some new school houses were built and some improvements were made in old buildings, in sanitation, and in equipment. He received at one time $25.00 for library. He served from 1892 until his resignation on account of illness in April 1899.(1)

1. His report in Record Book in office of Co. Supt. of Education.

Claiborne County

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Assignment #19

Schools of Today

Canvassers:
Mary Measson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

1. Names of County Superintendents, etc.

J. M. Taylor

Mr. Taylor was appointed in April, 1899 by the State Board of Education of the county to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. C. K. Regan.(1) He served from 1899 to 1902 when he resigned to accept the cashiership of the Mississippi National Bank made vacant by the resignation of Capt. A.K. Jones.(2) His salary was $10 per month, or $1080 per year. He succeeded Mr. Chas. K. Regan, who established a system of grades and lengthened the term from four to eight months. Mr. Taylor carried out Mr. Regan's policy and endeavored to arouse interest and secure, if possible, greater cooperation. He did everything in his power to secure greater efficiency from his teachers.(3)

S. J. Russell

Elected in 1902, serving more than four years, or until 1908.(4) Salary $90 per month, or $1080 per year. He was instrumental in getting legislation to authorize Claiborne County to use as much as $1500.00 to buy land and build a pavilion to hold commencements, and so on. No schools built or consolidated, no equipment purchased or sanitary measures instituted.(5)

1. Port Gibson Reveille of May 18, 1899
2. " " " Feb. 6, 1902
3. Interview with Mr. Taylor
4. Port Gibson Reveille of Feb. 20, 1902
5. Records in office of County Supt. Education.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Canvassers:
Mary Maasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

1. Names of County Superintendents, etc.

T. V. Rush

Elected in January of 1908, serving two terms of four years each, or until 1916. Salary about $2000.00. Made a special effort to get his teachers to attend summer normals, to read and study in order to make themselves more proficient. (1)

S. J. Russell

Elected for the second time in 1916. Served one term of four years. Salary about $1800.00. He consolidated a number of the one-teacher schools, and made some improvements in old buildings in the way of enlarging them to accomodate more teachers and pupils. (2)

C. A. McAmis

Elected in 1920, serving one term of four years, or until January, 1924. Salary about $1800.00 Outstanding work was in consolidation. Long before he was elected Superintendent, he was advocating this. One school, that at Hermanville for white children, was built. (3)

J. Mack Jones

Elected in 1924, serving three terms of four years each, or until Jan. 1, 1936. Salary at first was $1800.00 but was raised in 1929 to $2500.00 and decreased in 1932 to $2000.00. All schools except three were consolidated during this administration. Several new build-

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1. Record in office of County Supt. Education
2. Information from J. Mack Jones, former Supt. Edudation; now shoriff.
3. " " L. A. Segrest, present " "

Canvassers:
Mary Neasson
Iola L. Hamilton

I. Public School System
1. Names of County Superintendents, etc. (continued)

J. Mack Jones (continued)

ings were put up for new consolidated schools. Some new territory was added to Port Gibson High School District, giving those pupils the advantage of that school. A great deal was done in improvements and in buildings and equipment. Over $4000.00 was spent on equipment and various improvements. Some money was given for libraries, but very little on sanitary conditions, as this matter seemed to be looked after by the patrons and teachers. (1)

R. A. Segrest

Elected November, 1935, and took charge of office the following January. Salary $2000.00. Term for four years. He is working toward super-consolidation; toward eight month schools; and toward building up the libraries. (1)

2. How County Schools Financed, etc.

The 16th Section land is too poor to bring in more revenue that $200 per year. Per capita fund in 1936 was $12907.61. Poll Tax was $3120.70. The eight mill school tax has just been put on this year and we cannot tell how much it will amount to. Equalizing fund in 1936 was $6798.50 and will probably reach in 1937 $7200.00. From the Separate School District the funds amount to $13987.78. Chickasaw fund-nothing. (2)

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1. Information from records in office of County Supt. of Education.
2. Information from R. A. Segrest, CountySupt. Education.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Schools of Today

Canvassers:
Mary Musson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System (continued)

3. Types of Schools in the County

a. Rural, City Consolidated (1)

The county has no city consolidated schools. The county has six rural white schools, half of which are consolidated.

Hermanville Consolidated has an enrollment of 221 pupils with faculty of seven: principal, assistant, and five teachers. Three school transfers (regular busses) and three private cars convey children at county's expense.

Midway Consolidated has an enrollment of 136 with faculty of six: principal, assistant, and four teachers. Four regular transfers and two private cars furnish transportation at county's expense.

Pattison Consolidated has an enrollment of 158 with faculty of six: principal, assistant, and four teachers. Four transfers and one on distance at county's expense.

Port Gibson High School (not consolidated) is in a municipal separate school district. Has an enrollment of 276 with principal and seven teachers. Three transfers and two private cars transfer the children at county's expense.

Westside (not consolidated);enrollment of 12 with one teacher.

Shiloh(not consolidated);enrollment of 26 with one teacher.

Grand Gulf (not conlidated); enrollment of 14 with one teacher.

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1. Information from R. A. Segrest, County Supt. of Education.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment # 19

Schools of Today

Canvassers:
Mary Nasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

3. Types of Schools in County(continued)

a. Rural, City Consolidated

There are forty-three rural schools for colored children in Claiborne County, the majority being one-teacher schools. One of these schools, however, has four teachers; two of them have three teachers; ten of them have two teachers. Three of these schools carry on a small amount of high school work. Schools for negroes have not been consolidated, as no means of transportation has been arranged for by the county.

In addition to the above schools; there are the Alcorn High School in connection with Alcorn College and the Port Gibson High School, both for negroes. (1)

b. Racial: Negro, Indian, Chinese, or others

( Covered under a above, as we have no racial schools except for the negroes.) (1)

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1. Information from R. A. Segrest, County Supt. of Education

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Schools of Today

Canvassers:
Mary Reasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

3. Types of Schools

c. Adult Education

Claiborne County has no adult education through "moonlight schools", or extension courses. But it has a splendid adult education program under the Works Progress Administration with Mrs. Marion B. Person as county supervisor. She herself leads one group in the study of public affairs, and a group of teachers in the study of education. Other teachers are as follows:

Mrs. Nadie Grant-First Aid. Holds two classes daily transferring from month to month to the following places: Hermanville, Pattison, Port Gibson, Chapel Hill, Tillman, Midway.

Mrs. Ora Newton Gibson-Class in art and in furniture repairing.

Ella Greer(colored)-Classes in literacy at Lake Hill School, Bowling Green plantation, and Freedmen's Hall, all in District 4.

Mary Frazier(colored)-Classes in Literacy, homemaking, and handicraft in District 2: Willows, Grand Gulf, and Spring Hill.

Mary J. Brown (colored)-Classes in literacy and citizenship at Port Gibson High School No.1. in District 1.

Dolores Gordon(colored)- Classes in Hygiene and Health in Hermanville (Dist.4) and in Martinville (Dist.5)

All teachers are using the Unit Lesson Plan and find it quite successful. They have developed Units in soil conservation, citizenship, health, sanitation, and various phases of home making such as poultry raising, gardening. The negro teachers are planning to develop some lessons on achievements of the negro race.

Total enrollment: white-103; negro-173

1. Above information from Mrs. Marion B. Person, County Supervisor Adult Education Program W.P.A.



State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Schools of Today

Canvassers:
Mary Reasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

4. Later Development of County Schools

a. Through Consolidation by Transportation

Considerable improvement has been made in the public school system within the past sixteen years. In 1920 the county had only one high school other than the Port Gibson High School, which is a municipal separate school district. Today every white boy and girl in the county has the advantage of a high school education free of any cost to their families. Today there are ~~four~~ three large consolidated high schools. This has been brought about largely through transportation with regular school busses. A sufficient number of transfers are furnished by the county to convey children from all parts of their district to the school, and private transfers for over-distance pupils.

b. Through Agricultural High School Movement

In the white schools, the only agricultural training received is through the influence of 4-H Clubs and Home Demonstration Clubs, for Claiborne County has no Agricultural High School.

There are five colored vocational agricultural departments in the county known as: Watson Chapel-Pine Grove, Pisgah-Jeffriesville, Beechland-Bethel, Port Gibson, and Alcorn. Three vocational teachers are in charge of the above departments.

c. Through Home Economic Instruction

Home Economics is not taught in any of the white schools. Port Gibson High School (colored) has a good department in this subject.

d. Junior Colleges---None in the county

Above information from Mr. J. Mack Jones, Supt. Education for 12 years prior to 1937 election; now sheriff.

Schools of Today

Canvassers:
Mary Neasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

5. Names and location of the Schools of the County (1)

Port Gibson High School No.2 (white): Two story brick building with eleven class rooms, corriders, and auditorium with a seating capacity of 500. Located just off Highway No. 61 South of the railroad in the southern part of town. Erected at a cost of $43,000.00 including the lot at $6500.00; total cost $49,500.00. Furniture $2500.00; equipment including pictures $750.00. Library of 1200 volumes. Transportation facilities are furnished by the county. Eight elementary grades and four high school grades. Music is taught by a special teacher, not, however, as a part of the school system. No other special courses. Athletic coach.

Hermanville High School. Situated on an elevation overlooking the village of Hermanville in District 4. A combination frame and concrete structure consisting of six class rooms and small auditorium. Erected at a cost of $12,000.00 in the year 1923. Has barely enough equipment to hold affiliation. Additional seats are needed in every class room. Small library. Transportation furnished by county with four transfers. Eight elementary and four high school grades. No special courses. Athletic coach.

Pattison High School. Located in center of Pattison in District 5. Frame structure erected at a cost of $5000.00. Equipment not satisfactory. Very small collection of books in library. Barely able to hold affiliation. Eight elementary and four high school grades. No special courses. Transportation facilities furnished by county.

Midway High School. Three miles south of Reganton in District 3. Frame

1. Information from R. A. Segrest, County Supt. Education



Schools of Today

Canvassers:
Mary Neasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System
5. Names and location of the Schools of the County (continued)

Midway High School (continued)
building erected at a cost of $5000.00 Eight elementary and four high school grades. No special courses. Transfers furnished by county.

Westside School. Near Alcorn College in District 1, opposite the historic old Westside Church. Simple frame building; cost $300.00. Eight elementary grades. One teacher. No special courses.

Shiloh School. At Ingleside in District 2. A frame building; cost $300.00. Eight elementary grades. One teacher. No special courses.

Port Gibson High School No. 1(colored). In northwestern part of town near Oil Mill and Railroad. Frame structure with auditorium and six class rooms erected at a cost of $10,000.00. Fifty yards from the main building is another frame building which houses domestic science and vocational agriculture departments. The equipment in those departments is valued at $1200.00. Class rooms are equipped with sufficient seats to accomodate the 330 pupils enrolled. Basket ball and tennis courts. Well arranged library of 1300 volumes. No transportation facilities. Eight elementary grades and four high school. Eight teachers. The domestic training department is a special feature. Public school music. No other courses.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lola E.Hamilton

I. Public School System

5. Names and Location of Schools (continued)

The following are rural negro schools scattered over the five districts of the county. The buildings are the usual frame type with meager equipment, courses running through eight grades.

District One: Beechland, Egypt, Magnolia, Hurley, Archer, Center, all being one room schools with one teacher, except Archer and Beechland which have two teachers. Bethel, Watson Chapel, Pine Grove, three rooms each and three teachers except Watson Chapel which has four teachers.

District Two: Spring Hill, Hardscrabble, Ingleside, Ball Hill, Ashland, Grand Gulf, all one room and one teacher schools. Allen with two rooms and two teachers.

District Three: Range Line, Mt. Pilgrim, Hankinson, Second Union, Mercy Seat, Willows, Bethel Green, Cherry Farm, all one room and one teacher schools.

District Four: Greenwood, St. Luke, Mt. Olive, Hermanville, Rondo, Lake, Patton, one room schools with one teacher each except Greenwood and Hermanville which have two teachers.

District Five: Martinville, Clarks Creek, Salem, Forest Grove, Osceola, Darden-Tillman, Sweet Home, Freedman Hall, all one room and one teacher except the last which has two teachers. Mt. Beulah, Bannockburn, Philadelphia, Jefferiesville, the first two room and two teacher school, the second two teacher and three room schools, the last a three teacher, three room school.

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Above from records in office of County Superintendent of Education.



State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lola E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

7. Extra-Curricular Activities

Port Gibson High School No. 2(white) ranks first among the county schools in such activities. While special instructors for these are not included in the faculty, a great deal of time and interest is given them. Miss Mamie E. Luter, Home Demonstration Agent, has a 4-H Club in this school. Every grade has the advantage of studying dramatics to a certain extent. Interesting plays from different rooms are staged frequently at chapel exercises, and the senior plays under the direction of the principal, Mrs. Carrie W. Ramsey, are always of general interest, as she searches the students for talent and selects their parts accordingly, putting much time and effort into training them. There are no Hi-Y, Girl Reserve, Scout, or debating organizations. Play ground activities are led by various teachers. There is a good basket ball team, and games are arranged with nearby towns. More interest is taken in football than in baseball. The past year an interested citizen furnished the football team with attractive practice suits. Playground equipment for the smaller children is at the present worn by years of use. Extensive grounds surrounding the High School give ample room for all activites. There are no first aid classes.

Generally speaking the discipline of the school is good. The new system of putting pupils on their honor is practiced to some extent. But when sterner measures are necessary, the faculty rises to the occasion.(1)

Hermanville High School; 4-H Clubs. Dramatics on a small scale through school plays and concerts. Playground equipment is scant. A good basketball team.(2)

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1. Information from Mrs. Carrie Ramsey
2. " " Mr. R. A. Segrest, county Supt. Education.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Canvassers:
Mary Nasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

7. Extra-Curricular Activities

Midway High School ranks next to Hermanville. 4-H Club, very small amount of dramatic training. Good basketball team.(1)

Pattison (same as above).(1)

Port Gibson High School No.1 (colored) has very scant playground equipment and the usual playground activities on a small scale. The vocational agriculture department works more or less as a club. The music teacher and principal put on plays and concerts, some of which are often attended by white citizens.(2)

1. Information from R. A. Segrest, County Supt. Education
2. L. M. Parker, Principal.

Canvassers:
Mary Nasson
Lela E. Hamilton



I. Public School System

6. Related Activities

a. Parent-Teachers Association

Port Gibson High School No.2 (white) is the only school in the County that has a Parent-Teachers' Association; this is a very active body. Midway, Hermanville, and Pattison had at one time associations, but they have been allowed to lapse.

b. Faculty Meetings

All High Schools throughout the county hold regular faculty meetings.

c. Cafeterias.

There are none.

7. Teachers of Today

Claiborne County has never practiced the "boarding-around" system with its teachers. If they did not live in the community in which they taught, a home was found for them for the duration of the school year. Today with good roads and automobiles, teachers often find it more convenient to live in their own homes if at not too great a distance from their work.

It is doubtful if teachers of today as a whole possess the same influence over their pupils as did those of a bygone day as a whole. In comparing a group of instructors of our youth twenty to thirty years ago with a corresponding group of those of today, this conclusion is forced upon us. In those days, trustees and patrons required teachers above the average in standard and conduct. Modern teachers necessarily live under changed conditions and standards and in the main conform to

Canvassers:
Mary Hasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Public School System

7. Teachers of Today (continued)

these. Trustees and patrons require no exceptional qualifications along these lines. Teachers, therefore, reflect the general laxity of the times in which they live and work. Such teachers as hold to a higher standard are noticeably superior in their influence. Port Gibson has a striking example of this in the latter class in the principal of its High School, Mrs. Carrie W. Ramsey, who has held this position for nearly twenty years, exercising always a fine influence by reason of her culture, refinement, and personality.

The emphasis today in selecting teachers is laid on educational qualifications and degrees. Opportunities for travel and study are abundant. Claiborne County teachers meet requirements along this line.

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The above is the opinion of the Staff of the H.R.Project and we believe the general opinion.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

II. Private Schools and Colleges

a. Colleges

Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College is the only college in the county. It is located in the southern part of the county between Port Gibson and Rodney.

"In 1830 some of the structures yet standing were erected by the Presbyterian Church for the education of the white youths of this particular sect. For forty years, or more, it was Oakland College, after which it opened in 1871 as Alcorn University, a colored institution supported by the state. In order to secure federal aid the name of the school was changed to its present title. Since that time the school's development has been almost steady. Newer and better buildings have to some extent replaced the older and into these modern dormitory conveniences of the present time have been installed. The curriculum has been strengthened visibly. The faculty is of an immensely higher caliber than was before dreamed of. The industrial shops have been stocked with up-to-date equipment. Electrical power has been harnessed to give a greater and higher degree of capability and efficiency than ever before possible. The farm machinery is of an infinitely higher grade than it formerly was."

"In the various branches of industrial work our young men and women have achieved results worthy of approval by the severely critical. The boys of the shoe department are becoming thoroughly efficient workers in leather, regardless of the purpose for which it might be used. The carpentry and manual training men are demonstrating remarkable ability in handling tools, and their products are purchased from time to time by patrons of the school. The painters are leaving an artistic touch of color upon every article where they lay their hands. The wheelwrights and auto mechanics are not behind with their work by any

II. Private Schools and Colleges

a. Colleges (continued)

means. The farm boys brought forth a veritable superabundance of harvested produce during the past year. The girls of the domestic science department are daily demonstrating their knowledge of, as well as their interest in, the various complexities of the culinary art, while the sewing girls are displaying their marvelous dexterity with more astuteness than ever before.". (1)

The college is a splendidly equipped institution so far as Buildings are concerned, with modern stock and dairy barns, dormitories for men and women, power plant, teachers' residence. The auditorium alone was erected at a cost of building and equipment of $100,000.00, as was also Bowles Hall for Science and Agriculture. (2)

"By and actual count there are living today more than five hundred graduates, since the year 1882, at which time the first class was sent out into the state. But, besides these few hundreds who are known as graduates, there are thousands of undergraduates who are rendering outstanding service. It has been estimated that as high as 70 to 80% of them are teachers. ~~And~~ These teachers have quite thoroughly covered the state and occupy many of the most important posts. (2)

"It has been freely asserted by men high in the official life of the State, that it gets better returns from each dollar invested in Alcorn College than from any other of its State schools. (2)

"It offers courses in Agricultural Education, Mechanic Arts, Business Administration, Liberal Arts, Teacher-Training, Music, Home Economics, and Social Science, Physical Education, Biological Sciences, Education, Chemistry, and Physics. It offers opportunities for devel-

1. Centennial of 1928 issued by Alcorn A. & M. College
2. Information from W. H. Bell, president



II. Private Schools and Colleges
a. Colleges, etc. (continued)

opment to students interested in Dramatics, debating, choir or glee club, orchestra or band, Y.M.C.A. or Y.W.C.A., Journalism.

"It maintains as major sports--football, basketball, and baseball; as minor sports--soft ball, croquet, tennis, and track.

"Alcorn is the oldest of the seventeen negro land grant colleges of the United States, and is the only school for Negroes in Mississippi that is supported by the State. It has the largest plant and largest student body of all the negro colleges of the state. It is rated by the State Department of Education as a four-year college, conferring the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees; pending accreditment by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools." (1)

b. Commercial Schools -------None

c. Private Schools ----------None

d. Religious Schools

Chamberlain-Hunt Academy (2)

This school is located in Port Gibson. It was founded in 1879 as a worthy successor to Oakland College which was founded near Port Gibson in 1830 by the Presbytery of Mississippi. After the War Between the States, no great effort was made to reopen the college in its former locality. The buildings and properties of the college were sold to the state by the Presbytery, and the proceeds of the sale were devoted to founding and endowing a new institution, which was to be the worthy successor to Oakland College.

Chamberlain-Hunt Academy was chartered anew under the name now used in honor of the memory of the first president of Oakland College,

1. Information furnished by W. H. Bell, president of Oakland College
2. " " " from files of Chamberlain-Hunt Academy

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #19

Canvassers:
Mary Maasson
Lela E. Hamilton

II. Private Schools and Colleges

d. Religious Schools (continued)

Chamberlain-Hunt Academy (continued)

Jeremiah Chamberlain, D.D., and one of its most liberal supporters, David Hunt.

"The Academy was opened in 1879 and has been running continuously and successfully since. Its graduates today are filling positions of honor and trust wherever found. Chamberlain-Hunt is located about three-fourths of a mile from the town, among the highest hills of Mississippi, with unsurpassed drainage, some fifteen miles from the Mississippi River, on the Mississippi Scenic Highway No. 61, and on the Natchez Trace. The school owns 150 acres of land with fifty or more acres used as campus, athletic field, and drill grounds. The campus is covered with beautiful elm, oak, pecan, and beech trees. The buildings are of brick, two and three stories high, and have all modern conveniences. The town is made up of a people conservative, gentile, and cultured. It is on ideal place for a boys' school. No more central location of the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas could be found.

"The aim of the Academy is to give a most careful and thorough training to boys in the most momentous period of their lives that will fit them to fill a useful place in the world. The distinguishing characteristic of the Academy is INDIVIDUALITY. The course of study, all kinds of instruction and training, and even the methods employed are especially adapted to devdlop the best possibilities of each individual boy and fit him to enter and stand well in college, or to fill some useful place in this busy world.

"Special emphasis is placed on spiritual values and the fundamentals of character and Christian manhood are constantly emphasized.

Schools

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

The Rocky Springs Academy located at Rocky Springs, in Claiborne County, was opened on the 1st of January, 1830, unde the direction of Mr. Holmes, a graduate of Miami University.

Ref.: Memoirs of Miss. Goodspeed

Alabama Co. Educational

OAKLAND COLLEGE--Port Gibson Correspondence, Oct. 14,1837.

The winter season in this Institution will commence on the 9th of October. The Faculty at present consists of the following gentlemen:

Rev. Jeremiah Chamberlain, D.D. President, and Professor of Moral and Mental Philosophy.

John Chamberlain, A.M. Professor of Mathematics and National Philosophy.

Rev. Samuel B. Jones, A. M. Professor of Theology and Evidences of Christianity.

Rev. Samuel V. Marshall A. M. Professor of Languages and Classical Literature.

Edward Payson A. M. Principal of the Preparatory Department.

It is expected that the students will be punctual in their returns at the opening of the session, so as to cause no unnecessary interruptions in the regular classes; and those who desire to enter for the first time, should make as xxxix early an application in the session as possible.

The college year is divided into two sessions. The first



Prep. Dep't. amount to one hundred and fifty dollars,and in the College, one huhdred and sixty dollars.

The rooms of the students are furnished at present with chairs, tables, pitchers, wash-basins, andirons, shovels, and tongs, but if any of these articles be hereafter needed, they are to be furnished by the students themselves.

There is a charge of one dollar in each session for necessary repairs. The students furnish their own bed, bedding and lights.

The faculty would strongly inculsate upon all the students; the necessity of strict economy, and hope that the parents and guardians of their people will cooperate with them on this subject, and as no account is allowed to be opened against any of the students without a written permission, it is hoped that the parents and guardians will give this permission, on deposit of a sufficient sum.in the hands of the Professors for incidental expenses to be disbursed as needed.. The greatest caution should be observed in regard to packet money.

For new Professors have lately been appointed, gentlemen of distinguished reputation. They have not as yet arrived, but are

Alabama Co. Education

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The college year is divided into two sessions. The first

commencing on the 2nd Monday in October and continuing for six months and ending on the 2nd Monday in April. The second commencing on the 2nd Monday in April and continuing for four months, end the second week in August. There is one vacation of two months commencing the 2nd week in August and ending on the 2nd Monday in October.

There are two Examinations-one in the first week in April, and the other in the first in August. The first Thursday in April is the day of Commencement.

The terms of board $12 per month, or seventy-two dollars for the first session, and forty-eight dollars for the 2nd session, if paid in advance, the steward is authorized to charge fourteen dollars per month.

Board includes diet, washing, fuel and shoe blacking.

Tuition in the Preparatory Department, is eighteen dollars for the first session, and twelve dollars for the 2nd session, and sixteen dollars for the 2nd session.

Payment is required for each session in advance.

The annual expense, therefore, for board and tuition in the

Prep. Dep't. amount to one hundred and fifty dollars,and in the College, one huhdred and sixty dollars.

The rooms of the students are furnished at present with chairs, tables, pitchers, wash-basins, andirons, shovels, and tongs, but if any of these articles be hereafter needed, they are to be furnished by the students themselves.

There is a charge of one dollar in each session for necessary repairs. The students furnish their own bed, bedding and lights.

The faculty would strongly inculsate upon all the students; the necessity of strict economy, and hope that the parents and guardians of their people will cooperate with them on this subject, and as no account is allowed to be opened against any of the students without a written permission, it is hoped that the parents and guardians will give this permission, on deposit of a sufficient sum.in the hands of the Professors for incidental expenses to be disbursed as needed.. The greatest caution should be observed in regard to packet money.

For new Professors have lately been appointed, gentlemen of distinguished reputation. They have not as yet arrived, but are

expected early in the session.

A new steward Mr. Eligh Mount has lately been appointed. He is on the ground and prepared to receive boarders.

The faculty deem it unnecessary at present to say anything of the many advantages of Oakland College. The confidence expressed in it by all those who are best acquainted wt with it, inspire the hope that it will continue to receive the sa e confidence from a generous public.

By order of the faculty

John Chamberlain

Secretary.

N. B. Oakland College is situated in Claiborne County, Miss. five miles from Rodney.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment # 17

AGRICULTURE--HORTICULTURE

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Importance of Agriculture in Claiborne County (1)

a. As a Means of Livelihood

The population of Claiborne County is classed as 100% rural and almost wholly dependent upon agriculture directly and indirectly. Outside the timber income, general farming is the only means of livelihood to 570 white families and 1660 colored families, or 3500 white population and 9060 colored.

With the gradual division of the old plantations and more intelligent and extensive cultivation of the land, healthy agricultural progress is in sight for the future. The county offers many advantages to the incoming settler.

(2)

b. As a Means of Employment

Agriculture furnishes employment to approximately 90% of the population of the population of Claiborne County. This includes owners, part owners, operators, managers, tenants, and so on.

Farms and Farm Operators

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of farms 1935 | | 2,230 |
| Farm Operators by color | White 1935 | 570 |
| | Negro 1935 | 1660 |
| Farm Operators by Tenure | White | |
| | Full Owners -1935 | 462 |
| | Part Owners -1935 | 57 |
| | Managers -1935 | 13 |
| | Tenants -1935 | 1698 |

1. Information from W. J. McKeown, County Agent
2. Mississippi (Statistics by Counties) prepared by Z.R.Pettet U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington; 1936

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment # 17

## Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Importance of Agriculture in Claiborne County - continued

c. Approximate Acreage of County Land in Farms

All land in farms according to figures of January 1, 1935 (1) is comprised in 256,083 acres.

d. Means of Building Soil on Farmlands (2)

Thirty-two per cent of the cotton and corn acreages are planted in cover crops, or soil builders. This record is unsurpassed anywhere in the state excepting in a few delta counties. Among the cover crops hairy vetch is number 1, spotted burr clover number two, crimson clover number three, and mammoth red clover ranks number 4. Each year the interest of the people is increasing concerning cover crops. And it is expected that such crops will be used by the majority of farmers in the not far distant future. Experiments on the effect of summer and winter soil of conserving crops on yields of other crops are being made.

Before many years the county will be reaping benefit from the extensive government Soil Erosion Program, which is now in operation in the county. Individual farmers are also becoming more erosion minded and are practicing this method of conservation as best they can with their own labor and implements.

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1. Mississippi (Statistics by Counties) Prepared under supervision of S.R. Pettet, pages 6 and 7. U.S.Printing Office, Washington; 1936

2. J. E. McKewen, County Agent Claiborne County

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #17

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Importance of Agriculture in County (continued)

c. Crops Best Adapted to the County (1)

Cotton---Over a large part of the county the type of agriculture is in general the same as it was before the war. Cotton is the principal cash crop and the main basis of credit; and corn is the main subsistence crop. Both long and short staple varieties are grown, but the staple predominates. Long staple varieties, which are grown principally in the western part of the county, are Delfor, Webber, and Allen Hybrid. The short staple cotton produced is largely of the Wannamaker, Cleveland, Simpkins, and Cleveland Big Boll varieties.

Corn---Hastings prolific and local varieties of corn are grown successfully.

Hay---Hay, consisting largely of tame, or cultivated brasses and clovers, together with some grain cut green, legumes cut for hay, and silage crops, is the crop third in importance.

Oats---Oats are becoming an important winter pasture and feed crop. Red Rust proof (Red Texas) and other rust resistant varieties are grown.

1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi by B.H.Hendrickson and J.E. McRechon, No. 23, Series 1926. p.6

State-Wide Historical Research Project
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Assignment #17

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Early History of Agriculture

"Cotton was probably introduced into the Mississippi Valley by the French colonists from San Domingo. Charlevoix saw cotton growing in a garden at Natchez in 1722, and Bienville mentioned the profitable cultivation of the same product in Louisiana in 1735." (1)

Mr. Burling of Natchez greatly aided cotton culture in Mississippi. "While dining with the viceroy of Mexico in 1806, Mr. Burling requested in the midst of their conversation permission to import some of the Mexican cotton into the United States. The request was declined on the ground that it was forbidden by the Spanish government, but the viceroy humorously granted his guest permission to take home with him as many Mexican dolls as he might desire. This offer was promptly accepted by Mr. Burling, who returned to Natchez with the dolls stuffed with the cotton seed he desired." (2)

a. Crops and Methods of Indians

"A large number of Choctaw Indians lived in the vicinity of Port Gibson. The Indian women were hired every fall to pick cotton, which crop was more than the regular force could gather." (3)

No specific information could be secured on the above subjects as they pertained to Claiborne County.

1. Riley's School History of Mississippi, page 73
2. " " " " page 73
3. History of Port Gibson, Mississippi by Rev. H.G. Hawkins, page 283 (Reprinted from Pub. Miss.Hist. Soc., Vol.X

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Early History of Agriculture (continued)

b. Crops and Methods of Early Settlers

"Previous to the Civil War cotton, corn, field peas, oats and sweet potatoes, rice and indigo were the principal crops, and some wheat was grown. Some cattle and hogs were raised. Cotton was the main cash crop; and corn the principal subsistence crop, as they are today. Cotton growing was very profitable on account of the prevailing high prices for the lint, and the tendency was to neglect everything else for that crop. The cotton credit system, by which a planter could borrow money and obtain credit before the seed was sown, was put into effect."(1)

The early plantations were large and there were very few tools to work with. Nearly everything was done by hand, and yet they raised a quantity of everything the farmers owned. Negroes did all the work with an overseer to ~~see that~~ keep them at it.(2)

A kind of flinty corn was grown from which starch was prepared. The corn was gathered while soft, crushed and put into large pots of water. After standing thus for some time, the water was boiled down until starch was formed. Rice and indigo grew in the flats of Bayou Pierre. "The indigo, when ripe was cut and brought to the yard and put into large troughs, water was poured in, and negro men were set to work pounding the indigo to express the juice." In the very early days, everything except coffee and sugar was raised at home.(3)

1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Miss. by M.H.Hendrickson and J.E. McKeehen, No. 23, Series 1926. p.4
2. Interview with Mr. E.T. Crisler, "Port Gibson Reveille"
3. History of Port Gibson, Mississippi, page 283 by Rev. H.G. Hawkins Reprinted from Pub. Miss. Hist.Society



Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

III. Cotton

a. When and How Introduced

Cotton was introduced into the Mississippi Valley by the French colonists from San Domingo.(1) Just when it was brought into Claiborne County is not known, but the earliest newspaper on file shows sales in Claiborne County "for the commercial week" to be 7000 bales.(2) It is thought that cotton was grown in the county by its earliest settlers, for they brought with them slaves, some of these being native Africans, and slave labor and cotton went together in those days.(3)

B. Slave Labor

"It is a matter of general knowledge that all the work on the larger plantations and much of that on the smaller ones was done by slave labor. Many people thought that slave labor was especially suitable for raising cotton."(4) "Along the Mississippi were many large plantations upon which cotton was cultivated, largely by slave labor."(5) The wealth of this section consisted principally in land and slaves. Each plantation had an overseer, "who had the management of its affairs directing the labor and caring for the personal comfort of the slaves."(6)

A writer on these early days says:(7) "My grandfather's memory went back to 1825, and his whole life was spent on a cotton plantation

1. Riley's School History of Miss., page 75
2. Port Gibson Correspondent and Mississippi General Advertiser-Jan.1,1831
3. History of Port Gibson by Rev. H.G. Hawkins, page 282
4. History of Mississippi-Snyder-Bennett, page 153
5. History of Mississippi-Riley, page 133
6. " " " " " 288
7. Port Gibson Reveille, Aug. 19, 1926-article by James F. McCaleb

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
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Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neesom
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

III. Cotton (continued)

b. Slave Labor (continued)

in slavery times. --------Oxen and horses did the breaking and cultivation. The mule was only facing his day to replace Dobbyns for patience with the patient black slaves.--------They had none of the modern labor saving devices. The plows were heavy and cumbersome because they were as wide as the cotton rows. The spike-toothed harrow went along the rows and the rest of the work was done by hand."

c. Modern Methods

The mule and the negro have been replaced to a large extent in this county, entirely so on the large plantations by such modern methods as the following: planting of cover crops, rotation of crops, terracing the land to hold moisture and prevent washing. Quick maturing seed are used. On level land tractors and discs are used, but on rough land the plow and the hoe must still be employed.(1)

d. In 1936 the crop totaled 7072 bales, which was 1529 more bales than in 1935.(2)

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1. Facts from Mr. E. W. Davis, Claiborne County farmer and lawyer.
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Dec. 24, 1936

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #17

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neesom
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Agriculture

III. Cotton

c. Harvesting and Marketing

Cotton in this section is harvested by negroes going through the fields with sacks when the cotton bolls have opened and are white and picking by hand the white cotton out of each boll and placing it in the sacks. When the sacks are full, they are emptied into baskets at the end of the row. When the day's work is over, the cotton is hauled to the cotton house. When the farmer has sufficient for ginning, it is hauled to the gin, where the lint is separated from the seed and taken to the press, where it is pressed into bales.

The bales are hauled to town and either sold to merchants in the town, or sent to a city where ~~they~~ a broker who sells it for the farmer and returns the money to the owner minus his charge, or commission, for selling.

The final destination of the baled cotton is the factory or mill in our own or foreign countries where it is made into cloth.(1)

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1. Mr. J. V. Cage, planter of Port Gibson.

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Measson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

IV. Corn and Forage Crops

a. Past and Present Importance (1)

Though the Civil War severely affected Claiborne County, the loss suffered here was less serious than elsewhere in the South. The principal effect was the disorganization of agriculture and industry resulting from the sudden freeing of the slaves. Previous to the war, cotton, corn, field peas, oats, and sweet potatoes were the principal crops. Corn was the main subsistence crop, as it is today. Claiborne County is driving toward a goal in cattle raising; therefore the corn and forage crops are second only to cotton in importance.

Among the pasture and forage crops, named in the order of their importance and use in the county, are Lespedeza, white and crimson clover, carpet grass, Dallas grass, Bermuda, Johnson grass, Sudan grass, and Italian rye grass.

"According to the census of 1920, crop rotation had not been generally practiced in Claiborne County except in occasionally alternating cotton with corn. Some farmers followed cotton with oats, grazing the latter during winter, and after harvesting the grain planted corn and cow peas, returning the land to cotton the following spring. The value of commercial fertilizer used in the county in 1899 was $2330.00; in 1909 $6472.00 and in 1919 $3,730.00. Fertilizer is coming into more general use."

1. Information from J. E. McKowen, County Agent, and "Soil Survey of Claiborne County", No.23, Series 1926



Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Measson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

IV. Corn and Forage Crops (continued)

b. Approximate Annual Yield in County (1)

Acres planted in corn in 1936 were 29,600 with a yield of 15 bushes per acre, representing a total production of 444,000 bushels. In addition to this, 4150 acres were interplanted yielding a total of 62,250 bushels. The grand total of corn, therefore, for the year was approximately 506,250 bushels.

Total acreage for 1936 in silage crops was 1000 acres, with a yield of 7 tons per acre. Total silage production 7000 tons. The total yield in hay is approximated at 1250 tons.

c. Where and How Marketed (2)

The corn crop is used as grain and forage for work animals and for fattening hogs and cattle. Practically none is sold outside the county, and often some is shipped in. Hay produced is used as feed for work animals and for beef and dairy cattle. Rarely ever is there a surplus on individual farms; and should there be, a local market is waiting.

Port Gibson is the local market for the county. Corn and forage crops are marketed only through cattle and hogs. Cotton, cattle

1. "County Crop Production Program"- compiled by J.E. McKowen, County Agent
2. J. E. McKowen, County Agent.

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

IV. Corn and Forage Crops (continued)

c. Where and How Marketed (continued)

and hogs are marketed through local dealers in Port Gibson to Vicksburg and New Orleans and St. Louis dealers.

V. Truck Farming

a. Variety and approximate amount-b. Where and How Marketed

About January 12, 1922, the business men of Port Gibson became enthusiastic over trucking. They entered into an agreement by which they could encourage the movement and subscribed a capital of $5000.00. They rented fifty acres on the Browder plantation south of Port Gibson. This was the most progressive movement ever entered upon by local business men to encourage trucking, and it was believed at the time to be the beginning of big things for the county.

The year 1922 and a few years following proved to be profitable trucking years. But unfavorable seasons came, growers became discouraged, and less and less truck was grown.(1)

In districts 3,4, and 5 some trucking is done in tomatoes and cabbage with Utica and Hazlehurst the chief markets.(2)

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1. January 12, 1922 Port Gibson Reveille
2. J. E. McKewen, County Agent

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #17

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

V. Truck Farming (continued) (1)

c. Home Garden Products:

Year round gardens are found throughout the county, and many home demonstration clubs have majored in food preservation. All vegetables which can be successfully grown are planted, and amounts in excess of family need are marketed in Port Gibson. At all times of the year vegetable wagons may be seen on the streets loaded with a variety of produce.

1. Most important kinds

Tomatoes, beans, onions, potatoes, corn, cucumbers, peppers, peas and cabbage are most commonly grown in this locality.

2. How conserved

More and more food stuff grown on the farm is being conserved. The Home Demonstration Agent has encouraged this among the rural classes to the extent that you cannot find a home without canned vegetables in the pantry. In many homes the jars are used two or three times during the year, and the quality of food preservation has improved along with the quantity. One thousand cans and jars of vegetables and fruits and jellies were exhibited at the County Fair on Oct. 9, 1936. To promote the food conservation program, the Home Demonstration Agent has excelled all previous records in letters mailed and visits made, working toward a goal plenty in the home pantries.

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1. Miss Mamie E. Luter, Home Demonstration Agent Claiborne County

VI. Poultry and Live Stock

A. Poultry (1)

1. For home use

During 1935 there was a great increase in interest in poultry, and flocks were much improved. There has been an insufficiency of chickens for home use, but with the number of poultry enthusiasts growing constantly, this lack will soon be met.

2. For marketing

In January 1936, the Claiborne County Poultry Association was organized. The Extension Economist in Home Marketing was present and there was aroused a determination to produce more poultry and eggs for market. During the month of April and March shipments were made to New Orleans. There were six turkey projects in the county also. Enthusiastic community meetings and contests on poultry judging and egg judging were held.

In July a home survey was made in which it was found that poultry conditions were much better than in preceding years. A county poultry show aroused much attention and interest. During the year various flocks were blood tested, culled, vaccinated.

Crates are kept at the express office to receive poultry for shipping. A weekly price list is furnished on request by the Home Demonstration Agent; and as a result, local prices soared and poultry producers are receiving better prices for their products.

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1. Information from Miss Mamie E. Luter, Home Demonstration Agent Claiborne County

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #17

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

VI. Poultry and Live Stock (continued)

b. Live Stock

1. Cows and Dairy Products; Beef

A census taken in 1935 gives 3348 milk cows with milk production 684,629 gallons and butter 95,579 pounds. 47,855 gallons of milk were sold and 10,963 pounds of butter. It is estimated that 23,901 additional gallons of milks were needed and 146,498 pounds of butter additional. (1)

Claiborne County is becoming a prosperous beef producing area because it has a considerable productive acreage well suited to grazing, and because it has ample cultivatable land on which winter feed in the form of silage crops can be grown economically.

The way toward greater profits in beef production in this area has been indicated by practical cattlemen who recognized that new methods must supplant the old extravagant ways of utilizing the greatest natural resources of this area, its grazing land. A local authority on cattle states that he cannot meet the demand for breeding stock. He has sold over $2600.00 worth of young bulls annually.

A Live Stock Show was held in Port Gibson in 1936 which attracted breeders and buyers from all over the country, and the county is now making preparations for a much larger show in 1937. (2)

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1. Figures gathered from records on file in office of Home Demonstration Agent of Claiborne County.
2. Port Gibson Reveille of March 26, 1936.

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Wasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

VI. Poultry and Live Stock (continued)

b. Live Stock (continued)
2. Hogs, Sheep, Goats

Census figures relating to domestic animals are not available previous to the census of 1910. In this year there were in the county 2602 head of cattle and 6658 swine; 372 sheep and goats were sold or slaughtered, and 154 horses and mules were sold.

The census of 1920 shows that there were in the county 3734 horses, 2279 mules, 20,408 beef cattle, 4,477 dairy cattle, 18,300 hogs, 7497 sheep and goats.

In the decade 1909-1919 there was, as shown by the above figures, a very large increase in the numbers of cattle, hogs, sheep and goats; and the total value of livestock and livestock products increased nearly ten times.(1)

Figures of 1935 show that there were then in the county 1566 horses and colts; 2026 mules and colts; 25,434 cattle and calves; 523 sheep and lambs; 9352 hogs and pigs.(2)

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1. Soil Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi. No. 23, series 1926

2. Mississippi (Statistics by Counties) prepared by Z.R. Pettet
U.S. Government Printing Office 1936.



Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Wasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

VII. Rural Home Improvements (1)

According to the Home Survey made in the Spring, every Home Demonstration home needed some repairs. 30 kitchens were improved, 15 sinks were installed, 30 built additional storage space, 20 adjusted work surfaces, 125 obtained new labor saving devices, 55 adopted recommended laundering methods, 75 families made their own soap, 20 families renovated furniture, and 20 families caned chairs and stools. Home management was a major project for 1936, and splendid results were recorded.

Interest in Home Demonstration work is steadily increasing. Attendance in each of the clubs is much better, and membership has steadily increased.

Several gravelled highways lead out from Port Gibson to all points of the county, providing good roads in all weather to the principal towns and farming districts. Many graded dirt roads are kept in fair condition. All parts of the county are served by rural mail routes, but telephones are found principally only on the larger plantations. Good transportaion facilities are furnished by lines of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad. Only the northeastern and southwestern corners of the county are distant from railroad shipping points.

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1. Information from Miss Mamie E. Luter, County Home Demonstration Agent.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #17

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

VIII. Modern Agricultural Agencies

a. County Agricultural Agent

The improvement in the county farming conditions began with the coming of the County Agent. Agriculturally the county has moved forward since that time.(1) Beginning then, a definite program has been laid out for the farmer by which he has learned, among other things, to find some other method of increasing the farm income in order to supplement the cotton income.(2)

It has long been realized that the soil of Claiborne County and its livestock possibilities are far above the average.(2) The County Agent has shown the farmer how to build on these latent possibilities. The farmer understands now that cover crops and terracing will do away with poor lands.(1) The past year the County Agent has concentrated on Beef cattle, better pastures, more feed, cover crops, and soil conservation.(1) Had the Agent done nothing more than interest the farmer in soil conservation and in raising cattle and then teach them how to do these things scientifically, he would have been a paying investment for the county. The Fat Cattle Show held in the county last year, the state's first show of this kind, was a notable event in the agricultural history not only of the county but of the state.(3) It centered national attention on this locality and has led to a permanent organiza-

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of January 7, 1937
2. " " " of February 6, 1930
3. Interview with Mr. H. H. Crisler, Editor of Port Gibson Reveille

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

VIII. Modern Agricultural Agencies (continued)

a. County Agricultural Agent (continued)

tion of livestock growers, with Port Gibson the place for an annual Fat Cattle Show. The 1937 show promises to be twice the size of the first one.(1) It was "the dawn of a new day for many of the landowners of southwest Mississippi".(2)

"With beef cattle one of the principal sources of income in the county, it was found that better pastures were needed. The Agent put on an intensive campaign for pasture improvement and for cover crops with the result that enough seed have been sown in the county to plant approximately 9,198 acres, a very considerable increase over previous years."(1)

Through lack of attention, the soil of Claiborne County, naturally one of the best types in the state , had been allowed to disintegrate by erosion. The Agent, in cooperation with the local Soil Conservation Unit, has awakened the farmers to the value of terracing and cover crops.(1)

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of January 7, 1937
2. " " " March 11, 1936

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #17

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Manson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

VIII. Modern Agricultural Agencies (continued)

b. Home Demonstration Agent

Prior to the coming of the Home Demonstration Agent there was prevalent the feeling that every woman knew how to care for a home, to raise poultry and a garden, and that to employ an Agent to help along these lines would be a waste of county funds. But the excellent results attained by the Home Demonstration Agent in bringing to the women of the county modern methods of food preservation, gardening, poultry raising have far more than repaid any outlay of money on the part of the county. (1)

In March of 1934 the present agent, Miss Lurie E. Luter, began her work. As the school year was nearing an end, she began organizing the 4-H Clubs first in order to get as much instruction done for the community, county, and state contests as possible before the schools closed. Clubs with an enrollment of 93 were organized. Demonstration clubs were started, and instruction was given in food preservation, gardening, home management, home beautification, clothing and poultry. A definite effort has been made to reach out beyond the organized group of women with the Extension teachings. For the year ending December, 1936, there have been seven clubs of women with an enrollment of 103 members representing the same number of homes. (2)

Claiborne County has always been deficient in the production of poultry and eggs. A campaign in the early spring with the Home Demonstration Agent as leader produced good results. Egg production was featured as a leader. A special issue of the local paper gave an entire

1. Interview with Mr. H.H. Crisler, editor Port Gibson Reveille
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Jun. 7, 1937.

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Masson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

VIII. Modern Agricultural Agencies (continued)

b. Home Demonstration Agent (continued)

page to the different phases of poultry products, diseases, and so on. Cooperative orders were placed for enough baby chicks to add 1450 white Leghorn pullets for egg producing. (1)

Since beginning work in the county, this agent has given 220 method demonstrations, visited 400 homes, travelled 8,739 miles, held 573 office consultations, had 357 telephone calls, has written 1,010 letters, 490 circular letters, 24 press articles, and has distributed 1,537 bulletins." (2)

The improvement in the rural homes began with the excellent work done by the Home Demonstration Agent, Miss Mamie E. Luter. (3)

c.
4-H Clubs

During the past year there have been a total of five clubs for girls meeting every four weeks. One hundred girls took home improvement as their project, learning something of the selection of household furnishing, of the treatment of walls, floors, woodwork and woodwork, and of the principles of color and design. (4)

Some outstanding records have been made by club boys, especially in baby beef production. Since this county is well adapted to beef

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of January 8, 1937
2. Annual Report of Mamie E. Luter, Home Demonstration Agent, on file in her office.
3. Port Gibson Reveille of Jan. 7, 1937.
4. Annual Report of Mamie E. Luter on file in her office.

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Masson
Mrs. S. T. Hamilton

VIII. 4-H Clubs (continued)

cattle, baby beef calves have been made one of the major projects for the boys. Twenty-two of these projects in baby beef production were carried this year. Some of them are being financed by the local banks to help worthy club members who have a good supply of feed.. Club boys made a good showing at the southwest Mississippi Fat Cattle Show at Port Gibson last spring, many of them taking prizes. Pigs, corn, and poultry have also received considerable attention, as have cotton, sweet potatoes, peanuts, soybeans, trucking, farm accounting, game management and orchards. Demonstrations and information regarding these projects have been furnished club members at monthly meetings. For 1937 the same work will be carried on with stress being put on pastures and legumes.(1)

Within the short time that these clubs have been organized a great deal of interest and enthusiasm have been manifested by the girls and boys, and promising leaders have been recognized in many of the members. The boys through the supervision and encouragement of their district leader and county agent have been awakened to the possibilities open to them in the agricultural field. The prizes awarded and the contest spirit created have caused the sons and daughters to become more interested in general in the undertakings of their parents. Boys are learning early the profits to be gained by raising pure bred stock and by the planting of germ free seed.(2)

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1. From annual report of E.E. Grissom, assistant county agent, published in Port Gibson Reveille of Jan. 7, 1937
2. Mr. J. M. Jones, former superintendent education and present sheriff of Claiborne County and father of 4-H Club members.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #17

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Masson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Agriculture and Horticulture

VIII. 4-H Clubs (continued)

The girls are receiving training through 4-H Clubs not available otherwise in the county, as the schools do not have home economic departments. Refined and cultured customs are taught at the meetings, the influence of which will be noted as time passes. In addition to the domestic values of the clubs, there is the social side. Children living in rural communities especially look forward to the meetings with delightful anticipation, and their acquaintances are widened and a spirit of fellowship established.(1)

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1. Mr. J. M. Jones, former Superintendent of Education of the county, present sheriff, and father of 4-H club members.

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

Subject: Agriculture

VIII. Modern Agricultural Agencies

d. Agricultural Schools

Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College (1)

Alcorn is the only state supported institution for negroes in the State Of Mississippi. "There are several counties yet in the state suffering the lack of any type of agricultural school. Alcorn endeavors to meet those problems by so training teachers in the field of vocational agriculture that they will be able to set up agricultural schools in the counties that do not have them."

"Although extension work in the strictest sense for negroes finds its head at the State College for Whites at the present time, it is one of the objectives of Alcorn, however, to train men as agricultural extension agents as well as to train them as practical farmers, teachersof vocational agriculture and rural community leaders."

The institution endeavors to meet the demands for home makers, extension workers, and teachers of vocational home economics for the colored public schools of the state by training girls along these lines. It serves as "an inducement for 4-H Club work and as a meeting place for these clubs."

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1. Information furnished by the president of Alcorn



Canvassers:
Mary Maasson
Dela E. Hamilton

Agriculture and Horticulture

VIII. Modern Agricultural Agencies (continued)

e. Fairs

In past years there have been fairs held in Claiborne County but over a period of years interest in this agricultural agency has lagged. However the year 1936 seems to have marked a turning point toward renewed interest.

On March 19-21 there was held in Port Gibson the state's first Fat Stock Show and Auction, which met with such success that it centered national attention on this locality, bringing here national and even international cattle men, with the result that it has been made an annual event with Port Gibson permanent headquarters. It is expected that seed sown at this first Show will result in developing this county and section into one of the great cattle sections of the country. (1) Already plans are on foot for the second show to be held here in about two months.

On October 9-10 of the past year a very successful County Fair was staged in Port Gibson largely through the efforts of the Home Demonstration Agent. One thousand jars of home products were displayed with a corresponding display in every phase of home and farm life, with especial emphasis on poultry. (2) It is expected that the large degree of success met with in this fair will lead to its continuance in the years to come.

"Alcorn College promotes the staging of community and county fairs through its contact with teachers of vocational agriculture in

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of March 12, 1936
2. Mamie E. Luter, Home Demonstration Agent, in her annual report.

Canvassers:
Mary Neasson
Lola E. Hamilton

Agriculture and Horticulture

VIII. Modern Agricultural Agencies (continued)

e. Fairs (continued)

schools where such departments are established. And it directly stages and supervises community fairs within the two counties which lie within the environment of the College." (1)

1. Information furnished by president of Alcorn, W. H. Bell



Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

IX. Horticulture a. Varieties of cultivated flowers and shrubs.

Claiborne County has always been noted for its flowers and trees, particularly Port Gibson, the County seat. The County Demonstration Agent assisted by Mr. Mayo McKay has given a number of demonstrations in landscaping in ten communities, at which time propagation and selection and arrangement were taught. Twenty trees, including redwood, dog wood, holly, magnolia, weeping willow, pussy willow and smilax, were planted around the courthouse. The County Demonstration Council held sales of native shrubs and sponsored the planting of rose bushes during the past year. (1)

The following list of shrubs and cultivated flowers has been obtained from Miss Pearl Taliaferro, who, together with her sister, Miss Balmayne Taliaferro, has for the past ten years conducted a florist business in Port Gibson. Prior to the operating of the florist business, they were lovers of flowers and was an authority on the cultivation of them. These gardens cover an extensive area and every shrub and flower that can be grown in this locality is found here. (2)

Shrubs:

Ligustrum -- Nandina -- Camphor Tree -- Magnolia--Flowering apple and plum
Sweet Olive--Oleander -Yaupon---------- Cape Jasmine--Mock Orange-Althea
Japonica------Cedars----Arbor-Vitae---- Hydrangea--Flowering peach and quince
Cherry Laurels---------Red bud ------Crab Apple--Spirea

1. Information from Miss Mamie E. Luter, Home Demonstration Agent
2. " " the Misses Taliaferro of Port Gibson.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment # 17

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canversers:
Miss Mary Reason
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

IX. Horticulture (continued)

a. Varieties of cultivated shrubs and flowers (continued)

Vines:

Climbing euonymous---Yellow jasmine--Rose, Montana--Queen's Wreath

Clematis----------Honeysuckle-----Boston Ivy----Wisteria

Flowers:

Fifty varieties of dahlias --Lilac

Chrysanthemums Perennials of all kinds

b. Extent and Importance of Nurseries

Claiborne County has no organized nurseries. Included in the 1937 program planned by the Home Demonstration Agent is a movement to further the interest in nurseries.

c. Orchards have not been properly cared for, and there is a shortage of fruit. Good orchards are simply not to be found in the county. However work is going forward in this line, and each home demonstration member is scheduled to increase his or her orchard by six trees this year. For many years Mr. R. B. Bruce has had the best peach orchard in the county. Alcorn College has an orchard "and promotes the establishment of home orchards."

d. Garden Club Activities

Claiborne County has no organized Garden Club. But work along this line is carried on by the Womens Club. The Club has a Conservation Committee which puts on flower exchanges, plants the highways and urges the beautification of the town and country side at large. Their goal is: the same flowering plants and shrubs in every yard, all blooming at the

Agriculture and Horticulture

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

IX. Horticulture (continued)

same time, with especial emphasis on wisteria, flowering quince, and Paul Scarlet roses. At present the Club is planting the grounds about Chamberlain-Hunt Academy and its lake with dogwood, red bud, and blue phlox. In the early fall, they planted several hundred dogwood trees on Highway 61 approaching town. Nearly every year a garden pilgrimage is sponsored.(1)

e. Agencies Encouraging Flower Raising

Parent-Teachers Association, Woman's Club, Home Demonstration Clubs

1. Garden Pilgrimages --These have been held occasionally under the auspices of the Woman's Club and prizes offered for the most attractive.

2. Flower Shows--A flower show was held in 1936 in connection with the county fair. The Woman's Club has held such shows from time to time together with flower exchanges.

3. Beautification Projects--See IX d above.

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, County Supervisor

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1. Information from Mrs. J. T. Drake, president of Woman's Club

Enid Richmond

Claiborne County

COMPILATION

Chapter XVI

INDUSTRY

Agriculture is the principal industry of the county, (See ~~Chapter XV~~ 15), cotton is the leading crop. The advent of the boll-weevil and the low price of cotton caused the farmers of the county to join with those of other counties in reducing the acreage devoted to this crop. Great attention has been paid to diversification of crops. Corn, hay, forage and vegetables are also produced. The marketing of farm products had been given a great impetus by the construction of many miles of good roads. The rapid development of scientific farming means prosperity and progress for the county. The native grasses which grow in abundance make it a fine stock raising country.

The second most important industry is represented by the lumber and timber products. This includes the products of the logging camps as well as the sawmills, planing mills, and the box factories. Lumbering began to assume importance about the beginning of the present century and received a stimulus during the World War.

In addition to these industries are the manufacture of cotton seed oil and cake and ice.



Lumber Mills

In 1924 Mr. Homer Rhymes moved to Port Gibson and organized the Port Gibson Box Factory; in October of the same year Mr. H. A. Wilson of Hazlehurst bought the mill in and reorganized under the name of Port Gibson Veneer Company, moving the mill to a more desirable location on the extreme eastern edge of the town in 1925. Source ?

This mill was merged in 1931 with other mills and the name changed to SOUTHERN PACKAGE CORPORATION. The other mills referred to are located at Utica, Crystal Springs, Wesson, Terry, and Gallman, the one at Port Gibson being operated on a larger scale than the others mentioned, handling almost every marketable timber with prices on car lots ranging according to quality and quantity, the rough sometimes bringing $300 and finished, $1,000. Approximately $9,000 per month is paid to timber dealers in the county for logs in the rough. This is probably one of the reasons why Port Gibson has had no business failures through the deppession.

Mr. H. A. Wilson, attorney of Hazlehurst, is the president, his son, Alec is treasurer, and W. B. Alford, also of Hazlehurst, is secretary. The present superintendent is Mr. J. A. Gallman; the bookkeeper, J. C. Wheeless, and the timber cruiser, Percy Trailor.

This mill has been of unlimited importance to Port Gibson, affording a splendid market for timber, this thriving industry has benefited the entire county and also adjoining counties by its fortunate existence. There is about 10,000 feet of rotary cut lumber which is used in the manufacturing of crates, hampers, baskets, lugs, and veneer for furniture, the latter being one of the main products. Many kinds of trees are used for this purpose, including gum, sycamore, poplar, beech and cottonwood.

Cabinet veneer is sold to the Borden Cabinet Company, Borden, Indiana, makers of Philco Radio cabinets; to the Hoosier Panel Company, New Albany, Indiana; and the Mushroom Supply Company of Pennsylvania and the Louisville, Kentucky, Furniture Company, and others. There is a large export business in box materials with largest shipments going to Porto Rico and others going to Grand Rapids, Chicago and elsewhere. A large amount is sold locally through the Claiborne Hardware Company. This mill has furnished a livilihood for scores of under privileged people as well as the higher type.

The Southern Package Corporation has recently built a very large commissary and put in a stock of groceries and dry goods, with a filling station attached. Three regular employees with extra help on Saturdays. A spendid business is being carried on here; building and stock valued at $5000.00. (1)

(1) Tom Segreat, Port Gibson, Miss.

In 1925 Nolan and Manis organized a lumber compony which was owned and pperated by them for a short time. Fob several years it changed hands often, and in January 1933 the PORT GIBSON LUMBER COMPANY was organized by the present owner Sam Weiner of Shreveport, Louisiana. Same P

Mr. G.. L.. McBride is the present manager. Under his efficient management this business has prospered and the output increased rapidly. The mill manufactures yellow pine lumber, either finished or in the rough. The shipments total about six million feet per year, with a mill value of $115,000. The value of shipments in car lots varies according to grade and amount the car contains. A large amount of lumber is sold locally in connection with other building materials. All timber used at this mill is purchased within a radius of twenty five miles. Markets are the United States and foreign countries.

This mill provides employment for eighty to a hundred people in the various depaitments, seventy per cent being colored. The pay roll releases six thousand dollars or seven thousand dollars monthly, the greater portion of which is spent in the town. The location of these mills has greatly increaded the business of Port Gibson.(1)

Mr. W. C. Greer has operated a log business for seventeen years and THE GREER MILL for one and a half years. He maintains an office, is himself manager of the business with the aid of Mrs. Greer and one stenographer, deals in hard wood only, and employs from twelve to fifteen woodsmen. He does a great deal of contracting for logs and hauling. He ships approximatoly five cars per week, bringing form sixty dollars up. (2)

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(1) G. L. McBride,, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Mrs. W. C. Greer, Port Gibson, Miss "

A mill manafacturing aromatic cedar moved into Claiborne County May, 1930. It is operated by W. H. Jones under the name of JACKSON CEDAR COMPANY, being a branch of this company. This company for the past seven years it has cut in excess of five million feet or in excess of three hundred car loads, paying to the owners of this timber approximately seventy five thousand dollars. The cars bring from four hundred to five hundred dollars. At various times this mill has given employment to thirty men directly, and in 1931 and 1932 indirectly to more than fifty men. At the present time they are operating to a limited capacity requiring only about fifteen men due to the scarcity of cedar.

The products of this mill are shipped to markets all over the United States and some points in foreign countries. The by products of this mill, one of which is sawdust, have been shipped to plants that extract the oil of cedar wood from this waste. This local company is also making a floor sweep from its waste products. (1)

## Oil Mills

The PORT GIBSON OIL MILL was founded in 1882 by Mr. Charlie Hofer, Mr. Herman Goepel, and Mr. Frank Inglesing, all of whom are now dead.

It is a corporation, the largest stock holders being the heirs of the ogiginal founders. It is located on the extreme western edge of Port Gibson just within the corporation limits and only a few yards from the Yazoo and Mississipi Valley Railroad tracks.

The products are oil, meal, linters, hulls and cake. Its output in linters alone runs about 3500 bales a year. Before the world war the mill exported largely to foreign countries, but now finds mainly a home market, although last year, twenty tanks of oil went to Cuba in one shipment. The export trade alone amounts to about $175,000.00

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(1) W. H. Jones Port Gibson, Miss

annually. The mill has a daily crushing capacity of one hundred and fifteen tons of seed. During the cotton season seed are shipped from a distance by car loads, and trucks hum night and day keeping the mill supplied.

Ninety to one hundred men are employed in the yard and six in the office. Pay roll for labor amounts to $1000,00 weekly.

This mill runs ten months of the year and both day and night in the busy season. Never within the past fifty-four years has there been a lull in its progress. Beginning with a two press mill, it is today operating eight presses. It is now equipped with modern machinery and recently new buildings havebeen erected at a large expenditure. It is an important source of income to the stockholders and a source of wealth to the community, as may be judged by its output and pay roll. It pays taxes in the county on a valuation of $53,350, supposed sixty per cent of the real valus. (1)

## Public Industries

Agitation for a light and water plant began as far back as November 6, 1895. On April 21, 1896 an election decided for an electric plant but against a power plant. In October of 1896 two big fires in Port Gibson cost the town about $20,000.00 and so crystallized sentiment that an election in December went overwhelmingly for a system of water works. At that time the electric plant had not yet been built. It was therefore decided to combine the light and water plant in one building. In May, 1897 the site for the plant was fixed at a point on Jackson Street in Port Gibson between Market and Farmer , and soon thereafter the building was equipped and ready for use. (2)

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(1) Lomax Anderson, Port Gibson, Miss. Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) F. D. Braunter Port Gibson, Miss. ~~Port Gibson, Miss.~~

On October 20, 1927, the municipality sold the plant to the Mississippi Public Utilities Company,(1) who in turn sold it January 12, 1928, to the Peoples Light and Power Corporation of New York. This was only a transfer, and it still retains the name of the MISSISSIPPI POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY.(2)

Port Gibson is the only town in the county that has a power plant for water and lights. Four men including the superintendant are regularly employed. The annual pay roll amounts to about $5000.00. (3)

The first telephone system in the county was a private system owned by W. D. Redus about 1890. It was located in an upstairs room in his drug store in Port Gibson and operated by a small switchboard connected with a few homes and business places. (4) In March of 1891 Dr. Lomax Anderson of Port Gibson had a private telephone line built from his office to his home,(5) and about the same time Laz Levy's Sons, a wholesale house in Port Gibson, had a line built from their store to the depot.(6)

Interest had been growing for some time in securing a more complete system and in 1895 a local company was organized known as the Claiborne Telephone Company,(7) a charter was secured, and "a neat little exchange fitted up in the building next door to S. Bernheimer & Sons."(8) In the fall of 1898 the company had gotten into debt and was transferred to Jacob Bernheimer who made considerable improvement in its system, adding a number of new subscribers.(9)

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, October 20, 1927 Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Port Gibson Reveille, January 12, 1928 Port Gibson, Miss.
(3) H. D. Brownlee Port Gibson, Miss.
(4) Miss Ottilie Redus Port Gibson, Miss.
(5) Port Gibson Reveille, March 18, 1891 Port Gibson, Miss.
(6) Mrs. Jake Abraham Port Gibson, Miss.
(7) Port Gibson Reveille, October 24, 1895 Port Gibson, Miss.
(8) Port Gibson Reveille, November 1, 1898 Port Gibson, Miss.
(9) Port Gibson Reveille, September 8, 1898 Port Gibson, Miss.



In 1899 the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company secured a right to locate an office in Port Gibson and completed "its magnificent system in Port Gibson, embracing in the limits of the exchange, subscribers in Moss Point, Scranton, and Pensacola." (1) These lines were extended until Port Gibson was "connected by telephone with most of the large cities."(2) About 1922 the system became known as the SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE.

There is only one telephone office and switchboard in the county, that in Port Gibson. Rural calls must pass through the office of an adjoining county.

The Port Gibson office employs three regularly, one part time, one relief, one in training, and one janitor. The annual pay roll amounts to about $1800.00.(3)

There is no record of a telegraph office in Port Gibson, or Claiborne County up to 1856, though there is known to have been agitation for a line as early as 1848(4) and again in 1851.(5) In 1856 the local paper begins giving telegrams. How much earlier these started is not known, as there are no files of the paper from 1851 to September 1856. Telegrams continued to be received until the War Between the States began, after which there is no further record until 1891, when we find the following:"The WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH lines, which ran along the Louiville New Orleans and Texas Railroad have been discontinued, their lease having expired." (6) The Port Gibson line was then operated by the railroad.(7)

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, August 24, 1899- Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) " " " " " " " " "
(3) Mrs. Louis Harrell " " "
(4) Port Gibson Reveille, August 4, 1848 " " "
(5) Herald and Correspondent, March 14, 1851 " " "
(6) Port Gibson Reveille, November 4, 1891 " " "
(7) Port Gibson Reveille " " " 1891, " " "

By June 18, 1891, the POSTAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY had opened an office in Port Gibson with Mr. Collins as operator.(1) A few years later the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company put in a telagraph line, which has continued in the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph(2) system.

At the present time there are in the county a WESTERN UNION office and a POSTAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY office. The former is managed by the local agent of the American Express Company, who sends messages by telephone to Vicksburg.(3) The Postal Telegraph is adjoining the Mississippi Southern Bank in Port Gibson. The express agent receives no compensation.(4) ~~The postal office~~ employs an agent and a janitor at an annual pay roll of about $1020.00.(5)

There are four railroad station operated in the county at the present time by the YAZOO AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY RAILROAD, Port Gibson, Hermanville, Pattison, and Russum, the latter employing only section hands. Twenty-five employees operate all these stations at an annual pay roll of about twnty thousand dollars.

The TRI-STATE TRANSIT COMPANY bus line passes through Port Gibson operating two daily busses. (See Chapter ~~XVII~~ 17).

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(1) Port Gibson Reveille, June 17, 1891
(2) Port Gibson Reveille, June 17, 1891
(3) Herman Reaves, Port Gibson, Miss.
(4) Herman Reaves, Port Gibson, Miss.
(5) J. D. West, Port Gibson, Miss.

## Private Industries

The CITIZENS ICE COMPANY was organized in 1900 by a stock company of Sanford Bloomquist, O. A Cason, Dr. G. W. Acker, and J. M. Jones. In 1903 Mr. Jones bought all stock and has since owned and operated the business himself. The plant is located near the railroad station in Port Gibson.

Though the charter reads "Citizens Ice and Manufacturing Company", ice alone is produced. Trucks deliver ice throughout the county. During the summer months there are seven or eight employees and four or five throughout the winter. The greatest benefits to the community are derived from the value of the product rather than from the pay roll. (1)

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(1) J. M. Jones, Port Gibson, Miss.

## Miscellaneous

In August 1928 Mr. William Arenz organized the local branch of the W. W. LASCITER COMPANY, whose head office is in Vicksburg. The owners of this company are W. W. Lascitor, F. M. Lascitor, and William Arenz. The building valued at $10,000.00 is located in Port Gibson on Highway 61 immediately south of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad.

Their territory includes eight counties. Produce is trucked out from the Port Gibson warehouse, the majority of which is received by rail. A complete line of groceries, feed stuff, lime, cement, brick an clay is carried by the warehouse. There are nine employees and an annual pay roll of $15,000.00.(1)

The BROOM FACTORY was founded by A. C. Gentz, now dead. The present owner is A. C. Gintz, his son. The factory is in the western part of the county in the Westside neighborhood.

The only products are brooms and mops, which are made from broom corn raised by him. They market their products all over the state by truck load. They, that is Mr. Gintz and his wife do all the work connected with operating and trucking, themselves. The factory has been in operation for about twelve years.(2)

Mr. W. D. Westrope, owner and operator of THE CABINET AND FURITURE REPAIR SHOP in Port Gibson, is an unusually skillful worker in this line. He employs no help and his shop is rather poorly equipped. He has made violins and guitars, cedar chests and wardrobes. Perhaps the greater part of his work now consists of repairing and refinishing antique furniture. He is known throughout the county and in adjoining counties for his skill and has more work than he can complete.(3)

(1) William Arenz, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Mrs. J. L. Gaines Port Gibson, Miss
(2) W. D. Westrope Port Gibson, Miss



A few years ago blocks of dogwood were shaped for shuttles, for cotton mill machine. This wood being scarce, this mill has recently gone out of business.

Other industries, are dairying, cattle raising, hogs, and poultry. (See Chapter XV).

## Organizations Affecting Industry

Claiborne County has no Chamber of Commerce, but a LIONS CLUB that serves much the same purpose. This club is outstanding in civic activities. Its most noteworthy accomplishment being for agricultural industry when it was instrumental is securing for the county one of the government Soil Conservation Demonstrations for the Baker's Creek Watershed lying in Claiborne and Jefferson Counties, an area consisting approximately of 26,000 acres.(1) This demonstration has been going on for a year or more and much work has been done in contouring, gully control, pasture clearing, seeding and tree planting, keeping in mind always that the farmer has first to make a living.(2) Another outstanding accomplishment for the agricultural industry by the Lions Club has been the encouragement and aid in securing for the county the Southwest Mississippi Fat Stock Show, an annual event inaugurated in 1936. This has attracted widespread attention to this section.(3)

(1) W. T. McNeil, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Ira W. Carpenter, Port Gibson, Miss.
(3) Port Gibson Reveille, March 18, 1937

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| | |
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| Gaines, Mrs. J. L. | Port Gibson, Miss. |
| Green, Mrs. W. C. | Port Gibson, Miss. |
| Harrell, Mrs. Louis | Port Gibson, Miss. |
| Jones, J M. | Port Gibson, Miss. |
| Jones, W. H. | Port Gibson, Miss. |
| McBride, G. L. | Port Gibson, Miss. |
| McKell, T. L. | Port Gibson, Miss. |
| Roavos, Herman | Port Gibson, Miss. |
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Herald and Correspondent, Port Gibson, Miss. March 14, 1861.

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SOUTHERN BELL TEL. & TEL. CO. (Cont)

C. G. Reynolds & Co.

Lee Richardson & Co.

Dr. Robbins

D. J. Schlenker

S. Schwartz & Co.

W. H. Smith

Spengler Saw Mill

S. Spengler

Susman & Metzger

Trowbridge House

Vicksburg Bank

Y. & M.V. R.R. Depot

Y. & M.V. R.R. Supt.

Y. & M.V. R.R. Shop

Y. & M.V. R.R. Hardy Office

Vicksburg Cotton Exchange

Vicksburg Gas Co.

Warren Cotton Mill

Warner & Searles

Washington Fire Co.

Willis Moore & Co.

G. C. Waddell

W. O. Worrell

Wright Bros.

Washington Hotel

E. Martin & Co.

Claiborne County
Assignment #20

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

Subject: Industry

A. County's Most Important Industries

Port Gibson Oil Mill

1. Founders, owners, location

This was founded in 1882 by Mr. Charlie Hofer, Mr. Stephen Schillig, Mr. Herman Goepel, and Mr. Frank Englesing, all of whom are now dead.

It is a corporation, the largest stock holders being the heirs of the original founders.

It is located on the extreme western edge of Port Gibson, just within the corporate limits and only a few yards from the Y. and M. V. Railroad tracks.

2. Product and Markets

The products are oil, meal, linters, hulls and cake. Its output in linters alone runs about 3500 bales a year. Before the war the mill exported largely to foreign countries, but now finds mainly a home market, although last year twenty tanks of oil went to Cuba in one shipment. The export trade alone amounts to about $175,000.00 annually. The mill has a daily crushing capacity of 115 tons of seed. During the cotton season seed are shipped from a distance by car loads, and trucks hum night and day keeping the mill supplied.

3. Number of Employees and Amount of Payroll

Ninety to one hundred men are employed in the yard and six in the office. Payroll for labor amounts to $1000.00 weekly.

4. Benefits to community

This mill runs ten months of the year and both day and night in the busy season. Never within the past fifty-four years has there been

Subject: Industry

A. County's Most Important Industries

Port Gibson Oil Mill (continued)
4. Benefits to Community (continued)

a lull in its progress. Beginning with a two press mill, it is today operating eight presses. It is now equipped with modern machinery and recently new buildings have been erected at a large expenditure. It is an important source of income to the stock holders and a source of wealth to the community, as may be judged by its output and payroll. It pays taxes in the county on a valuation of $53,350, supposed 60% of the real value(1).

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1. Information from Sheriff's office, Claiborne County.
2. Facts in above article given by Mr. Lomax Anderson, Superintendent of the Mill.

Claiborne County
Assignment #20

Subject: Industry

Southern Package Corporation

See "Flora and Fauna" Assignment #8 for full account. In addition we give the following additional facts:

Products and Markets

Manufactures material for hampers, baskets, lugs, and veneer for furniture, the latter being one of the main products.

Cabinet veneer is sold to the Borden Cabinet Company, Borden, Indiana, makers of Philco Radio cabinets; to the Hoosier Panel Company, New Albany, Indiana; and the Mushroom Supply Company of Pennsylvania and the Louisville, Kentucky, Furniture Company, and others. There is a large export business in box materials with largest shipments going to Porto Rico and others to Grand Rapids and Chicago and elsewhere. A large amount is sold locally through the Claiborne Hardware Company.

The Southern Package Corporation has recently built a very large commissary and put in a stock of groceries and dry goods, with a filling station attached. Three regular employees with extra help on Saturdays. A splendid business is being carried on here; building and stock valued at $5000,00 (Five Thousand Dollars).

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Above information secured from the Southern Package Corporation

Claiborne County
Assignment #20

Subject: Industry

A. County's Most Important Industries- continued

Port Gibson Lumber Company

See"Flora and Fauna" Assignment #8 for full account. In addition we give the following:

Markets are the United States and foreign countries. Recently the company has built a commissary and put in a large stock of general merchandise. (1)

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1. Information from Mr. G. L. McBride, manager

Claiborne County
Assignment #20

Subject: Industry

B. Private Industries:
1. Factories: (1)
Citizens Ice Company

1. ~~Biography~~ Founders, owners, location

Organized in 1900 by a stock company composed of Sanford Bloomquist, O. A. Cason, Dr. G. W. Acker, and J. M. Jones. In 1903 Mr. Jones bought all stock and has since owned and operated the business himself. The plant is located near the railroad station in Port Gibson.

2. Product and Markets

Though the charter reads "Citizens Ice and Manufacturing Company", ice alone is produced. Trucks deliver ice throughout the county.

3. Number Employees and Amount Payroll

Seven or eight employees in the summer months and four or five throughout the winter. Payroll was not furnished.

4. Benefits to community

These are derived from the value of the product rather than from the amount of the payroll, as is obvious.

2. Mills for Converting Raw Products etc.

See under A mills mentioned

3. Wholesalers

W. W. Lassiter and Company (2)

1. Founders, owners, location

Mr. William Arenz organized the local branch of the Company, whose head office is in Vicksburg. Owners are W. W. Lassitur, F. M.

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1. Information from J. M. Jones, owner and operator
2. " " William Arenz

Claiborne County
Assignment #20

Subject: Industry

B. Private Industries
4. Any Other Unique or Useful Industries

Cabinet and Furniture Repair Shop (1)

Mr. D. T. Westrope, owner and operator of this shop in Port Gibson, is an unusually skillful worker in this line. He employes no help and his shop is rather poorly equipped. He has made violins and guitars, cedar chests and wardrobes. Perhaps the greater part of his work now consists of repairing and refinishing antique furniture. He is known throughout the county and in adjoining counties for his skill and has more work than he can complete.

5. Agriculture

Agriculture furnishes employment to about 90% of the population of the county. This per cent includes owners, part owners, operators, managers, tenants, and so on.(2) Outside the timber income, general farming is a means of livelihood to a large number of people.(3) Their are several dairy farms, and cattle raising is becoming increasingly important.

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1. Facts from Mr. Westrope
2. Mississippi(statistics by Counties) by Z.F. Pettet, page 7
3. W. J. McKewen, County Agent

Claiborne County
Assignment #20

Subject: Industry

C. Public Industries:

1. Water, Light and Power Plants

Agitation for a light and water plant began as far back as November 6, 1895. In April 21, 1896 an election decided for an electric plant but against a power plant. In October of 1896 two big fires in Port Gibson cost the town about $20,000.00 and so crystallized sentiment that an election in December went overwhelmingly for a system of water works. At that time the electric plant had not yet been built. It was therefore decided to combine the light and water plant in one building. In May, 1897 the site for the plant was fixed at a point on Jackson Street in Port Gibson between Market and Farmer, and soon thereafter the building was equipped and ready for use.(1)

On October 20, 1927, the municipality sold the plant to the Mississippi Public Utility Company(2) who in turn sold it January 12, 1928, to the Peoples Light and Power Corporation of New York. This was only a transfer, and it still retains the name of the Mis issippi Power and Light Company.(3)

Port Gibson is the only town in the county that has a power plant for water and lights. Four men including the superintendant are regularly employed.(4) The annual payroll amounts to about $5000.00.

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1. Minutes of the Light and Power Company belonging to H. D. Brownlee, Manager of the plant.
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Oct. 20, 1927
3. Port Gibson Reveille of January 12, 1928.
4. H. D. Brownlee, manager local plant

Subject: Industry

B. Private Industries 3. Wholesalers

W. W. Lassiter and Company (continued)

Lassiter, and William Arenz. The building valued at $10,000.00 is located in Port Gibson on Highway 61 immediately south of the Y. and M. V. Railroad.

2. Products and Markets

Their territory includes eight counties. Produce is trucked out from the Port Gibson warehouse, the majority of which is received by rail. A complete line of groceries, feed stuff, lime, cement, brick and clay is carried by the warehouse.

3. Number of Employees and Amount of Payroll

There are nine employees and an annual payroll of $15,000.00

4. Any Other Unique or Useful Industry (1)

Broom Factory

1. Founders, owners, location : Founder was A. C. Gintz, now dead. Owner is A. C. Gintz, his son. The factory is in the western part of the county in the Westside neighborhood.

2. Product and Markets: Only product is brooms,which are made from broom corn raised by himself, and mops. They market their product all over the state by truck load. They, that is Mr. Gintz and wife do all work connected with operating and trucking themselves. The factory has been in operation for about twelve years.

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1. Information from Mrs. Jim Gaines on whose place Mr. Gintz lives.

Subject: Industry

C. Public Industries (continued)

2. Telephone and Telegraph Plants

The first telephone system in the county was a private system owned by Dr. W. D. Redus about 1890. It was located in an upstairs room in his drug store in Port Gibson and operated by a small switch board connected with a few homes and business places.(1) In March of 1891 Dr. Lomax Anderson of Port Gibson had a private telephone line built from his office to his home,(2) and about the same time Laz Levy's Sons, a wholesale house in Port Gibson, had a line built from their store to the depot.(3)

Interest had been growing for some time in securing a more complete system and in 1895 a local company was organized known as the Claiborne Telephone Company, a charter was secured,(4) and "a neat little exchange fitted up in the building next door to S. Bernheimer & Sons."(5) But in the fall of 1898 the company had gotten into debt and was transferred to Mr. Jacob Bernheimer who made considerable improvement in its system, adding a number of new subscribers.(6)

In 1899 the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company secured a right to locate an office in Port Gibson and completed "its magnificent system in Port Gibson, embracing in the limits of the exchange subscribers in Moss Point, Scranton, and Pensacola."(7) These lines were extended until Port Gibson was "connected by telephone with most of the large cities". About 1922 the system became known as the Bells Telephone.

1. Miss Ottilie Redus, daughter of Dr. Redus
2. Port Gibson Reveille of March 18, 1891
3. Mrs. Jake Abraham of Port Gibson, granddaughter of Mr. Levy
4. Port Gibson Reveille of Oct. 24, 1895
5. " " " Nov. 1, 1898
6. " " " Sept. 8, 1898
7. " " " Aug. 24, 1899



Subject: Industry

C. Public Industries

2. Telephone and Telegraph Plants- continued

There is only one telephone office and switchboard in the county, that in Port Gibson. Rural calls must pass through the office of an adjoining county.

The Port Gibson office employs three regularly, one part time, one relief, one in training, and one janitor. The annual payroll amounts to about $1800.00.(1)

Telegraph

There is no record of a telegraph office in Port Gibson, or Claiborne County up to 1856, though there is known to have been agitation for a line as early as 1848 and again in 1851(2). In 1856 the local paper begins giving telegrams. How much earlier these started is not known, as there are no files of the paper from 1851 to Sept. 1856. Telegrams continued to be received until the War Between the States began, after which there is no further record until 1891, when we find the following: "The Western Union Telegraph lines, which ran along the I.C.R.R. have been discontinued, their lease having expired."(4). The Port Gibson line was then operated by the railroad.(5)

By June 18, 1891, the Postal Telegraph Company had opened an office in Port Gibson with Mr. Collins as operator.(6) A few years later the Cumberland Telephone Company put in a telegraph line, which has

1. Mrs. Louis M. Reid, operator
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Aug. 4, 1848
3. Herald and Correspondent of Port Gibson of March 14, 1851
4. Port Gibson Reveille of Nov. 8, 1891
5. " " " " "
6. " " " June 17, 1891

Subject: Industry

C. Public Industries (continued

Telegraph (continued)

been continued in the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph system.(1)

At the present time there are in the county a Western Union office and a Postal Telegraph Company office. The former is managed by the local agent of the American Express Company, who sends messages by telephone to Vicksburg.(2) The Postal Telegraph office is adjoining the Mississippi Southern Bank in Port Gibson.

The express agent received no compensation.(2) The latter office employs an agent and a janitor at an annual payroll of about $1020.00.(3)

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of June 17, 1901
2. Mr. Herman Reaves, Express agent
3. Postal Telegraph operator of Port Gibson

Claiborne County
Assignment #20

Subject: Industry

C. Public Industries

3. Railroads and Shops; Bus Lines

The first railroad in the county was The Grand Gulf and Port Gibson Railroad founded about1854 and operating up to the time of the War Between The States, a very profitable road for all of this section.(1)

The next railroad to come through was the Mississippi Valley and Ship Island Railroad, a branch of the L.N.O. & T. and called by that name. This line was completed by Feb. 2, 1884.(2) In 1892 the name was changed to the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad,(3) by which name it still goes, a branch of the Illinois Central System. The value of this road to the county was very great and in 1932 it was said to pay one-fifth of all our taxes.(4)

The next railroad was the N.J. and C. running from Natchez to Jackson, passing through Pattison (at that time Martin) and Hermanville.(5) It was built by private capital as a narrow guage road with the intention of continuing the line to Columbus, hence the name, Natchez, Jackson and Columbus. The road was begun at Natchez and by the time Jackson was reached the money gave out and the line could not be completed. Somewhere between 1897 and 1900 this road was bought by the Y. and M. V. Railroad and converted over night into a standard gauge road and is so operated today.(6)

There are four stations operated in the county at the present time by the Y. & M. V. Railroad: Port Gibson, Hermanville, Pattison,

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of Nov. 22, 1856
2. " " " Feb. 16, 1884
3. " " " Oct. 28, 1892
4. " " " Dec. 8, 1932
5. " " " Jan. 5, 1928
6. J. D. Schooler, local agent Y. & M. V. RR.

Subject: Industry

C. Public Industries(continued)

3. Railroads and Shops ; Bus Lines

and Russum, the latter employing only section hands. Twenty-five employees operate all these stations at an annual payroll of about twenty thousand dollars ($20,000.00).(1)

Bus Lines

The Tri-State Transit Company busline passes through Port Gibson operating two busses daily. The first bus came through in 1933. They have no local office or station formally set up, but tickets are handled by the Meyer-Marx Drug Company of Port Gibson. No employees and hence no local payroll.(2)

D. City and County Chambers of Commerce

Claiborne County has no Chamber of Commerce but a Lions Club located in Port Gibson serves much the same purpose. This club was organized in September, 1928, with thirty-two business men as members and with Mr. H. D. Cudabac, Field Director of the Lions' International, present to assist.(3) The club languished and died after a short existence.(4)

In November of 1933, Mr. J. L. Clarkson of Chicago, representing the Lions' International visited Port Gibson in an endeavor to reorganize the local club. This was done and the following officers were elected: H.D. Brownlee, president; Karl Weil, first vice-president; J.S. Brown, 2nd vice-president; J.D. Schooler, 3rd vice-president; E.T. Cris-

1. J. D. Schooler, local agent for the road, Port Gibson.
2. Meyer-Marx Drug Company, Port Gibson
3. Port Gibson Reveille of Jan. 24, 1929
4. Mr. Carl Bloomquist, Port Gibson, first president

Claiborne County
Assignment #20

Subject: Industry

D. City and County Chambers of Commerce (continued)

Lions' Club (continued)

ler, secretary; I.R. Meyer, treasurer; J.H. Bare, tail twister; H.H. Crisler, H.R. Guthrie, J.W. Person, Dr. W.N. Jenkins, Directors. (1) Mr. John Bare is the present president of the club.

The club has been outstanding for its civic activities since its reorganization, its most noteworthy accomplishments being for agricultural industry when it was instrumental in securing for the county one of the government Soil Conservation Demonstrations for the Baker's Creek Watershed lying in Claiborne and Jefferson Counties, an area consisting approximately of 26,000 acres.(2) This demonstration has now been going on for a year or more and much work has been done in contouring, gully control, pasture clearing, seeding and tree planting, keeping in mind always that the farmer has first to make a living, and this must not be upset too much.(3)

Another outstanding accomplishment for the agricultural industry by the Lions' Club has been the encouragement and aid in securing for the county the Southwest Mississippi Fat Stock Show, an annual event inaugurated in 1936. This has attracted widespread attention to this section.(4)

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond, Historian

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of Nov. 9, 1933
2. McKell, Agronomist with the Soil Conservation Demonstration
3. Circular letter sent out Dec. 19, 1935 by Ira W. Carpenter, Project Manager of the S.C.D.
4. Port Gibson Reveille of March 18, 1937

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County

Assignment #23

Canvassers:
Mary Nasson
Lela E.Hamilton

Transportation

I. Old Roads
I. The Natchez Trace

"In 1801 the United States made treaties with the Choctaws and Chickasaws by which an important road, the Natchez Trace, was opened for the safe passage of travellers through their country. This road, which connected Natchez with Nashville, Tennessee, is the most historic thoroughfare in Mississippi. It was originally an Indian trail, and for many years after this treaty,was little more than a bridle-path. It was a post road as early as 1796-1797".(1)

"A traveller who passed over the Natchez Trace on horse back as late as 1810 says that the difficulties he had encountered could not be imagined by those who had never passed over the road."(2)

This road extends in a southwesterly direction through Claiborne County, passing Rocky Springs, Grindstone Ford, and the county seat, Port Gibson. From here the road passes southward into Jefferson County.

"Along this trail one sees the evidence of the Indian's wise ideas to follow ridges, and thus avoid valleys and ravines. In the course of time in many places this road has worn down by both erosion and usage to deep embankments on each side of the road bed."

"This old Natchez Trace means so much to us of today, because it was in use prior to any other road in this section. Along its crooks and turns, through the fertile valleys, and over the cane hills of Claiborne County were dotted here and there, the old primitive

1. F. L. Riley's History of Mississippi, page 127
2. " " " " " 129
N.B. The rest of this sketch is taken from an Interview with Mrs.W.A. Clarke of Carlisle. For complete interview see our Assignment #13



I. Old Roads
I. The Natchez Trace-continued

homes first constructed of logs. At a later day rose the famous palatial mansions typical of the South. These homes were noted for their elegance and true hospitality which was unsurpassed in any section of the country."

"In the northeastern corner of Claiborne County is a little stream whose waters flow into Big Black River. The old Trail crosses this creek. It was here that Governor Wm. Charles Cole Claiborne sent three commissioners to confer with the Choctaw Indians to permit the white settlers to occupy the land east of this creek. A satisfactory agreement was made, and the Indians were paid for their hunting grounds. Since that time the stream has been known as "Commissioners Creek."

"When the survey was made the next creek east on the Natchez Trail was named Five Mile, while the next stream was called Fourteen Mile Creek. The distance was, in each instance, measured from Commissioners Creek as a starting point."

"In 1801 General Wilkinson made a treaty at Fort Adams with the Choctaws to open the Trail as a post road to unite with the road through the Chickasaw lands. General Wilkinson asked that white families be allowed to establish taverns and inns along the Natchez Trace. This the Indians were clever enough to refuse; as they preferred to keep this privilege for themselves."

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Transportation

I. Old Roads
I. The Natchez Trace-continued

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Transportation

I. Old Roads -continued

6. Old Stage Coach Lines- continued

up or down. It was promised that "passengers either way would be subjected to no detention at Grand Gulf. Fare $1.50." (1)

The direct communication which at one time existed by stage between Port Gibson and Raymond, had for some reason been discontinued. In 1868 efforts were being made to reestablish this contact again. Citizens of Rocky Springs neighborhood were earnestly hoping for it, for mails came to this place only from Grand Gulf and Hazlehurst. It was urged that "anything tending to facilitate either traveling or mail communications with interior towns ought to meet with every encouragement and support." (2)

In 1872, we find a hack running twice a week from Port Gibson to Hazlehurst. "Good team and careful driver. All baggage over twenty pounds charged at rate of $2.00 per 100." (3)

(continued on next page)

7. No other historic roads in the county.

1. The Standard March 27, 1868
2. " " ~~May 3, 1868~~ July 24, 1868
3. " " May 3, 1872

Claiborne County
Assignment #23

Transportation

II. The Present Highways of the County

1. Members of Highway Commission--------None

2. Federal Appropriation for Roads in County----None

3. State Appropriations for Roads in County

Three cents per gallon of gas.(1)

4. County appropriations for roads in county:

A road sinking fund of three (3) mills from each of the five districts in the county. A general county road maintenance fund of three (3) mills. A road maintenance fund from four districts of 3 mills and from one district of two mills. A bridge fund of eight mills.(2)

5. National Highways through County:

Highway No. 61: A smooth straight hard surfaced highway north of Port Gibson, the dream of many for years, becomes nearer a reality as one watches the rapid progress being made by the contractors on the grading projects. Even now after fifteen working days, the hills from the residence of the W.P. Gordon to Big Bayou Pierre have been cut through and the valleys filled. And in that short time 35,000 cubic yards of dirt, of the 143,193 in the contract, have been removed. T. M. Strider Company of Nashville are the contractors on the highway, starting at the Irwin Russell Bridge and continuing for 3.7 miles. The tremendous volume of work done by machines is amazing as one watches the carry-alls, pulled by caterpillar tractors, scoop up twelve yards of dirt at a time without even slackening their speed. Each machine, which is operated by only one man, can be turned around in a

1. Information from Chancery Clerk
2. Printed statement of Tax Rate, Fiscal Year, 1936, Claiborne County

Transportation

I. Old Roads-continued

6. Old Stage Coach Lines-continued

An article headed "A New Traveling Arrangement" found in a paper of 1858 (1) informs the traveling public that his"new four-horse United States Mail Stage Lines are in full operation from Port Gibson to Hazlehurst Depot, and from Raymond via Coopers Wells to Terry's Depot. ---------Large and comfortable hotels are open at both Hazlehurst and Terry Depots. Every attention will be paid to the comfort of those passing over these routes. Connection with the regular mail trains on the N.O.J. and G.N. Railroad beyond a doubt. Rates of fare: Port Gibson to New Orleans--$8.45; Port Gibson to Coopers Wells--$5.89."

In 1883 there was a daily line from Port Gibson to Hermanville carrying the daily mail, with comfortable and commodious hack for passengers. (2)

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1. Southern Reveille of July 17, 1858
2. " " May 26, 1883



Transportation

II. Present Highways in County

5. National Highways through County -continued

space much smaller than that required by an ordinary automobile. Preparations are now being made for test piling for bridges. Just when work will begin on the bridge over Big Bayou Pierre is not yet determined. And there is also another span to be added to the bridge over the Bayou at Port Gibson.

Just north of Port Gibson, the new highway will traverse a part of the old route, crossing it at the Bordon's home. Then it again crosses the present winding route above D.M. Dowdell's place,and does not again touch the present route until it reaches Yokena.

At the end of the Strider contract, Charles Weaver of Jackson has the contract for grading 5.2 miles which carries the new route to within a thousand feet of Big Black river. His contract begins near the line of the Dowdell and Headley places.

The road keeps straight with only gradual curves and crosses the old Willows-Ingleside road, about four miles east of Ingleside.

Much of the right of way on this contract has been cleared, and grading will probably begin about January 15. The contract calls for the moving of 234,601 cubic yards of dirt. (1)

Highway #61 is the main thoroughfare of Claiborne County. Mileage beginning at the Warren County line and extending to the Jefferson County line, total mileage being 30 miles. This highway takes a left turn in front of the Court House and follows Church Street on past Chamberlain Hunt Academy.

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of Dec. 31, 1926

II. National Highways through County-continued

It is expected that in the near future the trend of travel will be through the Memphis gateway, down 61 through the Mississippi Delta, Vicksburg, Port Gibson, Natchez, and sc to the Gulf.

~~While~~ There is always anxiety and uncertainty of the completion of highways in the vicinity. The commission has promised to keep the Natchez Pilgrimage dates in mind with a view of having all the roads leading to Natchez in good shape at that time for tour traffic.(1)

6. Name and Describe State Highways through County

Highway #18 is second in importance to transportation through Claiborne County. This highway traverses the county from the Copiah County line in the northeastern corner of the county to the southwestern corner, terminating at Alcorn College. It passes through Carlisle, Hermanville, Port Gibson, and Westside. This road has been completed to state specifications from the Copiah line to Hermanville, is under construction from Hermanville to Port Gibson, not under construction, or up to state specification from Port Gibson to within three miles of Alcorn College. The latter three miles maintained at the present time by the State. This road is graded, graveled, and drained. No bituminous surfacing.(2)

1. Port Gibson Reveille of Nov. 12, 1936
2. A. E. Alford, state highway employee



II. The Present Highways of County-continued

7. Secondary Roads

Secondary roads in the main are in excellent condition, in many cases almost as good as the main roads. Almost all of these roads are graveled wholly or in part. There is no hard surfacing as yet, but constant work and attention keep them at all times of the year easy and pleasant to travel over.(1)

8. Bus Lines

The only bus line through Claiborne County is the Tri-State Transit Company's line, which began operations in Port Gibson January of 1933. It passes through Port Gibson twice a day, morning and afternoon. It comes through Vicksburg going south to Natchez in the afternoon and the same route going north through Vicksburg in the morning.(2)

1. Interview with several supervisors of county.
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Nov. 2, 1933

Claiborne County
Assignment #23

Transportation

III. Railroad Pioneering in County

1. Early attempts at building

The first railroad to pass through Claiborne County was the Grand Gulf and Port Gibson Railroad. It was organized in 1833 but it was not until 1855 that the railroad between the two towns began to be operated successfully. It lasted till the Civil War and went out of business then but was started again after the war.(1)

"This great system of eight miles in length had its eastern terminus on the outskirts of Port Gibson one square back from Main Street, which leads to the Port Gibson Oil Works. The road had two engines and a small amount of other rolling stock, including one or two passenger cars. A dollar was charged for the trip to Grand Gulf.(2)

2. Effects of 1837 panic on railroad construction in the county --------None.

3. Name of first incorporated roads operating in county.

The Grand Gulf and Port Gibson Railroad.

4. Development of early system operating in county

Nothing was done in the county about railroads other than the Grand Gulf and Port Gibson Railroad until about 1882.

5. Development of present system

"When the Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas(now the Y.& M.V.) railroad was being surveyed through the county, the town voted to give the company $40,000 as a bonus for coming through Port Gibson. But disagreement arose regarding the streets to be traversed by the new

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1. History of Port Gibson-pamphlet by Rev. H.G. Hawkins
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Aug. 19, 1926

Transportation

III. Railroad Pioneering in County-continued

5@-Development of present system-continued

road, the promoters insisting on building along some of the principal streets. When refused permission to do this, they swung out, circling the town for a full quarter of a mile at the nearest point. This incensed the people and they declined to give the promised bonus. The case was fought out in the courts with the town winning the fight. This road was started in 1882." (1)

*In August, 1883, the L.,N & T. RR. completed its line through Port Gibson from Memphis to New Orleans. The day it was finished the engine R. E. Lee pulled the excursionists that went on a trip to see how it worked, and it made twenty miles an hour easily.(2)

A short time after the completion of this road, the Port Gibson and Grand Gulf road was sole to the new comers at a sacrifice. It had been a paying investment but its owners knew that the steamboats, which were their only means of reaching the markets, could not compete with a trunk line railroad, and it would be foolish to continue to operate the short line. Grand Gulf was no loner a town of any size, and but little business could be expected there.(3)

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of Aug. 19, 1926
2. The Southern Reveille of Aug. 4, 1883
3. P.G. Reveille of Aug. 19, 1926

Claiborne County
Assignment #23

Transportation

IV. Mississippi River Travel By:

1. Early boats

It is impossible to state how many of these early boats were in use,landing at Grand Gulf and even coming thence up Bayou Pierre to Port Gibson, carrying freight. An early news item reports that "Three flat boats are in the Bayou Pierre, near the bridge at the end of Farmer Street. They have the usual flat boat stores. Port Gibson is on a navigable stream, and yet such is her modesty that she does not dream of being the future metropolis, 'Great City', or any such thing," (1)

An even earlier item reports; "The backwater is sufficiently deep in the bayou for all purposes of navigation. There are at this time at the landing thirteen flatboats laden with western produce; and business there would be lively were not the prices demanded exorbitant. We understand that an attempt is making to discourage boats from entering the bayou, and that persons at different landings above its mouth are instructed to represent this market as glutted and prices very low; whereas exactly the contrary is the fact. An attempt was made by one of the boat owners at the landing to bind the others in an agreement that they would all demand certain high stipulated prices for everything they had to sell, at a forfeit of $500. This project failed through the honesty of one of the boat owners. Two or three boat-loads of good bacon, lard and flour would command good prices and ready sale." (2)

Lumber for building the handsome ante-bellum homes of the county was frequently built into a barge, or flatboat, and thus shipped down the Mississippi from a northern point to Grand Gulf, there knocked to pieces and sent overland to its destination. (3)

1. Standard of May 2, 1873
2. The Correspondent of April 2, 1831---3. See Old Home Assignment

Claiborne County
Assignment #23

Transportation

IV Mississippi River Travel By:

2. Early steamboats

With Grand Gulf the only Mississippi River port, this little city, as it was in the early days, assumed great importance in the early history of river transporation in the county. Steamboats landed here according to regular schedule, carrying both freight and passengers, as will be seen by a perusal of the following items taken from early papers:

"The Concordia. Regular Weekly packet for Vicksburg, Warrenton, New Carthage, Grand Gulf, Rodney, Waterproof, Natchez, Fort Adams, Bayou Latinache, and all intermediate landings. Every Tuesday evening at 5 o'clock from New Orleans." (1)

"The Steamer Richmond with James McCord, master, will run the entire season between New Orleans,and Millikins Bend. The Richmond will land and take in passengers at any place between those above named. For freight or passage apply on board, or to M.J. Biddle,Agent, Grand Gulf. (2)

"The Packet Governor Allen now leaves New Orleans every ~~Saturday~~ Tuesday evening at 5 o'clock, passing Grand Gulf every Thursday morning at 9 o'clock on her up trip and every Saturday evening at 5 o'clock on her return, meeting the cars at Grand Gulf both ways." (3) "It is expected that the magnificent Pargourd will soon enter the Bend in the place of the Allen." (4)

"The Cordelia Ann, a stern-wheeler, has been purchased at this place, for $3000 by Mr. Robert Watt of Port Gibson. She will be placed in the Port Gibson Grand Gulf trade we learn. (5)

1. Port Gibson Herald of Sept. 18, 1845
2. " " " " " "
3. " " Standard of ~~Aug 23, 1868~~ Sept. 29, 1866
4. " " " of Aug. 28, 1868
5. " " " March 24, 1866

Claiborne County
Assignment #23

Transportation

IV. Mississippi River Travel by: 2. Early Steamboats-continued

Among other steamboats passing Grand Gulf and stopping there for freight and passengers were: The Grey Eagle and The Quitman. Of those it was said that few boats on the river have more comforts and greater speed, and none can boast of more obliging and liberal officers."(1) The Lucy E. Cantrell, The City of Augusta, The Huntress, "the elegant Steamer Woodford."(2)

There was even an attempt to ply a steamboat, The St. Elmo Belle, on the Bayou Pierre above Port Gibson. "This boat was built by Capt. M.R. Jones, Carlisle, and a Capt. Shaw. The boat was fifty feet long and its deck 15 feet wide of cypress. Cabins were on the deck -----and a freight room in the hull, front and side decks.. It made bi-weekly trips between Vicksburg and Grandstone Ford, traversing Bayou Pierre, Big Black and Mississippi River, carrying passengers and freight." This boat was not long in use on the Bayou, for this stream proved much of the time too shallow for navigation. The St. Elmo Belle was transferred to a run from Vicksburg to Hankinson Ferry.(3)

3. Present Steamboat Transportation: None

4. Airways------None

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond, Historian

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1. The Standard of Feb. 10, 1866
2. Survey of early papers.
3. Port Gibson Reveille of Aug. 19, 1926-article by Dr. McCaleb

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Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature (~~continued~~)
1. Novelists

Mrs. Susette Fontaine Sawyer

"Mrs. Sawyer is a great granddaughter of Colonel John Fontaine, Knight of the Golden Horseshoe, who was a direct descendant of Clovis, King of the Franks, and near kinsman of Fontaine the Fabulist. Colonel Fontaine married Martha, eldest daughter of Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia. Their grandson was Dr. Edward Fontaine, LLD., noted scientist and author, who was Mrs. Sawyer's father. Her mother was Susan Taylor, grandniece of General Zachary Taylor, and a talented musician.

"Mrs. Sawyer was born near Jackson, Mississippi, at Belvidere Plantation, the home of her parents. At an early age, she began writing stories" Later she wrote some poetry as well as novels.

Her best known novel, "The Priestess of the Hills" is an historical novel "portraying actual conditions in the South before, during and after the Civil War, bringing to light much that has been forgotten of the days of long ago, in a most entertaining way." The romantic interest is "especially dramatic and holds the attention of the reader from the beginning to the end." (1)

Mrs. Sawyer is at present living in Claiborne County at her plantation home "Pattona".

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1. From a leaflet called The Priestess of the Hills published by the Meador Publishing Company of Boston, Mass. (no date), in possession of Mrs. Sawyer.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

1. Novelists (continued)

Ellen Martin

"Ellen Martin was born on Talbot Plantation, North Fork of the Bayou Pierre, Claiborne County, Mississippi. She lived in Port Gibson and died in Maryland. She published a novel "Feet of Clay", which portrays the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 that scourged Mississippi." (1)

Mrs. Ottilie Mueller Bertron (For biographical sketch see Miscellaneous)

She published two novels, "Edith" and _____.(2)

Mrs. Rosa Griffith Vertner Johnson Jeffrey

(For Biographical Sketch see Poets)

Her first novel "Woodburn" was published in 1860 to be followed sometime later by "Marsh" also a novel. (1)

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1. Information from Dr. J. T. McCaleb of Carlisle, Claiborne County, from his unpublished manuscript "Mississippi Poets and Prose Writers".

2. Information from Miss Ottilie Rodus of Port Gibson, granddaughter of Mrs. Bertron

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE

2. Historians

H. S. Fulkerson

His works are narrative history based on original sources of information.

H. S. Fulkerson came to Mississippi from Kentucky in the fall of 1836 and took up his residence in the little town of Rodney, in Jefferson County. During the period which followed the great financial crash of 1837-40, when the courts were crowded with suits great and small, and the Circuit Clerks were busy night and day, issueing and serving process, Fulkerson was a deputy Clerk in the Circuit Court of Claiborne County. As he says in his own words: "It was my fortune at this period to be a deputy Clerk in the Circuit Court of Claiborne County, Mississippi, at Port Gibson, the county seat and amongst my other duties was that of minutes reader in the Court-room and I was custodian of the books and papers of the Court-room. These duties required my constant presence in Court on the trial of "causes" and I had thereby abundant opportunity to see and hear the "array" of legal talent present, for several terms.

Besides a home bar which claimed some of the best talent of the State; Ellet, Wilson, Coleman, Maury, Thrasher, Chaplin, et ahs., we would have present frequently, Montgomery, Boyd, McMurran and Thatcher of Natchez; and Prentiss, Foote, Guion, Yerger and Tompkins, of Vicksburg, some of them with a national reputation, and all of them with more than

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

2. Historians----------(continued)

H. S. Fulkerson----------(continued)

local repute."(1)

His history is very interesting. His writings show a close knowledge of the learned men of Mississippi at that time. Of particular interest is his account of the yellow fever in various parts of the state.

His principal work is Random Recollections of Early Days in Mississippi, which was published in Vicksburg, Mississippi by the Vicksburg Printing and Publishing Company in 1885.

1. Random Recollections of Early Days in Mississippi by H. S. Fulkerson.

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE

3. Poets.

Irwin Russell

"Irwin Russell was among the first - if not the very first - of Southern writers to appreciate the literary possibilities of the negro character, and of the unique relations existing between the two races before the war, and was among the first to develop them. The opinion of an uncritical mind ought not to go for much, but it seems to me that some of Irwin Russell's negro-character studies rise to the level of what, in a large way, we term literature. His negro operetta, "Christmas-Night in the Quarters," is inimitable. It combines the features of a character study with a series of bold and striking plantation pictures that have never been surpassed. In this remarkable group,--if I may so term it,--the old life before the war is reproduced with a fidelity that is marvelous.

But the most wonderful thing about the dialect poetry of Irwin Russell is his accurate conception of the negro character. The dialect is not always the best,--it is often carelessly written,--but the negro is there the old-fashioned, unadulterated negro, who is still dear to the Southern heart. There is no straining after effect--indeed, the poems produce their results by indirection; but I do not know where could be found today a happier or a more perfect representation of negro character.

Joel Chandler Harris."(1)

1. Introduction to "Christmas Night in the Quarters" by Irwin Russell.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

"Irwin Russell was born June 3, 1853, at Port Gibson, Mississippi, where he studied law and was admitted to the bar. His restless nature and wayward dispesition drove him from one place to another, from dissipation, from not too rugged health to utter breakdown. In July, 1879, he was forced to leave New York, working his way down to New Orleans on a coast steamer, trying to rehabilitate himself as reporter on the New Orleans Picayune. But illness pursued him and the following December Russell died, cut off, in the midst of his promise, before he had reached his twenty-seventh year.

Although Russell did not take his poetry seriously and though the bulk of it is small, its influence has been large. Thomas Nelson Page and Joel Chandler Harris have acknowledged their indebtedness to him; the creator of Uncle Remus writing, "Irwin Russell was among the first--if not the first--of Southern writers to appreciate the literary possibilities of the negro character." He entered the negroes' life, appreciated their turns of thought, saw things with that peculiar mixture of reverence and unconscious humor that is so integral a part of the Spirituals. "Blessing the Dance" and "De Fust Banjo" (from Russell's operetta Christmas-Night in the Quarters) are excellent examples; faithful renderings of the mind of the old-fashioned, simple and sententious child of the plantation.

Claiborne County
Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVSION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

A collection of Russell's poems appeared, with an introduction by Joel Chandler Harris, in 1888. In 1917, a more inclusive volume, with illustrations by E. W. Kemble, was published by The Century Company.

Russell died suddenly, in an obscure boarding house in New Orleans, December 23, 1879."(1)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS

When merry Christmas-day is done
And Christmas-night is just begun;
While clouds in slow procession drift,
To wish the moon-man "Christmas gift,"
Yet linger overhead, to know
What causes all the stir below;
At Uncle Johnny Booker's ball
The darkies hold high carnival.
From all the country-side they throng,

1. From Modern American Poetry edited by Louis Untermeyer, Page108.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS-------(continued)

With laughter, shouts, and scraps of song,--
Their whole deportment plainly showing
That to the Frolic they are going.
Some take the path with shoes in hand,
To traverse muddy bottom-land;
Aristocrats their steed bestride--
Four on a mule, behold them ride!
And ten great oxen draw apace
The wagon from "de odder place,"
With forty guests, whose conversation
Betokens glad anticipation.
Not so with him who drives: old Jim
Is sagely solemn, hard, and grim,
And frolics have no joys for him.
He seldom speaks but to condemn--
Or utter some wise apothegm--
Or else, some crabbed thought pursuing,
Talk to his team, as now he's doing;

---

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS----------(continued)

Come up heah, Star! Yee-bawee!
You alluz is a-laggin'--
Mus' be you think I's dead,
An' dis de huss you's draggin'--
You's'mos' too lazy to draw yo' bref'
Let'lone drawin' de waggin.
Dis team--quit bel'rin', sah!
De ladies don't submit'at--
Dis team--you ol' fool ox,
You heah me tell you quit 'at?
Dis team's des like de 'Nited States;
Dat's what I's tryin' to git at!

De people rides behin'
De pollytishners haulin'--
Sh'u'd be a well-bruk ox,
To foller dat ar callin'--
An' sometimes nuffin won't do dem steers,
But hwat dey mus' be stallin'!

Woa, bahgh! Buck-kannon! Yes, sar,

1. DIVISION DE FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS----------(continued)

Sometimes dey will be stickin';
An' den, fus thing dey knows,
Dey takes a rale good lickin'.
De folks gits down: an' den watch out
For hommerin' an'kickin'..
Dey blows upon dey hands,
Den flings 'em wid de nails up,
Jumps up an' cracks dey heels,
An' pruzently dey sails up,
An' makes dem oxen hump deysef,
By twistin' all dey tails up!

---

In this our age of printer's ink
'Tis books that show us how to think--
The rule reversed, and set at naught,
That held that books were born of thought.
We form our minds by pedants' rules,
And all we know is from the schools;
And when we work, or when we play,

Claiborne County
Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS----------(continued)

We do it in an ordered way--
And Nature's self pronounce a ban on,
Whene'er she dares transgress a canon.
Untrammeled thus the simple race is
That "wuks the craps" on cotton places.
Original inact and thought,
Because unlearned and untaught.
Observe them at their Christmas party:
How unrestrained their mirth--how hearty!
How many things they say and do
That never would occur to you!
See Brudder Brown--whose saving grace
Would sanctify a quarter-race--
Out on the crowded floor advance,
To "beg a blessin' on dis dance."

---

O Maher! let dis gath'rin' fin' a blessin' in yo' sight!
Don't jedge us hard fur what we does--you know it's Chrismus-night;

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS-------(continued)

An' all de balance ob de yeah we does as right's
we kin.
Ef dancin's wrong, O Mahsr! let de time excuse
de sin!

We labors in de vineya'd, wukin'hard an'wukin'
true;
Now, shorely you won't notus, ef we eats a grape
or two,
An' takes a leetle holiday,--a leetle restin'-
spell,--
Bekase, nex'week, we'll start in fresh, an' labor
twicet as well.

Remember, Mahsr,--min' dis now,--de sinfull-
ness ob sin
Is'pendin' 'pon de sperrit what we goes an' does
it in:
An' in a righchis frame ob min' we's gwine to dance
an' sing,
A'feelin' like King David, when he cut de
pigeon-wing.



1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS----------(continued)

It seems to me--indeed it do--I mebbe mout be
wrong--
That people raly ought to dance, when Chrismus
comes along;
Des dance bekase dey's happy--like de birds hops
in de trees,
De pine-top fiddle soundin' to de bowin' ob de
breeze.

We has no ark to dance afore, like Isrul's prophet
king;
We has no harp to soun' de chords, to help us out
to sing;
But 'cordin' to de gif's we has we does de bes'
we knows,
An' folks don't 'spise the vi'let-flower bekase it
ain't de rose.

You bless us, please, sah, eben ef we's doin'
wrong to-night;
Kase den we'll need de blessin' more'n ef we's
doin' right;

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued )

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS--------(continued)

An' let de blessin' stay wid us, untel we comes to die,
An' goes to keep our Chrismus wid dem sheriffs in de sky!

Yes, tell dem preshis anguls we's a-gwine to jine 'em soon:
Our voices we's a-trainin' fur to sing de glory tune;
We's ready when you wants us, an' it ain't no matter when--
O Mahsr! call yo' chillen soon, an' take'em home!
Amen.

---

The rev'rend man is scarcely through,
When all the noise begins anew,
And with such force assaults the ears,
That through the din one hardly hears
Old fiddling Josey "sound his A",
Correct the pitch, begin to play,

Claiborne County
Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS--------(continued)

Stop, satisfied, then, with the bow,
Rap out the signal dancers know:

---

Git yo' pardners, fust kwattalion!
Stomp yo' feet, an' raise'em high;
Tune is: "Oh! dat water-million!
Gwine to git to home bime-by."
S'lute yo' pardners!--scrape perlitely--
Don't be bumpin' gin de res'--
Balance all!--now, step out rightly;
Alluz dance yo' lebbel bes'.
Fo'wa'd foah!--whoop up, niggers!
Back ag'in!--don't be so slow!--
Swing cornahs!--min' de figgers!
When I hollers, den yo' go.
Top ladies cross ober!
Hol' on, till I takes a dram--
Gemmen solo!--yes, I's sober--
Cain't say how de fiddle am.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS----------(continued)

Hands around!--hol' up yo' faces,
Don't be lookin' at yo' feet!
Swing yo' partners to yo' places!
Dat's de way--dat's hard to beat.
Sides for'w'd!--when you's ready--
Make a bow as low's you kin!
Swing acrost wid opp'site lady!
Now we'll let you swap ag'in:
Ladies change!--shet up dat talkin';
Do yo' talkin' arter while!
Right and lef'!--don't want no walkin'--
Make yo' steps, an' show yo' style!

---

And so the "set" proceeds--its length
Determined by the dancer's strength;
And all agree to yield the palm
For grace and skill to "Georgy Sam",
Who stamps so hard, and leaps so high,
"Des watch him!" is the wond'ring cry--

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS--------(continued)

"De nigger mus' be, for a fac',
Own cousin to a jumpin' jack!"
On, on, the restless fiddle sounds,
Still chorused by the curs and hounds;
Dance after dance succeeding fast,
Till supper is announced at last.
That scene--but why attempt to show it?
The most inventive modern poet,
In fine new words whose hope and trust is,
Could form no phrase to do it justice!
When supper ends--that is not so soon--
The fiddler strikes the same old tune;
The dancers pound the floor again,
With all they have of might and main;
Old gossips, <u>almost</u> turning pale,
Attend Aunt Cassy's gruesome tale
Of conjurors, and ghosts, and devils,
That in the smoke-house hold their revels;
Each drowsy baby droops his head,
Yet scorns the very thought of bed:--

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS--------(continued)

So wears the night, and wears so fast,
All wonder when they find it past.
And hear the signal sound to go
From what few cocks are left to crow.
Then, one and all, you hear them shout:
"Hi! Booker! fotch de banjo out,
An' gib us one song'fore we goes--
One ob de berry bes' you knows!"
Responding to the welcome call,
He takes the banjo from the wall,
And tunes the strings with skill and care,
Then strikes them with a master's air,
And tells, in melody and rime,
This legend of the olden time:

---

Go'way, fiddle! folks is tired o' hearin' you
a-squakin'.
Keep silence fur yo'betters!--don't you heah de
banjo talkin'?

Claiborne County
Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS--------(continued)

About de 'possum's tail she's gwine to lecter--
ladies, listen!--
About de ha'r what isn't da, an' why de ha'r is
missin':
"Dar's gwine to be a' oberflow," said Noah,
lookin' solemn--
Fur Noah tuk the "Herald," an' he read de ribber
column--
An' so he sot his hands to wuk a-clarin' timber-
patches,
And'lowed he's gwine to build a boat to beat the
steamer Natchez.

Ol' Noah kep' a-nailin' an' a-chippin' an' a-
sawin';
An' all de wicked neighbors kep' a-laughing' an' a-
pshawin';
But Noah did n't min' 'em, knowin' what was
gwine to happen:
An' forty days an' forty nights de rain it kep' a-
drappin'.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS--------(continued)

Now, Noah had done cotched a lot ob ebry sort
o'beas'es--
Ob all de shows a-trabbelin', it beat'em all to
pieces!
He had a Morgan colt an' sebral head o' Jarsey
cattle--
An' druv'em 'board de Ark as soon's he heered
de thunder rattle.

Den sech anoder fall ob rain!--it come so awful
hebby,
De ribber riz immejitly, an'busted troo de lebbee;
De people all wuz drownded out--'cep' Noah an'
de critters,
An' men he'd hired to work de boat--an' one to
mix de bitters.

De Ark she kep' a-sailin' an' a-sailin' <u>an'</u> a-sailin';
De lion got his dander up, an' like to bruk de
palin';
De carpents hissed; de painters yelled; tell, whut
wid all de fussin',

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS--------(continued)

You c'u'd n't hardly heah de nate a-bossin' 'roun'
an' cussin'.

Now, Ham, de only nigger whut wuz runnin' on
de packet,
Got lonesome in de barber-shop, an' c'u'd n't stan'
de racket;
An' so, fur to amuse he-se'f, he steamed some
wood an' bent it,
An' soon he had a banjo made--de fust dat wuz
invented.

He wet de ledder, stretched it on; made bridge an'
screws an' aprin;
An' fitted in a proper neck--'t wuz berry long an'
tap'rin';
He tuk some tin, an' twisted him a thimble fur to
ring it;
An' den de mighty question riz: how wuz he gwine
to string it?

De 'possum had as fine a tail as dis dat I's a-

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poetry.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS----------(continued)

singin';
De ha'r's so long an' thick an' strong,--des fit
fur banjo-stringin';
Dat nigger shaved 'em off as short as wash-day-
dinner graces;
An' sorted ob 'em by de size, f'om little E's to
basses.

He strung her, tuned her, struck a jig,--'t wuz
"Nebber min' de wedder,",--
She soun' like forty-lebben bands a-playin' all
togedder;
Some weht to pattin'; some to dancin': Noah
called de figgers;
An' Ham he sot an'knocked de tune, de happiest
ob niggers!

Now, sence dat time--it's mighty strange--
dere's not de slightes' showin'
Ob any ha'r at all upon de 'possum's tail a-
growin';
An' curi's, too, dat nigger's ways: his people

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS----------(continued)

nebber los' 'em--
Fur whar you finds de nigger--dar's de banjo an'
de 'possum!

The night is spent; and as the day
Throws up the first faint flash of gray,
The guests pursue their homeward way;
And through the field beyond the gin,
Just as the stars are going in,
See Santa Claus departing--grieving--
His own dear Land of Cotton leaving.
His work is done; he fain would rest
Where people know and love him best.
He pauses, listens, looks about;
But go he must: his pass is out.
So, coughing down the rising tears,
He climbs the fence and disappears.
And thus observes a colored youth
(The common sentiment, in sooth):
"Oh! what a blessin' 't wud ha' been,
Ef Santy had been born a twin!

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell----------(continued)

CHRISTMAS-NIGHT IN THE QUARTERS----------(continued)

We'd hab two Chrismuses a yeah--
Or p'r'aps one brudder'd settle heah!" (1)

1. CHRISTMAS-NIGHTSIN THE QUARTERS and other Pooms by Irwin Russell, Pages 3-25.

ASSIGN. # 16

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

BELATED HONORS PAID MEMORY OF MISSISSIPPI AND LOUISIANA DIALECT WRITER

(Born, reared and educated in Mississippi)

IRWIN RUSSELL

By Thomas E. Kelly

Port Gibson, Mississippi, August 8----

In his home town at least, Irwin Russell, the poet, originator of negro dialect in literature, is receiving long-over-due recognition.

Russell, who was native of Port Gibson and lived here most of his life, died in New Orleans while working on the old Times, later the Times-Democrat, and now the Times Picayune. This was December 23, 1879 a season befitting his masterpiece, "Christmas Night in the Quarters," written in Port Gibson, years before.

In literary comment and discussion, Irwin Russell has never been given the prominence to which he was entitled. Joel Chandler Harris pronounced him a genius beyond a doubt. Harris became nationally famous for his"Br'er Rabbit" and other stories, and gave Russell credit for opening the new vein. It may be that it too k years for readers outside of the South to learn to appreciate the merit in the negro dialect yarns and descriptive life.

Now, more than fifty years after his death, a fitting memorial has been dedicated to the memoty of the poet. Not long before a new highway bridge crossing Bayou Pierre here was dedicated to Russell. But woth more permanence behind

it than any bridge, is the Irwin Russell Memorial building now housing all available records and photographs of the poet, his family and his close friends.

MEMORIAL A FORMER COLLEGE

The building formerly was the old Port Gibson Female College, endowed by the Methodist Church, and conducted for many years for the higher education of young women and girls. Originally, the main building was the home of Samuel Gibson, the first settler of Port Gibson. The building is over a hundred years old. It was here that Irwin Russell's parents taught. It was in this same building that they were married.

The poet's father was a physician and performed noble service during the yellow fever epidemic. Irwin's mother was a teacher and an artist. Some of her paintings are on exhibition in the memorial building. Irwin Russell was born in Port Gibson in 1853, and was only 26 years old when he died. The last two years of his life were tragic. The yellow fever epidemic of 1878 had turned a happy soul into a sad, bewildered young man of genius. He went to New York where he was well received and encouraged, but even the change of surroundings failed to calm him. One thing was that some of his friends insisted that he write more in straight English, which he did, and did well. He had no



trouble placing his manuscripts.

WORKED IN NEW ORLEANS

But he seemed to be tortued in spirit by some unexplainable power. They say he drank, but he was not a robust fellow, and like Edgar Allan Poe, it probably did not take much to effect him. Anyway, he suddenly decided to return South, and went to a steamship company, and offered to work his way to New Orleans. That is the way he arrived there the early part of 1879. He went to work for the Times, and was doing well until April of that year, when his father died. After that Irwin seemed to go to pieces again and died in a rooming house in the Cresent City. He was buried in St. Louis with others of the Russell family. Irwin Russell's earlier life in Port Gibson was free and gay. He scribbled his manuscripts off rapidly and printed most of them himself with a little printing outfit he owned. He practiced law successfully, found time to make sketches of characters and scenes. He was a leader in the Thespian Society when home talent plays were popular.

A "lark" for which Irwin and young friends have been blamed was the Dr. Mary Walker occurrence. The young folk had read about the woman in Washington who had a special law passed by Congress to permit her to dress like a man. They knew that she liked to lecture. So they sent her an "official" invitation to come to Port Gibson and deliver one of "your wonderful lectures". De. Walker came,

although it was a long and tortuous trip from Washington to Port Gibson in those days.When she arrived here, the "officials" were very much surprised. They knew of no invitation to Dr. Walker. The young people went into hiding and Dr. Walker, after expressing her indignation in no uncertain terms, departed for the National Capital.

But as Irwin Russell said in one of his poems:

"De sinfulness ob sin depends upon de sperit dat you goes and does it in."

Irwin Russell was a close friend of the Williams family, and it was chiefly through the efforts of Mrs. Maggie Williams Musgrove that the memorial building was established. Serving on the memorial committee with Mrs. Musgrove are Mrs. Samuel Well and H. H. Crisler.

This committee raised a sum of money which was supplemented by the city council and purchased the building. A part of it is also used as a city hall, a part for the county library, and another patt as a day nursery. Visitors from all parts of the country view the Irwin Russell memorial exhibits which include his original manuscripts. In addition interesting antiques donated by families who lived in Port Gibson in Irwin Russell's time are displayed.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasason
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

3. Poets (continued)

Mrs. Susette Fontaine Sawyer (For Biog.Sketch see Novelists)

The Hills of Claiborne

There are beautiful hills in Claiborne
Where stand pines great and small;
The day birds sing from their branches sweet
And night birds softly call.

'Tis the home of that golden silence
That fills with peace my soul,
Where the trees lift their crowns to God
With whispering prayers untold.

The pines caught in their leaves
Echoes from the angels above,
And the breezes now sing them,
Set to the music of love.

Silent as moonlight on a frozen lake
Sounds of sorrow grow,
For a dream of joy is on every hill
Where flowers of promise blow.

The smiles of hope are the blue
Haze of the forest mist,
And the golden glint on their leaves
Is the light where she kissed.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

3. Poets (continued)

Mrs. Susette Fontaine Sawyer (continued)

The Hills of Claiborne (continued)

The vernal beauty is all about me
Draping each sylvan shrine,
And the incense that's offered
Is the breath of Claiborne Pine.

From "Port Gibson Reveille" - date not known.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I, Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

3. Poets (continued)

Miss Mary Magruder

Miss Magruder was born February 21, 1866, at Askamala Plantation, Claiborne County, in a palatial mansion, since destroyed by fire. She is the daughter of the Honorable Thomas Magruder.

In her younger days she received praise for her dramatic ability, and down through the years she has been a talented local writer. Many years ago at a press convention in New Orleans an editor from Chicago inquired of a Port Gibson visitor if she knew "Leslie Vane" (Miss Magruder's nom-de-plume), saying that he wanted a series of articles from the same pen. He remarked he had seen an article she had written on "Country Homes" in a Vicksburg paper. She wrote also under the name of "Becky Sharp".

In her early teens she sent one of her poems entitled "Shadows" to Colonel Power, editor of the Clarion Ledger of Jackson. In publishing it, his comment was:

"Received a poem written by a little girl who has lost her mother, with a modest request to please publish if good enough."

Her concisely expressed wit made her a frequent winner of contests which she was fond of entering. For the best answer to the query, "What is love" proposed by the Times-Picayune of New Orleans, she drew a prize with the following: "Love, as the divorce courts prove, is 'Paradise Lost' for some, and 'Paradise Regained' for others." And again to the question "What constitutes a patriot?" she won a prize with this reply, "A patriot is often a plain clothes man."

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Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

3. Poets (continued)

Miss Mary Magruder (continued)

Miss Magruder is still living on the plantation where she was born.

The following poem written by her was dedicated to her brother B. H. Magruder, who had a famous pecan grove.

Ode To A Pecan Tree

If I'm not here next year, next year
Will you tell them for me
Dear tree, dear tree
And tell them so
That they may know
I love thee, old tree.

And when the wind in your branches high
Rushes by, rushes by
And the golden brown
Of your fruit falls down
Like rain from the sky, from the sky,
I shall wonder I know
Missing you so,
If in heaven there be
Joy complete for me
Without thee, dear tree. (1)

1. Poem and biographical details furnished by Miss Magy Magruder

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment 16 Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

3. Poets (continued)

Lucy R. Jeffries

Mrs. Jeffries was a native of Claiborne County. She was a daughter of Colonel Pattison of "Bannockburn Plantation" and sister of Mrs. Elizabeth R. Montgomery, who was also a gifted writer. She married at an early age Nathaniel Jeffries, who died five years later, leaving his wife with two little girls and with almost no means of support.

Mrs. Jeffries turned to writing as a means of livelihood, contributing poems regularly to the "New Orleans Times-Democrat," which was glad to publish anything she sent them.(1) Her poems in this paper appeared during the 1880's under the names of "Lucis R. Francis and "Geoffrey" as well as under her own name.(2)

Of the details of her life we know very little, but she early became a confirmed invalid, suffering from tuberculosis. She sought health in the beneficent air of Asheville but soon returned to her home in the little village of Martin (afterwards Pattison), Claiborne County, only to grow gradually weaker until the end.(2)

All of her poetry showed a high spiritual quality, glowing with faith and hope in spite of failing health and financial worries.(2)

1. Information from Mrs. Jim Mann, cousin of Mrs. Jeffries
2. An undated clipping from Times-Democrat of New Orleans in and old scrap book belonging to Miss Mary Magruder of this county.

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

3. Poets (continued)

Mrs. Lucy R. Jeffries: (continued)

After she became confined to her bed, she wrote and sent to the Times-Democrat the poem Daisies, asking Mr. Baker, the editor, not to pay her in money but in a gift for each of her small daughters. He granted her wish as to the gifts, sending two lovely silver spoons, but he also sent a substantial sum of money for the poem.(1)

Poem in full:

DAISIES (2)

Gaily the radiant children
Into my darkened room
Come with their brimming aprons-
Bringing the new perfume-
Daisies, beautiful daisies,
Into my room they burst,
Laden with tiny daisies
And violets wild-the first.
Over the bureau's marble
They spread their carpet blue,
Shining in low glass dishes
Just as if there they grew.
Here is a knot of daisies,

1. Mrs. Jim Mann, cousin of Mrs. Jeffries, resident of Claiborne County.
2. From an undated clipping from the New Orleans Times-Democrat found in an old scrap book belonging to Miss Mary Magruder of Claiborne County

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment 16 Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
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I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature

3. Poets (continued)

Mrs. Lucy Jeffries (continued)

DAISIES (continued)

White as the driven snow,
Drowned in a saintly sweetness-
Found on the earth so low.
Fasten them at my bosom;
O,Spring you come e'en here,
Into this sad, sick chamber,
Bringing the daisies dear.

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

3. Poets (continued)

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Montgomery (For her life see Miscellaneous)

Mrs. Montgomery was a versatile writer and many of her poems are found through the pages of old copies of the local paper. The following verses were discovered in an old scrapbook of her's.(1)

HANGING BY A THREAD

By Quien Sabe

Fame hangs by a thread, my dear,
Fame hangs by a thread!
Quiv'ring like an Alpine bell,
Half way up 'twixt heav'n and hell,
The fair name, you love so well,
Trembles by a thread.

Fortune, hanging by a thread,
Oh, you well may dread!
Rotten as a rope of sand
Held up by a palsied hand,
Who would trust the treach'rous strand,
Fortune by a thread?

Life hangs by a thread, my dear,
Oh, remember well!
Like the sword of Damocles,
Shaken by each passing breeze,
Weak'ning like a coward's knees
Life hangs by a thread.

1. Now in possession of her grandson, Mr. Russell Fox, of Pattison, Miss.



Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

Poets ~~3~~ Rose Griffith Vertner Johnson Jeffrey (1)

"Rose Griffith Vertner Johnson Jeffrey was born in 1828 in Natchez, Mississippi. Her mother, the wife of the poet Griffith, died when she was nine months old, and her aunt, Mrs. Vertner, adopted her adding Vertner to her name. She lived thereceforth on Burlington Plantation, Port Gibson, Mississippi until she was educated in the best schools of Lexington, Kentucky.

"When fifteen she wrote her well known poem, Legend of the Opal. Her poems were contributed to the "Louisville Journal" under the pen name of "Rosa" and were praised as far beyond the average in 1850.

"She wedded in 1845 Claude M. Johnson of Louisiana, and was widowed in a few years. Her second husband was Alexander Jeffrey of Rochester, New York, where she lived during the War Between the States, publishing her first novel, Woodburn, in 1860.

"In 1857 her first volume of poems appeared entitled Poems by Rosa followed by Woodburn, a novel, Daisy Dare and Baby Power, The Crimson Hand and Other Poems, and Marsh, a novel. Mildred Lewis Rutherford, authoress and critic, said of her "She was the first Southern woman whose literary work attracted wide attention throughout the United States." Mrs. Jeffrey also wrote several dramas and was Claiborne County's first playwright." She died in Lexington, Kentucky in 1894.

1. Information furnished by Dr. James F. McCaleb of Carlisle, Claiborne County from his unpublished manuscript "Mississippi Poets and Prose Writers."

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Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

3. Poets (continued) Rose Griffith Vertner Johnson Jeffrey

## FAITH'S VISTA

When from the vaulted wonder of the sky
The curtain of the light is drawn aside;
And I behold the stars in all their wide
Significance and glorious mystery,
Assured that those more distant orbs are suns
Round which innumerable worlds revolve,
My faith grows strong, my dayborn doubts dissolve
And death, that dread annulment which life shuns,
Or fain would shun, becomes to life the way,
The thoroughfare to greater worlds on high,
The bridge from star to star. Seek how we may,
There is no other road across the sky;
And,looking up, I hear star voices say;
"You could not reach us if you did not die." (1)

---

1. Furnished by Dr. James F. McCaleb of Carlisle, Claiborne County, from his unpublished manuscript, "Mississippi Poets and Prose Writers".

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature
3. Poets (continued)

Rena Lloyd Humphreys

Miss Humphreys, daughter of Edward Archer Humphreys and his wife Rena Lloyd Humphreys, was born in Port Gibson, where she spent her early days, receiving her education in the public schools of this place, later continuing her school work in Grenada, Mississippi. While yet a school girl, her talent for writing showed itself. As time went on, she continued to write for the papers and periodicals. Although frail physically, her mind has been master of her body, and she is today capably filling the place of State Librarian. Prior to this position, she was librarian in Greenwood, Mississippi. (1)

The following poem she contributed to the semi-centennial edition of the Port Gibson Reveille.(2)

I Know A Little Village

I know a little village
That nestles in the hills;
To some it's just a dwelling place
And holds no charm and thrills,
But to me it is a haven
Of love and peace and rest;
No matter where on earth I roam
I love this spot the best.

Just a quaint old fashioned corner,
With flowers, birds, and bees,
And its white stone road a-winding
And sunshine in the trees,
But it's there I find contentment,
My restless heart it stills,
This sweet dreaming little village
That nestles in the hills.

---

1. Information from Mr. Edgar ~~Crisler~~ Morris of Port Gibson, a relative.
2. Port Gibson Reveille of August 19, 1926.

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Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

Poets (continued)

Mrs. Anne Kelledy Gilbert

Born in Port Gibson, the only child of Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Kelledy. She is the widow of Albert Morgan Gilbert of Neenah, Wisconsin. She attended the local schools, finishing her education in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mrs. Gilbert has traveled extensively in this country and in Europe. She made her literary debut in the pagesof the Times-Democrat of New Orleans, Louisiana, as a very young girl. In recent years her work has appeared in periodicals throughout the English-speaking world and in many anthologies. She is a member of The Poetry Society of America.

In 1928, her first book: The Angel of the Battlefield and Other Poems, was published (Vinal, N.Y.) and well received by public and critics. This volume contains many poems descriptive or allusive of her adopted home, Washington, D.C. Here "she records and sets forth in vigorous and yet beautiful verse what she has seen and taken into herself, as it were, of the visible world in her passage across the panorama of the universe. She can draw portraits with a swift certainty; and there shine through all her stanzas vitality and enthusiasm, although in many cases they are mantled in a veil of almost celtic magic"[1]

One of her most quoted sonnets, inspired by the famous Adams Memorial in Rock Creek Cemetery, D.C., is:

GRIEF

Dry cones of yesteryear hang from the pine,
As bronzed and retrospective as is she,

---

1. Harold Vinal, Ltd., Publishers, New York.
Facts in sketch frunished by Mrs. Gilbert.

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasseon
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

Poets (continued)

Mrs. Anne Kellody Gilbert (continued)

GRIEF-continued

The still, bronze woman who keeps pensively
Her tireless vigil in this bosky shrine.
The juniper's jade prisms softly shine
Against the incense-gloom: a vested bee
Drones through the sacred stillness reverently,
Where rhododendron-lamps incarnadine.

The Spring is dying with the dying day.
How many a season, pondering here alone,
While breathed the rose or sighed the motley leaf,
Have you watched wending its appointed way?
Men call you Peace.....because they hear no
moan.....
The Peace of God....distilled from conquered
Grief.

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I. Division of Fine Arts

3. Poets

Rev. W. T. Bond, C.SS.R (1)

W. T. Bond, son of George R. and Anne Kavanagh Bond, was born at Port Gibson, Mississippi, December 28, 1858. He attended the local schools, later graduating at Mr. St. Mary's College, Emmetsburg, Maryland, with high honors. Acknowledging a vocation for the Catholic priesthood, he pursued long studies in the preparatory institutions of the Redemptorist Order in which he was ordained a priest in 1886. He has long been stationed in St. Louis, Missouri.

Father Bond has devoted his poetical talent to celebrating the mysteries of the church he loves and serves, and like Fr. Tabb and other ecclesiastical poets, compresses his thought into the quatrain. Typical of the mysticism of his muse is:

AFTER COMMUNION

Oh wonderful, Oh beautiful,
My God has come to me,
Skipping on the mountains,
Flying o'er the sea.

His hands are filled with graces,
His heart is full of love,
And with Him come, Oh wonder
The Father and the Dove.

Wm. T. Bond, C.SS.R.

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1. Information from Mrs. Anne Kelledy Gilbert of Washington, D.C. cousin of Father Bond.

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Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature (continued)
3. Poets (continued)

Mrs. Catherine Kennard Olden

Mrs. Olden is a native of Port Gibson, and until her marriage was resident of this place, receiving her education here at the old Female College. On her marriage to Mr. Edgar G. Olden, she moved with him to Yazoo City, where she is still living.

"Mrs. Olden did not begin to write until a few years ago, but her poems are of a high order of merit. Many of them have been set to music, the first by a composer from a distant state, but some of the latter by herself." (1)

" For 'The After Glow', (2) Mrs. Olden not only composed the words but the music. Nothing delights her more than to express her thoughts and then write the music to accompany them."

The After-Glow

As a parting gift to a weary day
The sun left a sky of gold
That crept thro the trees, far over the way,
A glorious story told.
It called to the woodland and silent dells
A happy good night as of curfew bells,
And brought to me memories of long ago
As I stood alone in the After-glow.

---

1. Clipping sent us by Mrs. Olden from a Yazoo paper (no name and date)
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Dec. 29, 1921

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Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature
3. Poets (continued)

Mrs. Catherine Kennard Olden (continued)

The After-Glow (continued)

On a crumbling house with a starlit roof,
The sun gave some eyes of gold
That burned thro the past, and ever gave proof,
The lonesome story told.
Where echoes still linger of smiles and tears,
And happy good nights of other years
I drank by the well-spring of long ago
Of the bitter-sweets in the after-flow.

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Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature
4. Drama

Irwin Russell ---- For biographical sketch see Poetry

Early in his career Russell manifested a decided interest in in the stage and organized in Port Gibson the"Port Gibson Thespian Society", enlisting as members the gifted young people of the town. He himself arranged the plays to be put on and took a prominent place in the cast. He was planning an all negro play to be put on in New York when the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 interrupted his plans. This play had actually been sold in New York and was being tried out in Port Gibson when the fever broke out. During the distressing period of the scourge, the various actors misplaced their parts and the play was never resumed. Long afterwards offers came from New York &of $6000.00 for it if it could be found, but this could not be. (1)

"All we know of this last play, except broken bits of parts is from two letters of Russell's written to a young lady friend." (1) The first, (2) dated July 27th, 1878, says: "About a month from now the Port Gibson Thespian Society will perform "Everybody's Business", or "Slightly Mistaken", a farce comedy in three acts by the justly celebrated playwright of cosmopolitan reputation, the distinguished Mr. Irwin Russell." Then follows in the letter this cast of characters:

Mr. Gilbert, a planter---------Mr. Chas. Kalman

Henry Osgood, Lucy's Lover----Mr. S.M. Briscoe

---

1. Port Gibson Reveille of May 2, 1921- Article by Mrs. Maggie Musgrove
2. Original letter in Irwin Russell Memorial, Port Gibson

Irwin Russell (continued)

Joseph Shorter, his rival----------Mr. C. F. Mason

Mr. Ananias Teller, Elderly neighbor------Mr. R. W. Magruder

Count Zimmernagle, distinguished foreigner-Mr. N. A. Son

Uncle Billy (colored)-- ------ Irwin Russell

Peter, his son ---------- Mr. Chas. Shreve, Jr.

Lucy Gilbert ---------- Miss Ella Williams

Mattie Gilbert, her younger sister -------Miss Jenny Weeks

Miss Hunson, Mattie's Governess----------Miss Julia Weeks

Miss Balinda Betts, old maid----------Miss Hollie Morris

Aunt Sophy, Uncle Billy's wife (colored)--Miss Sallie Williams

Annie (colored) --------housemaid----------Miss Alice Keifer

(Continuing from Russell's letter)

The greatest trouble I anticipated was to get any of the girls to black up for those two negro parts. However, as I hoped, I managed to get Alice Keifer to help me out, for one, and, as she is very handsome, I appreciate her sacrifice in consenting to hide her face beneath a coating of burnt cork. She is one of the best actresses we have, and will dress and move the part to perfection. For the part of the old negro cook, my wife in the play, I succeeded in inducing Sallie Williams (1) to take it by telling her she was the only one that could do it justice. In truth she is beyond comparison the best actress of them all, though she

1. Now Mrs. Englesing and still living in Port Gibson and as are Miss Mila Williams, her sister, and certain descendants of other members of the cast.

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Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature
Drama (continued)

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature
Drama (continued)

Irwin Russell (continued)

is only fifteen years old. When we got up The Thespian Society, at first she was not asked to join it, no one supposing that she could sustain a part, or rather, it not occurring to anyone to ask such a young girl. Her older sister had a part, and Sallie came with her to a rehearsal which was to wind up with a dancing party (as most of the rehearsals did), and somebody being unable to take a minor part for which somebody was cast, it was experimentally assigned to Sallie. She astounded us all, brought down the house of actors, drew out impulsive applause from all of us, and then and there established her undisputed right to teh place of leading comedienne. She has never seen any good acting, but somehow she has a natural talent for it, acts her part so naturally and with such grace, vivacity, ease, and appreciation of the part; and so completely identifies herself with it and brings out in relief the character she represents, that at every rehearsal the actors are irresistibly moved to applause.

I have seen a great deal of the best acting but I never saw in any theatre a better actress in farce and light comedy than this young village bred girl. Don't you think it remarkable that a school girl of fifteen, without experience of the theatre, should be really first rate actress from the very first trial?

Although none of the others compare with the youngest Miss Williams, we have an uncommonly good amateur company. The young ladies are all intelligent and good looking and act very creditably. Most of the men do very well. Among them are one merchant, one bookkeeper, one medical student, and two lawyers. I organized the present club, am

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Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature
Drama (continued)

a member, and manage for the coming performance, and may belong thereafter."

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment 16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

4. Drama

Miss Harriette Person

Miss Person is a native of Port Gibson. Of distinguished pioneer family, her mother was Isabel Myles, daughter of Dr. Wm. Myles, and her father was James Wells Person, a large landowner of Claiborne County.

The life and growth of the County Library may well be said to be the life of Miss Harriette Person. For years her goal has been a free library for Claiborne County. In January, 1915, she met with a group of friends to discuss a plan for a library giving equal service to town and county. She stated the aim as "A little library growing with the years and finding an honorable place in the town's history". Through her efforts the library has become a community and cultural center for varied activities, patriotic celebrations, memorials, annual Book Week programs, the annual Christmas Pageant, and the annual Spring Exhibition of Paintings and Prints; and through all these, shines the guiding spirit of Harriette Person. The library's motive, as is Miss Person's, is helpfulness; its scope: instruction, culture, and recreation; its purpose, the enlightenment of all; its aspiration, still greater usefullness. Harriette Person's best qualities are her live of land, honor, integrity, family pride, and a deep sense of noblesse oblige. Her life is the life of the people of her county whom she has so successfully reached and guided through the activities of library. For her reward she has the love of her fellow man, which is

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature (continued)
4. Drama (continued)

Miss Harriette Person (continued)

expressed in the following inscription on a loving cup:

"Presented to Miss Harriette Person

By the Civic League

For Public Spirit and Public Service

Establishing the Claiborne County Library

1915"

The Story of the Christ Child[1] - Arranged and directed by Harriette Person

An annual Christmas play arranged from the Gospel story and old Carols, after the manner of the old Mystery Plays. It has been presented over twenty-five years by The Little Players; as they outgrow their parts, other Little Players take their places. There are scenes of the shepherds being awakened by the angels, of the three Wise Men led by a star to Herod's court, of Herod sending his men out in search of the Christ Child, and of the worshipping of the Child by the three Wise Men in the stable. The second generation of children is now playing the story. Memories cluster, cedar, candles, children's voices for praise.

---

1. Information from Miss Person

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Joseph M. Magruder

His writings are his feelings of the everyday affairs and thoughts, yet they are expressed in a different manner so as to give his readers entirely new impressions of the things he writes about. The language of his poems is simple, clear, and concise.

Captain Joseph Moore Magruder was born near Port Gibson, September 28, 1830, was educated in the schools of Port Gibson and was graduated from Oakland College. His tastes were literary, having contributed both prose and poetry to various periodicals. That he loved life is best expressed in his own words from a poem published by the Port Gibson Herald of 1850:

"And art thou happy, that each year but brings
Thee nearer to the time thou'lt leave these things?
Forbid the thought - we of earth are not tired,
We love the scenes which you so much admired,
But, oh too well, we know, our sighs and tears
Can never stop the course of onward years.
For onward ever, in spite of human will,
Old Time advances, ever onward still."

He was a successful southern planter and his plantation, Lodi, numbering about one thousand acres, still remains in the family. Endowed with mental qualities above the average, together with a winning personality,

Claiborne County
Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Joseph M. Magruder----------(continued)

he was a social favorite, and on Feb. 12, 1862 he married Amanda Louise McCray of Vicksburg, Miss. Miss McCray was a descendant of the family for which the city of Vicksburg is named.

"Joseph Moore Magruder was a member of the Claiborne Guards, the second company organized in Claiborne County; mustered into Confederate Service April 29, 1861, appointed corporal; was a part of the army of northern Virginia under General Lee, took part in the battle of Seven Pines and in all the principal battles; was promoted captain in 1862 and commissioned by the President (Davis) to return to Claiborne County and raise a cavalry company; organized a cavalry company in May, 1862. This company took part in the campaigns around Port Gibson and Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Port Hudson, Louisiana. He was mortally wounded in 1863 and died in 1863."(1)

1. Copied from record of Confederate Soldiers of Claiborne County, by Frank Foote. Vault of Chancery Clerk.

Cla[illegible]y

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Joseph M. Magruder----------(continued)

A poem by Joseph M. Magruder.

THE CARRIER'S ADDRESS

To The Patrons Of

THE PORT GIBSON HERALD

And

CORRESPONDENT.

January 1, 1849

New Year

A happy New Year, and a happy heart,
We wish to each who've seen the old depart.
Both old and young should wear a smiling face;
With new-born joy this new occasion grace;
To cheat old Time, at least one day or more,
Would in a measure help to foot the score.
A penching creditor, to us he's been,
A long arrear of debt we owe to him,
Another year has gone toswell the list--
We greet you that its havoc, you have miss'd,
Whilst thousands to his message, bow'd them down,
Old debtors most, though some new ones were found.
To swell the numbers of the insatiate foe,

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Joseph M. Magruder----------(continued)

New Year----------(continued)

Nor youth, nor hoary age, was spared the blow.
The year gone by, has many changes brought,
And great reverses in the world, has wrought,
Events portentous of both weal and woe--
Some have been felt, of others--time must show.
First France, awak'ning from her lethargy
'Gainst tyrant's power, and striving to be free;
A LAMARTINE arose, to adi her cause,
Defeat oppression and defend her laws,
And Freedom's voice, long pent, at last breaks forth
And echoes loudly in the frozen North,
'Till Poland too, unfortunate though brave,
A feeble effort makes her Kosciusko died--
With latest breath to free his country tried.
Italia, land of beauty, and of song--
In ferrid strains, the glorious notes prolong,
As when her Cato lived, and Virgil sung
And Freedom's hymn on sighing zephyrs rung.
Again we cite events, of great import,
And evils many their effects have wrought.
We speak of failures large, by monied men

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Joseph M. Magruder----------(continued)

New Year----------(continued)

With whom and time, a friendship long had been,
And thousands ruin'd by speculative zeal,
And thousands more, were made the ruin feel.
Then add to this war's desolating breath,
Our breth'ren dying a heroic death.
To hostile soil, their best blood they afford
And bid defiance to the hostile sword.
Fresh laurels for their country they acquire,
Ere death has robb'd them of their martial fire;
In their last pangs, to cheer them ere they die
They hear the thrilling shout of victory,
And from the vanquished foe they rend the spoil,
A recompense for treasure, blood and toil.
Then smiling peace, assumes her wonted reign,
And bids adieu, to battle and to pain.--
For civic honors then, the contest burns,
And honest worth, the balance fairly turns--
Though defiance bold each to the other threw,
This conflict like the last, is finished too:
Again, our country, freed from party strife,

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Joseph M. Magruder----------(continued)

New Year----------(continued)

Is strengthened with new vigor and new life.
All these, our pleasures were, to carry you
As fate unfolded them, and they were new;
And oft a love-tale, graced our pages store
To please the fancy of fair readers more;
And late inventions, some of use some not--
Some few were tried, and others were forgot.
Of dangers many, both by sea and land--
Of deaths by flood, and fire, and hunger wan--
An hundred more events with interest fraught,
Our welcome paper, to its readers brought.
A happy New Year, again we ask for you
Who've safely pass'd thus far, the old one through.
May faces smiling 'round the social hearth
Attest the pleasures of this New Year's birth.
We wish you all the joy, none of the wo
The past one gone--to pass the present through.

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Anna Gage Person (1)

Her poetry, especially "Ulysses to Circe", is modern in concept, form, and cadence.

Anna Gage Person was born in Port Gibson, Mississippi in June,1913, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Wells Person. She attended public school then Randolph-Macon College, graduating from Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus, June, 1935, Magna Cum Laude. She was married in June, 1936 to James Bothwell McConnoughy of Chicago. She published poems in the Randolph-Macon "The Tattler" and the M.S.C.W. "The Spectator"; was on editorial staff of the "Spectator". She has had published in "American Short Short Story", Galleon Press 1933, "Flowers That Wilt", and three poems in "Modern American Poetry", Galleon Press 1933, "Beauty", "Plantation Summer Evening", "Death", translation from Horace, the last of which won second place in State Contest. In "Singing Mississippi" was published "Ulysses to Circe" by the Mississippi Poetry Society, this poem also selected for publication in Nuntius, magazine published by the national chapter, Eta Sigma Phi. This poem, modern in concept, form, and cadence, and full of promise, has some beautiful lyrics.

(1) Information from Miss Harriette Person, aunt of above.

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

3. Poets.----------(continued)

Anna Gage Person----------(continued)

Ulysses to Circe

White are your narrow hands, enchantress;
Blue is your robe, bluer your sultry eyes,
And sweeter your lips than the flowers
you pluck for my pleasure.
But the eyes of Penelope watch for me over the sea.
Her hands are roughened by weaving the tapestry
As she waits for, looks for me over the darkening water.
Brown are Penelope's eyes, and soft is her wind-tossed
hair.
'Tis my son, my Telemachus, Circe, who stands by
her side!
At dawn I shall sail.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County

Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

5. Miscellaneous

Mrs. Elizabeth(R.) Pattison Montgomery

Mrs. Montgomery was a native of Claiborne County. She was the daughter of Colonel David S. Pattison, "among the first to volunteer in the Army of the Lost Cause, going to the front in Virginia with his company, the Fairview Rifles, where he stayed until failing health from exposure forced him to resign his commission as Lieutenant. He remained as general in command of the militia at Milldale until the close of the war, leaving his wife and two little daughters and sister on his plantation, protected only by his faithful slaves." (1) On the maternal side, she was a granddaughter of Judge Colwell of Kentucky.

Colonel Pattison was an intellectual man, owner of one of the finest private libraries in the state. From him his daughters, Elizabeth and Lucy inherited their intellectual gifts. Mrs. Montgomery's work showed marked ability and was appreciated far beyond the confines of her own county. For more than thirty years, she contributed articles and poems to the local and other papers. (2)

An old scrap book of her's is full of newspaper clippings signed with her pen name''Quien Sabe", dealing with a great diversity of subjects and revealing a student of men and matters of history and a deep interest in the problems of her own Southland. (1)

Mrs. Montgomery died at her home in Pattison in December,1918. (3)

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1.Clipping found in scrapbook of Mrs.M.'s now in possession of Mr.Russell Fox of Pattison,Miss.,Grandson of Mrs. Montgomery.
2.Reveille of Jan. 9, 1919
3. " of Dec. 19, 1918.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

5. Miscellaneous

(1)

Mrs. Elizabeth Meade Ingraham

Mrs. Ingraham was living in the northern part of the county during the War Between the States. She was a sister of General A. Meade of the United States Army, who tried to secure protection for her when the federal troops passed through the county, his efforts meeting with only a partial measure of success.

Her daughter, Appoline, a very pretty girl, married an Ellis, a brother of the Mrs. Dorsey who gave "Beauvoir" to Jefferson Davis, and who wrote his "Memoirs." Mrs. Ingraham's diary of the days following the battle of Port Gibson was published in the same volume with writings of Mrs. Dorsey.(3) In this diary, Mrs. Ingraham mentions a number of Claiborne County families descendants of whom are still living here.

The Ingraham house was very large with many galleries. It stood about a mile north of Willows, somewhat west of the present Highway 61.

Two sons of the family were killed in the War between the States. After the war the family moved to New Orleans where they went into the mercantile business. As a parting gift to their friend and neighbor, Mr. Watson,(2) they presented a chair made from applewood that grew on the Meade farm in Pennsylvania.

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1. Memories of Mrs. Maria Briscoe, pioneer citizen, as told us by her daughter Mrs. Marian B. Person.
2. Brother of Mrs. Maria Briscoe
3. According to Dr. J.T. McCaleb of Claiborne Co., "A Life of Gov. Allen" of Louisiana by Sarah Ann Dorsey.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

5. Miscellaneous

Mrs. Otille Mueler Bertron- Journalist (1)

Miss Otille Mueler was born in Freyburg, Germany, Dec. 25, 1830. She was the daughter of a German Professor. She came to America in 1852, to accept a position in Miss Willard's Seminary in Troy, New Yrok. Later she taught in the high schools of St. Louis. Coming South, she continued her teaching of music in Louisiana and finally in Port Gibson, where she was a member ofthe faculty of the Port Gibson Female Academy.

In 1857, Miss Mueler married Rev. S. R. Bertron, a Presbyterian minister of Port Gibson, and became the mother of three children: Annie, who married Dr. W. D. Redus of Port Gibson, Fannie, now Mrs. L.I. Pollitt of Baltimore, and Samuel Reading Bertron, financier of New York.

Mrs. Bertron was a woman of marked literary ability. She owned and edited a paper, "The Defender of the Constitution" for two years in Port Gibson. Among her miscellaneous best known writings are a novel "Edith", and a refutation of "Ingersol's Attack on Christianity."

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1. Information secured from a granddaughter, Miss Ottilie Redus, now living in Port Gibson.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature (continued)
5. Miscellaneous

Alexander Thomas Montgomery- Journalist

Mr. Montgomery was the son of Joseph A. Montgomery and Amelia Farrar Montgomery and grandson of two distinguished pioneers divines of the southwest, Rev. James Smylie and Rev. William Montgomery. He spent most of his life in Claiborne County at Belmont, the plantation home, four miles north of Port Gibson. He married Miss Linda Watson, sister of the distinguished Major James W. Watson, and with her took up his residence in Cuba. (1)

"He was an intellectual and gifted gentleman of the old school, greatly interested in dogs and hunting and a regular contributor to 'Field and Stream'". (2) He wrote also for "The National Sportsman" and for "The American Field" and contributed frequently to the local paper, "The Port Gibson Reveille", articles bearing mostly on local agricultural problems. After his marriage to Miss Linda Watson, sister of the distinguished Major James W. Watson, he and his wife took up residence in Cuba, sending back to the local paper frequent contributions bearing on conditions in Cuba and indicative of a wide range of observation and insight into the problems of that country. Mr. Montgomery died a number of years ago. He is survived by his wife, who still lives in Cuba. (1)

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1. Information gleaned from a scrapbook of Mr. A. T. Montgomery now in possession of Mrs. Marion B. Person of Claiborne County.
2. Miss Mary Magruder, pioneer family of the county.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

5. Miscellaneous

Journalist ---Mrs. Maggie Williams Musgrove

Mrs. Musgrove, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Levin P. Williams, pioneer citizens of Claiborne County, was born and reared in Port Gibson, where she is still living in the old family home, one of the quaintly attractive houses of the town.

Mrs. Musgrove received her education at the Port Gibson Female College. Her deep interest in her native town and county, and her facile pen have made her an authority on matters of local historical import, and she has contributed many articles to the state and county papers as well as to those farther removed. She has recently completed a history of the county for the Federal Writers' Project.

Because of early associations, Mrs. Musgrove has been particularly interested in preserving the memory of Irwin Russell, and has been instrumental in the achievement of a memorial building to this outstanding Port Gibson poet, and in securing a splendid start toward a county historical museum, which is located in the Irwin Russell Memorial Building.

In addition to her literary work, Mrs. Musgrove is a devout member and worker in the Episcopalian Church.

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

A. LITERATURE----------(continued)

2. ~~3.~~ Journalist
~~Historians~~----------(continued)

Dr. James F. McCaleb

Publication of historical records.

Dr. James F. McCaleb was born in New Orleans in 1866, educated at the University of Virginia, Tulane, and Spring Hill College, Alabama. He has been writing for almost half a century. "Dr. McCaleb is a member of an old Claiborne County family, his ancestors for generations having resided in the same neighborhood where he now lives. His father was one of the ablest lawyers in New Orleans, and a near relative, Judge McCaleb, was the youngest supreme court justice Louisiana has ever had."(1)

He writes articles for the New York Times, the Times Picayune, the Jackson papers, the Vicksburg Post, and Medical Magazine. He is closely associated with Dunbar Rowland.

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1. Port Gibson Reveille-(Semi-Centennial Edition)-Aug. 19, 1926.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

5. Miscellaneous (continued)

Edwin Howard McCaleb, Journalist.

E. H. McCaleb was the only war correspondent of the Civil War from Claiborne County. He was the regular correspondent out of the "Jackson Mississippian" and special correspondent of the "Richmond Sentinel and Dispatch". (1)

Hon. William Thomas Magruder, Pamphleteer

Mr. Magruder was born in Port Gibson January 16, 1825. He was reared in his native city, and educated at noted Oakland College. Later he studied law and medicine, but failing eyesight caused him to abandon a professional life. He devoted himself up to the age of ninety years to his large plantation interests in Claiborne County, even inventing several agricultural implements. At the time of his death in 1889 he was a member of the state legislature. He married Miss Maria Hughes and of this union thirteen children were born of whom two survive, Miss Mary Magruder and Mrs. Lizzie M. Dishsroon, both residents of this county. (2)

Mr. Magruder "was a graceful orator, many of his speeches appearing in local sheets. And at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago there appeared pamphlets written by him on the Labor Law. (3)

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1. Information given by Dr. James F. McCaleb, Carlisle, Miss.
2. Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. 2, page 390
3. Miss Mary Magruder of Port Gibson, daughter.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

5. Miscellaneous

Andrews Wilkinson - Short Story Writer

Mr. Wilkinson was born on Myrtle Grove Plantation, Plaquemine Parish, Louisiana, in 1849. He was a son of Dr. Joseph Biddle Wilkinson and grandson of General Wilkinson, associate in the exploits of Aaron Burr. His brother, Horace Wilkinson was at one time candidate for governor of Louisiana. Mr. Wilkinson was educated at Washington and Lee University, graduating in the class of 1869. He married Miss Elizabeth Maury Harding of Port Gibson, and to this union seven children were born. His family was reared in the old Maury home, while he alternated his time between this home and Louisiana, where he had extensive sugar interests. Mr. Wilkinson died in 1921, survived by four of his children. (1)

The author of various books and sketches for which he did his own illustrating, he was also a journalist, serving as correspondent for the New Orleans Times-Democrat and other papers. Among his best known books is "Plantation Stories in Old Louisiana". (1) Of another of his books, "Boy Holidays in the Louisiana Wilds", the New Orleans paper said: (2)

"In a number of exciting tales in this volume, Uncle Jason is beginning for Louisiana what Uncle Remus accomplished for Georgia. The most attractive feature of the collection, aside from Uncle Jason's gift at story telling is Mr. Wilkinson's wife variety of description. With

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1. Information from Mrs. Sessions Morehead of Port Gibson

2. Port Gibson Reveille of Jan. 3,1918

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature

5. Miscellaneous (continued)

Andrews Wilkinson (continued)

the eye of an artist he paints dawn in the marshes, a cold winter midnight, a rich autumn season, a lonely lake in a dismal swamp. Mr. Wilkinson is well acquainted with the southern negro of plantation fame and incidentally includes curious details concerning the intimate relation and positive sympathy existing between the negro dependent and the family of his master."

In the course of a lecture on Mrs Wilkinson, a member of the English faculty of Tulane University once said of him that this writer should have been a recognized genius. (1)

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1. Information from Mrs. Sessions Morehead of Port Gibson

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

A. Literature (continued)

5. Miscellaneous

## Henry Hughes, Sociologist (1)

Henry Hughes, a native of Claiborne County, was the son of Nancy Brashear Hughes and Capt. Benjamin Hughes. He entered college at an early age, where he excelled in his studies.

Living as he did during the days of slavery in the South, his attention was turned naturally toward social problems, the more so as he was a born philosopher. He is best known for his treatise on Sociology, publication of which was postponed until after his visit to Paris. "In that city, he became acquainted with the leading writers of his time on social questions, made himself more familiar with the language and literature of France, revised and completed the work just mentioned, and published it shortly after his return. In this book, he disclosed the peculiar opinions and peculiar object to whose propagation and attainment he devoted the remainder of his life. It is the key to his life."

He was a great suffered from inflammatory rheumatism. At one time when he was Captain of the Claiborne Guards, on being ordered to Port Hudson, he was carried on his bed to Fayette to report to his commanding officer and to superintend his departure. He then turned homeward to die, yet hoping that he would live. Death came Oct. 3, 1862. It is said(2) that his faithful horse was tied to the hearse and so followed his master's body to the grave.

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1. Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol.I, pp.975-977 pub.by Goodspeed Pub.Co.
2. Told by his niece, Miss Mary Magruder of Claiborne County

State-wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
A. Literature

5. Miscellaneous

Mrs. Kate Shaifer Scholars - Club Organizer

Mrs. Scholars was the daughter of Henry and Clarissa Briscoe Shaifer. Her family lived near old Oakland College, where she received her early education, being there at the time of the yellow fever epidemic of 1878. In middle life she met Dr. S.W. Scholars, practicing physician of Orange, Texas, at a reunion of Confederate soldiers and soon afterward they were married. The remainder of her life was spent in Texas. While yet a resident of Claiborne County, she composed and compiled a book of songs and verse in negro dialect. But regardless of the fact that numbers of people acknowledged its worth, it never reached the press.

That Mrs. Scholars was highly esteemed in her adopted state of Texas is evidenced in the fact that she was included in the biographical sketches compiled by the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs for the Texas Who's Who, largely because of her work for the United Daughters of the Confederacy. (1)

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1. Information for above from Mr. L. B. Allen of Port Gibson, a relative. None of her work is available for reproduction.

Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

SUPPLEMENT

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E.Hamilton

Subject: Division of Fine Arts

5. Miscellaneous

May Russell, Teacher, Lecturer, Reformer

"Miss May Russell, teacher, lecturer, and reformer, known to the public as Miss Russell, to intimate friends as May and by the family lovingly called Mamie, was born at Quitman, Nodaway county, Missouri, September 12, 1859.

"She was the daughter of Robert and Sarah Jane Sturgeon Russell. Ancestors on her father's side are Russells and Byrds. They came from Virginia to Tennessee, thence to that part of the Louisiana Purchase that is now Southeast Missouri, and settled near the old French town, Cape Girardeau, in 1799. The grand-parents were James Russell and Clara Byrd Russell. Ancestors on the other side of the family came from near Bowling Green, Kentucky, to Clarksville, Pike County, Missouri, in the spring of 1834. John Hume Sturgeon, an ordained Baptist minister, was the grandfather and Margaret Netherton Sturgeon was the grandmother."

"MissRussell's father and mother were married December 18, 1845, in Buchanan County, Missouri and went at once to Nodaway County, located in the northwestern part of the state to made their home. This was a beautiful country, interspersed with prairie and timber land. The Russells engaged in stock farming and prospered. They bought a tract of land bordering the Nodaway River on which a water mill was built. This mill supplied the surrounding country with meal, flour, and lumber. At this point on the river, Mr. Russell laid out a town and named in Quitman, for General John A. Quitman of Mississippi, because of his political record. In this home on the frontier were four children born: Clara,

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This was promised to us months ago but only received yesterday.
Written by Mrs. R.A. Grundy, 415 W. Pembroke St., Dallas, Texas
a relative of Miss Russell.

Division of Fine Arts

5. Miscellaneous

May Russell (continued)

Elizabeth, John Byrd, Louallen Keller, and May, the subject of this sketch. She was the youngest member of a happy and contented family."

"In 1859 or 60 the war clouds that presaged the war between the states begun to over-shadow the country. The people of the states were divided on the question at issue, neighbor against neighbor and even brother against brother. Mr. Russell was reared in the South and naturally sided with the South. He wished to arrange his business interest before leaving for the war, but was not permitted to do so. He left home July 9, 1861, and joined Price's army, becoming first lieutenant in Bowen's Division."

"May was not quite two years of age when her father left home. The family talked so much about Dixie and the sunny south that May got the idea that Dixie was all flowers and sunshine. When winter came with its ice and snow, one day she was out playing and fell on the ice and came in crying and said, "I want to go to Dixie in a hurry."

"Price's army was in east Mississippi at this time, 1863, when Mr. Russell's health failed, and he was discharged from the army. A resident physician advised him to go to some springs in Alabama on the Tombigbee river. Mr. Russell was here when Vicksburg surrendered July 4, 1863, and went later inside the Federal lines at Vicksburg so he could communicate with his family."

"When he left home, he was in good circumstances, financially, but now there was little left, so he did not care to return to Missouri, and wrote his family that they would cast their lot with the people of

Division of Fine Arts

5. Miscellaneous

Miss May Russell

the South. Mrs. Russell with her four children left Quitman ~~early~~ February 1, 1864 and went to St. Louis part way by wagon and some by train, then took the boat John J. Rowe and landed in Vicksburg February 21."

"The family spent several days with Mr. and Mrs. Cellette Smith on Cherry Street. When they received passes, they went as far as the Saddler place, near Big Black ferry. Mr. Russell met them there and next day they went to the Pipes place. Mr. Russell rented the Smith place for 1864 and 1865. Attended to business for Mrs. Lake, next year he rented Greenwood plantation and bought it in '67."

" In 1865 another son was born and named Stonewall Jackson. Greenwood plantation in Claiborne County is about five miles from Hermanville off the railroad and about twelve miles from Port Gibson. Although these were years of privation and much work, yet the family were thankful and happy to be together again. There was very little chance for schooling. In 1868 a private school was taught by a Miss Snow in the yard of a neighbor, Mr. Wallace."

" May was eight when she started to school and was reading in the fourth reader. The first public school was near Willow Springs and was taught by Mr. Ed Powell and later by his sister. In the fall of 1875, May entered Port Gibson Female Academy. Graduated there in the class of '78. She was then eighteen and taught her first school near her home. Her sisters children were among her first pupils. Her next school was taught in Missouri where she had gone to visit relatives."

" Miss Russell then entered The National Normal at Lebanon, Ohio.

Claiborne County
Assignment #16

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Division of Fine Arts

5. Miscellaneous

May Russell, Teacher, Lecturer, Reformer (continued)

Graduated there with honors. After several months travel in California and eastern states, she began teaching at Hermanville where she taught very successfully for several years. It was this school that had the first graduating class in Claiborne County where diplomas were presented in Common Schools. Later Mr. Regan organized the county and commencements were held in all public schools."

"In company with her brother Stonewall she spent a summer at Normal in Glasco, Kentucky, visiting all places of interest in the state. Entering Martin College, Washington, D.C. 1889-1890, finishing a three years course in expression and voice culture in two years. Miss Russell then opened a studio in Chicago and after teaching for some time, she was stricken with typhoid fever and returned home, but later taught in Denver, Colorado."

"Miss Russell was an ardent prohibitionist and philanthropist. In her early thirties she became a lecturer and organizer of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, at that time the largest organized body of women in the world. In this high capacity she traveled throughout the United States of America addressing audiences, drilling members in methods of endeavor and raising money with which to carry on the work, devotedly giving her time and talents to saving the country from the curse of the liquor traffic. She was one of the angels of light leading the way for National Constitutional Prohibition."

"Miss Russell was also an ardent advocate of enfranchisement of women and lived to see a complete victory for suffrage. It took

Claiborne County
Assignment #16

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Division of Fine Arts

5. Miscellaneous

Miss May Russell (continued)

courage to stand for that cause then, though the way had been blazed through the wilderness of prejudice by women, brilliant in intellect and dauntless in spirit."

"Miss Russell's fortitude was of an high order. She no doubt inherited this trait from a long line of predecessors, who were courageous pathfinders in a new country and an untried civilization. After a strenuous lecture tour she would reutrn to her country home for rest and spiritual refreshing. She loved the out-of-doors and every tree and shrub at Greenwood was dear to her. She was distressed at the ruthless destruction of a beautiful tree and the carelessness in the preservation of the wild life around her."

"Her mother's health having failed, Miss Russell felt it her duty to remain with her until her going, After this period of time she decided to remain with her brother Stonewall at Greenwood, who was a teacher and had served as County Superintendent several terms. It was her e that her health failed and after several months in Dr. Street's Sanitarium at Vicksburg she died August 15, 1929."

" "A great soul passed when Miss Russell stepped into the heavenly life. She was great in principal and essentially a fundamentalist when it came to the basic factors of character. Honor was a companion who was apart inviolate, a consecreted soul that had its far reaches in God. Her loyalty was perfect, not only to holy causes, but to the simpler things of life, family ties and comradship. She had the rare faculty of retaining friendships unbroken for years, even through stress of

Claiborne County
Assignment #16

SUPPLEMENT

Subject: Division of Fine Arts

5. Miscellaneous

Miss May Russell (continued)

separation.'"

"'Miss Russell was great as a Christian; she asked no questions, she believed absolutely. Her daily life was a benediction. She ministered to everybody with whom she came in contact, in country, neighborhood, or city, and was always the same calm, loving, patient and potential. There was a certain majesty about her. She was unusually tall and well proportioned, yet bore herself with dignity, tempered with graciousness. Gentleness radiated from her brown eyes and rested on her kindly lips. She was of a retiring nature, self effacing. She never fought for an issue, but plead for it quietly, unobtrusively, in a clear, logical, forceful, convincing manner.'"(1)

"'She was very brilliant and an eloquent speaker and often likened to our silver-tougued orators by reporters in the different states in which she lectured.'

"'Miss Russell was laid to rest by friends and loved ones at Greenwood by the side of those of her family who had preceded her. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Neil, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Vicksburg, Mississippi.'"(2)

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond, County Historian

1. Tribute quoted from a letter of a close friend and coworker of Miss R. R.

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

B. MUSIC

1. Outstanding Musicians

a. Piano.

Mrs. Molly H. Meek, teacher of Piano and Voice. (1)

Mrs. Mary H. Meek was born in Port Gibson, Miss., Sept. 28th, 1846, and died March 13th, 1915. Her entire life was devoted to her profession, teaching continuously from the time she finished her studies at the College of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio, till the year of her death.

She was a lover of her Art, teaching both piano and voice. She had a wide range of experience, teaching in Alabama and Texas and Arkansas, and at one time being the head of the Music Department at the "I. I. and C." which is now known as Mississippi State College for Women at Columbus.

The later years of her life were spent in her native town where she taught and where she was the authority on all matters pertaining to her Art.

Mary Wharton, Concert Pianist and Artist Teacher. (1)

Miss Wharton, born in Port Gibson, began the study of piano at the age of five years when she began to show unusual talent and love for music. Her first teacher was Mrs. M. H. Meek, her aunt and a musician of marked ability, and her studies were continued with Mrs. Meek until the age of fifteen. Her teaching career started when she was sixteen years

1. Information from Miss Enfield Wharton of Port Gibson

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

B. MUSIC----------(continued)

1. Outstanding Musicians----------(continued)

a. Piano.----------(continued)

Mary Wharton, Concert Pianist and Artist Teacher----------(continued)

old; first teaching in Port Gibson, her native town, then at St. Katherine's School in Bolivar, Tenn. Leaving this place she taught for fifteen years at Belhaven College in Jackson, Miss.

Miss Wharton fzuther pursued her studies with Georgia Kober and William H. Sherwood at the Sherwood School of Music in Chicago; received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Chicago Musical College where she studied with Alexander Raab, the great Hungarian pianist, Felix Borowski, former president of the college; Louis Victor Saar, famous composer. While in Chicago she had an appearance with the Chicago Sumphony Orchestra. During later years she has studied with Edwin C. Hughes of New York.

Miss Wharton's work while in Jackson was most outstanding and she is known throughout the South as a teacher of rare ability and a pianist of genius, a concert artist of exceptional ability and charm. A number of Masters have given highest testimonials as to her ability, and she has been mentioned in "Who's Who of America"-listed as one of the leading musicians of Mississippi; and is also in Grove's Dictionary of Musicians She is an exponent of the new method of piano playing-the weight pressure method. In 1935 Miss Wharton severed her connection with Belhaven College to accept the position as teacher of piano at Queens-Chicora

Claiborne County
Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

B. MUSIC----------(continued)

1. Outstanding Musicians----------(continued)

a. Piano.----------(continued)

Mary Wharton, Concert Pianist and Artist Teacher-------(continued)

College, Charlotte, N.C. where she is teaching at present.

Mrs. Clara Harwood, Piano, Violin, + all stringed instruments.

Mrs. Harwood was born in Grand Gulf, Miss., May 1, 1853. She attended Stanton College in Natchez, also schools in Memphis. She began teaching music and literature in Grand Gulf, Miss. at the age of seventeen years and has taught continuously(with the exception of two years) for sixty years or more. At the present time she has a music class in Port Gibson consisting mostly of piano pupils, although she was an especially fine instrutor of the violin and all stringed instruments.

Mrs. Harwood has to her credit the outstanding ahhievements in the musical world of a number of her pupils. Among these we find Mrs. Wren Stanley of Chicago and Port Gibson; Mrs. Eleanor Linde of Chicago and Mrs. Mary Agnes Shreve of Port Gibson, Mississippi; all of whom were her nieces, orphaned under the age of five. Mrs. Harwood reared them and gave them splendid literary and musical educations. Being a widow with a small son of her own, she no doubt made many sacrifices. The three above mentioned musicians have done extensive concert work throughout Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Mrs. Eleanor Linde and Mrs. Wren Stanley taught at M.S.C.W. during the Whitfield administration.

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS

B. MUSIC----------(continued)

1. Outstanding Musicians----------(continued)

a. Piano.----------(continued)

Mrs. Clara Harwood----------(continued)

Mrs. Harwood is an amiable and intelligent woman, and at all times gentle in her manner, and from all with whom she comes in contact has won an abiding affection and respect.

In the days of private schools, Mrs. Harwood had a school of thirty or forty pupils, the majority studying music also.

In middle life Mrs. Harwood taught music for fifteen years in St. Catherine's School of Bolivar, Tenn. Every summer throughout these fifteen years she gave her services free to the Episcopal Church Home for Orphans in Memphis, Tennessee.

She has spent a useful, unselfish life, and today is a pleasure to all who know her, and now, at the age of eighty three (83), her interest is keen in both personal and public affairs of the world. (1)

1. Information from a niece, Mrs. John Shreve of Port Gibson

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

B. Music

1.(a) Piano

Miss Lillian Rogers

Miss Rogers is a native of Claiborne County, where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Rogers, lived in Port Gibson up to the year 1926, when they moved to California.

Miss Rogers continued the study of the piano begun in her native town in Chicago, New York City, and Europe, making in all places an enviable record. While a student at the Chicago College of Music in 1924, she played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She spent several years of study andconcert work in Vienna, Munich and Stuttgardt. (1)

For a number of years she was instructor in piano in Belhaven College, Jackson, Mississippi. Her work there was thus characterized: "Her perfect mastery of weight technic enables her to play with firm, brilliant, carrying tones. Her phrasing and interpretation are indeed wonderful." (2)

In August, 1928, Miss Rogers married Mr. Henley Gilbreath, a musician of Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbreath are at present living in Atlanta. (1)

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1. Information from Miss Mary Wharton of Port Gibson, friend of above.
2. Port Gibson Reveille of March 11, 1926, copied from Clarion-Ledger of Jackson, Miss.

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

B. MUSIC.----------(continued)

1. Outstanding Musicians----------(continued)

a. Piano.----------(continued)

Mrs. H. N. Spencer

Outstanding in the musical world of Claiborne County is Mrs. H. N. Spencer, born at Canton, Miss. in 1876. She was educated in the high schools of Grenada and was a student of Grenada College. She studied music under her father, W. H. Hartwell, who was a graduate of Boston Conservatory of Music. Mr. Hartwell was an outstanding teacher, composer, and pioneer in public school music. He was band master in the 16th Miss. Regiment during the Civil War. He composed the "Wildwood Galop", an orchestra number used extensively, among other pieces during the Civil War at night by moonlight. A record of "Wildwood Galop" was made not very long ago when the Port Gibson orchestra made a broadcast from Jackson. Mrs. Spencer, herself, composed light numbers which have been used in schools and churches, anthems, songs, and instrument compositions.

Mrs. Spencer first taught in the high school of Water Valley. At the age of fourteen she was earning $5.00 monthly for organist services in the church, also had several music pupils at this very early age. She has taught almost continuously for forty-seven years. Coming to Port Gibson as a teacher in 1895, she began teaching immediately in the Port Gibson Female College and at the same time Chamberlain Hunt Academy, teaching piano, stringed instruments, woodwind, and brass. Down through the years

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

B. MUSIC.----------(continued)

1. Outstanding Musicians----------(continued)

a. Piano.----------(continued)

Mrs. H. N. Spencer----------(continued)

there have been orchestras in all the schools with Mrs. Spencer as director, playing for memorial services, Armistice Day, political rallies, etc. When the Scouts first organized twenty years ago they had a scout band under her direction. She has taught chorus work in both schools each year, the choruses going to Jackson to the Teachers Mississippi Educational Association, also taking part in all school activities and church programs.

For years prior to 1933 she was choir director in the Presbyterian Church She has been the organist in this church and the Methodist Church ever since she came to Port Gibson.

She has a very talented daughter, Sarah, who at the age of 21 was supervisor of music over five schools in Eldorado, Ark. Community.

Mrs. Spencer's talent is not limited to music only. She is a splendid Bible scholar, teaching a Sunday School class ever since she has been in Port Gibson, at the present time the ladiesBible class in the Presbyterian Church. Being a beautiful Christian character and charged with unlimited energy she has without a doubt been invaluable to Port Gibson. Her children have been outstanding in school and in public life. One

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

B. MUSIC----------(continued)

1. Outstanding Musicians----------(continued)

a. Piano.----------(continued)

Mrs. H. N. Spencer----------(continued)

son, James G. Spencer, is now a Presbyterian minister. A daughter, Lucy who studied elocution first under her mother, and later at M.S.C.W., taught elocution at the Port Gibson High School, at the same time teaching the primary grades in the school. (1)

1. Information from Mrs. Spencer.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Mrs.S.T.Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
B. Music
a. Piano (continued)

Mrs. Florence S. Brownlee was born at East Liverpool, Ohio, April 4, 1860. She received her musical education at Dana's Musical Institute, Warren, Ohio, where she was considered an outstanding piano student. She was reared in East Liverpool and In Lisbon, Ohio. In the latter place, she was married to H. H. Brownlee, a Presbyterian minister.

When Mr. Brownlee assumed the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church of Port Gibson in the year 1890, Mrs. Brownlee at once brought to the service of the church her musical talent and training. She had a voice of power and sweetness in addition to skill on the piano. For fourteen years she was choir leader and for much of this time also organist. On her retirement from active duties in the choir, the Woman's Auxiliary of the church expressed expressed their appreciation of her service in a gift of a handsome silver waiter bearing the inscription: "Let her own ~~gifts~~ works praise her in the gates." ** (See below)

Mrs. Brownlee died in March of 1932. She is survived by her husband, who still lives in Port Gibson, and by five children, three of whom are living also in Port Gibson.

** Over a period of years, she had a small class of piano pupils. (1)

1. Facts from Mrs. Helen B. Baldwin of Port Gibson, daughter

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

B. MUSIC----------(continued)

1. Outstanding Musicians----------(continued)

b. Violin.

Mrs. Wren Pearson Stanley (1)

Wren Pearson Stanley was born in Grand Gulf in 1882 and came to Port Gibson when one year old. She attended private schools. At the age of thirteen (13) she started a real study of the violin in Los Angeles, California, studying there for four years. Her teachers in Los Angeles were Ferdinand Meive - Bond Francisco. From Los Angeles she went to St. Catherine's school in Bolivar, Tennessee, where she taught the violin teacher! From there she went to New York, studying for two years under Ludwing Laurier and Alfred Donaldson Wicker at the Metropolitan Conservatory of Music, receiving complimentary notices in New York papers. In Birmingham, Alabama she took a course under Hugo Olk. After a lapse of a number of years she is now studying under Armant Coullet of the Paris Conservatory of Music who also studied interpretation under Camille Saint Saens.

1. Facts from Mrs. Stanley



Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
B. Music
c. Organ

Mrs. Addie Morris Watkins

Miss Addie Morris was a native of Port Gibson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Morris and his wife May McCaleb Morris. She received her education both literary and musical at the Port Gibson Female Academy, and was considered a fine musician both on the piano and organ. She served as organist in the Methodist Church in Port Gibson for about twenty years, beginning when she was only sixteen years old. She married Mr. A.T. Watkins of Andalusia, Alabama, where she made her home until a few years before her death. (1)

Mrs. Florence Smith Brownlee

See Piano

Mrs. H. N. Spencer

See sketch under Piano

1. Information from a sister, Mrs. H. H. Crisler of Port Gibson.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

L. Division of Fine Arts

B. Music

c. Organ

Mrs. Leigh Briscoe Allen (1)

Mrs. Allen began the study of music at an early age under her mother's instruction. Later she continued to study under various teachers, among them Charles W. Landon, a piano teacher of world wide reputation and director of his own conservatory at Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Allen (nee Ethel Marks) came to Port Gibson to teach in the music department of the Port Gibson Female College in the year 1900 and taught there three years as assistant piano teacher and teacher of string and wind instruments. Mrs. Allen began playing the organ at the Methodist Church during the year 1900 and has held the position as organist for 36 years.

1. Information furnished by Mrs. Allen.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

B. Music

d. Other Instruments

Mr. Leigh Briscoe Allen (1)

Mr. Allen is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Allen of Claiborne County. Mr. Allen began the study of music under Miss Ellie Mae Hartwell, now Mrs. Nelson Spencer. He played clarinet in an orchestra composed of home boys, under Miss Hartwell's direction. Later Mr. Allen directed that orchestra for ten or twelve years. He continued to study instrumentation and orchestration and arranged a large part of the music for his orchestra.

He began the study of the Saxophone in the year 1904 under the Belgian professor E. P. Borre' of Chicago. Mr. Allen began playing Clarinet in the Methodist Church choir during the year 1899. Later he played the Saxophone and continued to play in the choir until 1935. He was probably the first saxophone performer in the state of Mississippi.

1. Information given by Mrs. Leigh Briscoe Allen of Port Gibson.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

B. Music

e. Voice

Mrs. Audrey Myer Harrell

Mrs. Harrell was born July 12, 1902 at Whitmell, Virginia. She received her early musical instruction at Randolph Macon Institute, Danville, Virginia. After graduation from high school, she studied for two years at the Cincinnatti Conservatory of Music, among her teachers being the distinguished tenor, John A. Hoffman, and the celebrated Swiss pianist, Marian Thalberg. For the next two years she studied in New York City in the Institute of Musical Art, from which institution she was graduated. She taught music for three years in the city schools of Lexington, North Carolina. In 1927 she married Mr. Wade H. Harrell, Presbyterian minister. After several years in Birmingham, Alabama, where Mrs. Harrell took an active part in civic and church musical circles, they moved to Port Gibson, where she has continued her musical activities. Three beautiful cantatas have been given under her direction. She has a limited number of pupils in voice and piano.

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Facts furnished by Mrs. Harrell

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

B. Music

e. Voice

Miss Ottilie Schillig

Miss Schillig is a native of Port Gibson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Schillig. She received her elementary education in the schools of Port Gibson, later studying elsewhere and going abroad to complete her voice training.

Her debut in this country was made in Carnegie Hall, New York, where she received an ovation and was awarded the most favorable comment by the critics. Her beautiful voice has brought her acclaim in the musical centers of this country and of Europe.

Miss Schillig made her first appearance in her home town of Port Gibson December 10, 1920 under the auspices of the Woman's Club.(1) She is at present doing concert work and teaching in New York City.

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1. Port Gibson Reveille Nov. 25, 1920

~~Miss Mary Naasson, a neighbor and faiend.~~
~~(The family of Miss Schillig (two sisters) live in Port Gibson,~~
~~but do not care to furnish information.~~

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
B. Music
2. Bands, orchestras, choirs

Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College (colored)

"The Choir and the Men's and the Women's Glee Clubs are sponsored by the Music Department and are composed of students who show musical ability and the desire to sing. These groups furnish music for all chapel occasions. They also bring special occasions to the campus, give operettas, Christmas cantatas by combined groups, and furnish all Commencement music. The combined group goes to make up a forty member choir."

"Courses are also offered in piano, voice, and public school music."

"The College Orchestra and Bank assist in providing outlets for men and women who are musically inclined. This orchestra furnished music for the various school socials given on the campus." (1)

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1. Material furnished by W. H. Bell, president Alcorn

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts
C. Painting
1. Artists

Miss Betty McArthur

"Too many years ago for the oldest inhabitant to remember, I was born in Claiborne County in a log house (1) that had been built by Governor Humphreys. Died Date in 1944 or early in 1945.

"I secured my schooling in the Port Gibson Female Academy, which has since been changed to a memorial to Irwin Russell. Perhaps it would be of interest to know that I read Russell's poems, as they appeared week after week in the Port Gibson Reveille, with the keenest delight, but had no conception that they were literature. Later I was graduated from the Glasgow (Ky.) Normal and came in contact with my first art teacher, Alice Garnett. She directed my steps to the Cincinnati Art Academy, where I spent many happy years and thought myself importantly busy.

"After teaching a while, I spent nearly two years abroad, traveling, painting, and studying in Paris. On my return I did not find myself country clamoring for my services either as a teacher, or a portrait painter. Through the kindly manipulations of friends, I received some commissions and secured a place to teach.

"The intervening years have been spent in teaching and studying art. My summers have lead me to the Desert where I did my best to paint the unpaintable, and to Provincetown, beloved of painters and sightseers. I notice that, wherever artists congregate, the world has to come and see. Possibly my greatest work has been my twenty years at the Mississippi State College for Women." (2)

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1. Located near Ingleside in western part of county.
2. Written by Miss McArthur at our request. She is living at Mc Henry, Miss.

Claiborne County

Assignment Sixteen.

1. DIVISION OF FINE ARTS:

C. PAINTING

1. Artists

Mrs. Amanda Louise Magruder McLean-musician and artist.

Her pictures are known for their composition, expression, and color.

"Amanda Louise Magruder was born at Oak Grove plantation, Claiborne County, Mississippi, February 11th in the year 1853-died at Touro Infirmary New Orleans, Louisiana, April the 17th, 1908." (1) --- "She was educated at Port Gibson Collegiate Academy under the tutelage of Professors Ricketts and Wright, but later sent to a finishing school at Nazareth, Kentucky, where aside from the other studies she indulged her love for music and painting. Returning home she was warmly welcomed into the Social Coterie of the town, also of New Orleans, to which city she made frequent visits." (1) --- "Of her marriage on September 28, 1876, to William Brant McLean which took place at the Presbyterian Church in Port Gibson, the Editor of the Port Gibson Reveille speaks of as a brilliant social event - the nuptials of two of old Claiborne's choicest children, Will McLean and Teenie Magruder." (1) Many lovely paintings by Amanda Louise McLean are found in the homes of her relatives in Claiborne County. Some copies of Rembrandt's works are thought to be her best works. Art connoisseurs passing through have expressed themselves as liking the copies as well as the originals. The mention of her charm and talent brings a radiant smile to the faces of her surviving friends and loved ones.

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1. "Year Book of American Clan Gregor Society"(Containing the Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Gathering, 1922 - Page 45.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16 Canvassers: Miss Mary Nasson, Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Painting

1. List Artists; Give Character of Work; Biographical Sketch:

Thomas C. Healy

Mr. Healy came with his brother William to Port Gibson from Chicago in his early youth. They were of Irish descent, but little is known of his early history. He married Miss Charlotte Roberts of Claiborne County May 30, 1870. In 1876 a wealthy brother George of Chicago bought the plantation on Bayou Pierre known as "Lucknow", and here Thomas and his family lived. George visited him only once here. (1) Thomas was buried in the Catholic Cemetery December 11, 1889. (2)

Both Thomas and George were portrait painters. The latter studied and painted in Europe. Thomas lacked the advantage of training but his talent was such that George said he would have excelled him had his opportunities for study been equal. Thomas did his work for the most part in Claiborne County and many homes here are proud possessors of his portraits. (1)

Earl Van Dorn (3) (For biographical sketch see Civil War VI)

Van Dorn painted a number of portraits, but so far as known the only one in this county is that of his cousin, Mary Lacy, afterward Mrs. Wood, who reared a large family in Port Gibson. This portrait is now in the possession of Mrs. Edgar Crisler of Port Gibson, granddaughter of Mrs. Wood. (4)

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1. Port Gibson Standard of June 30, 1870
2. Port Gibson Reveille of Aug. 19, 1926
3. For Biographical sketch see Civil War, VI.
4. Information secured from Mrs. Edgar Crisler of Port Gibson.

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Painting (continued)

1. Artists-Character of Work, etc.

Nesbet Benson

Mr. Benson, a grandson of Passmore Hoope's, who was among the very first settlers of Claiborne County, was born in the early 60's at "Idlewild" on the outskirts of Port Gibson and there lived for many years. He was living there during the War Between the States. He never married and died only a few years ago.(1)

He was a versatile artist. After studying in Paris, he opened a studio in New York. He was very successful as an illustrator and contributed to such magazines as Harpers, Judge, and Puck. The humor and keen insight which made him a successful cartoonist was much in evidence in his conversation, and his company was much sought after by those who enjoyed fun and wit.(1) He toured Europe on a bicycle, sketching as he went. He painted both landscapes and portraits; a number of these are now hanging in the homes of Port Gibson.(1)

The story of how he came to paint the portrait of Samuel Gibson is much interest locally.(2) The facts are as follows:

On a visit of Mr. Benson in 1926 to his native town, he became interested in preserving a faded drawing of Samuel Gibson found on the back cover of the old Gibson family Bible now in possession of descendants of the family living in Port Gibson, particularly so as this was the only likeness of the Founder extant.

Through the initiative of the Fine Arts Committee of the Wo-

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1. Information from Mrs. Meridith Spencer of Port Gibson, cousin of Mr. Benson.
2. Given by Miss Harriette A. Person, at that time Chairman of the Fine Arts Committee of the Women's Club



Canvassers:
Miss Mary Haasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Painting (continued)

L. Artists (continued)

Nesbet Benson (continued)

man's Club, the matter was taken up with the Board of Alderman. Public subscriptions followed sufficient to employ Mr. Benson to paint the portrait. Many consider it his best work.

Presentation of the portrait was made in an eloquent speech by Judge R. D. Gage. Unveiling was done by Mrs. Sallie Gibson Humphreys Chenault of Lexington, Kentucky, and by Mr. Richard Hastings of Port Gibson, descendants of Samuel Gibson. The portrait now hangs in the Town Hall.

Mrs. Ora Newton Gibson

Mrs. Gibson was born in Crystal Springs, Copiah County, and moved to Port Gibson with her husband about 1928. She makes a specialty of painting animals such as dogs and deer, and of flowers. Her most important piece of work was the designing of a wreath of magnolias for the tray of the silver service presented to the Battleship Mississippi by the State of Mississippi.(1)

Mrs. Gibson is at present living and teaching in Port Gibson.

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1. Information furnished by Mrs. Gibson.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16 Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Painting

2. Old Portraits and Rare Paintings

a. In homes of the county

In Home of Mr. Leigh Briscoe Allen Port Gibson

Portrait Painting of Parmenas Briscoe painted----1845
" " John Briscoe " "
" " Tomie Allen " 1859

( Artist painting above is unknown)

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In Home of Mrs. Kate Herlitz Guthrie Port Gibson

Portrait Painting of John Coburn Humphreys
" " Sarah Stewart Humphreys
" " La Roche Loonly Stewart

Also rare old portraits in quaint frames of:

Lord Butler(Lord is not a title) and his wife,
Mary Butler

Also: Portrait of John Hackley, great grandfather of Mr. Guthrie.
(Artists and dates of above are unknown)

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In Home of Mrs. C.A. Gordon Port Gibson

Four large paintings, a series called "The Voyage of Life" painted by Timothy Cole.

Copy of the"Madonna of the Chair" done by an unknown artist.

Life sized painting of a young lady--artist unknown

River scene--artist unknown

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16 Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Painting

2. Old Portraits and Rare Paintings

a. In Homes of the County (continued)

In Home of Mrs. M. E. Van Hook of Port Gibson

Mr. P. R. Taliaferro--Oil Painting by Healy, 1842
Mrs. P. R. Taliaferro- " " " "
Mr. R. H. Taliaferro " " by unknown artist
Mrs. R. H. Taliaferro " " " "

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In Home of Mrs. Edgar Crisler of Port Gibson

Oil Portrait of Mary Lacy, afterwards Mrs. Wood, painted by her cousin Earl Van Dorn -date unknown.

Home of J. W. Person Port Gibson

James Alexander Gage by T. C. Healy about 1840

Magruder Home southeast of Port Gibson

Mrs. Joseph Moore Magruder (nee Miss McCray)-date and artist unknown
Mrs. Sylvia Disharoon (nee Miss Frydinger)- " " "
Mrs. Nancy Brashear Hughes---------- " " "
Benjamin Hughes ---------- ------- " " "
Dr. J.A.G. Frydinger---------- " " "
Mrs. Rosina Dunbar Lancaster ---------- " " "

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

L. Division of Fine Arts

C. Paintings

2. Old Portraits and Rare Paintings

a. In Homes of the County (continued)

~~Two oil paintings of rural scenes by Jaques~~
In Home of Mrs. Clara Harwood of Port Gibson

Two large oil paintings of rural scenes by Jaques--Paris, 1895

Three oil portraits: the mother (Clara Warren Pearson) and father (Charles Atkinson Pearson) of Mrs. Harwood and Colonel Coffe--All by Bodley, 1853, 1844, 1844 respectively.

Oil Portrait of Mr. Harwood's mother by Alder (date unknown)

Oil Portrait of Mrs. Eleande A. Pearson, grandmother of Mrs. Harwood. (Artist Unknown)

Oil Portrait of Mrs. Warren, mother of Mrs. Harwood (Artist unknown)

Oil Portrait of Mrs. Warren's oldest brother. " "

Small oil painting "Fox Catching Chickens" by Hug.Mueler

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In Home of G. L. Disharoon of Port Gibson:

Large painting "Just Moved" by H. Mosler, 1870

Painting "Introduction"--Artist and date unknown.

Two small landscapes--Paintings by Vallet (no date)

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In Home of Miss Mary Naasson Port Gibson

Four oil portraits by Thomas C. Healy, 1853: Mr. Joshua Kelly, Mrs. Kelley with Baby Belle, Misses Anna and Maggie Kelley, and Misses Mary and Jennie Kelley.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment # 16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Painting (continued)

2. Old Portraits and Rare Paintings

(a) In Homes of the County (continued)

In Home of Mrs. Polly Humphreys Moore Port Gibson

Portrait Painting of Mr. David George Humphreys-1834(artist unknown)

" " " Mrs. Mary Cobun Humphreys -1834 " "

Home of Mrs. Mary DanielBagnell Port Gibson

Portrait Painting of Mrs. Caroline Christie Bertron (date and artist unknown)

" " Lady Dorothy Fiddleman Rolle-230 years old (5th grandmother) (artist unknown)

" " Thomas Freeland-date and artist unknown (great grandfather)

" " Smith C. Daniell-1837 (artist unknown) (great grandfather)

" " Smith C. Daniell-artist and date unknown) (grandfather)

" " Mrs. Catherine Freeland Daniell ( " " ) (grandmother)

Home of Mr. Samuel Weil Port Gibson

" " Mr. Samuel Bernheimer-T.C. Healey (date unknown)

" " Mrs. " " " " " " (nee Henrietta Cahn)

Home of Mrs. Nannie Humphreys Wharton Port Gibson

" " Dr. Samuel Cobun Humphreys-Probably Healey " "

" " Mrs. Catherine Prince " " "

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment # 16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Painting

2. Old Portraits and Rare Paintings (continued)

a. In Homes of the County (continued)

Home of Mrs. Mott Headley Port Gibson

Portrait Painting of Mrs. Earl Humphreys-T.C. Healey-date unknown.

Oak Square- The James Wells Person home in Port Gibson

Fine full length portrait of J.J. Person-done in New York about 18---
(Artist's name not known)

Portrait Painting of James Wells Person as a boy-New York " "
(Artist unknown)

Full length portrait of Louise Amelia Person-Artist's name cannot be deciphered; he painted prominent people in New Orleans in 1850's.

One of the most beautiful paintings in town.

Portrait of Mrs. J. J. Person in Victorian dress-T.C. Healey-1878
(One of the best portraits he painted.)

Portrait, ivory type, of Isabella Myles(Mrs. James Wells Person) done in New Orleans in 1867-artist unknown.

Portrait of Samuel Wells of Greenfield, Mass.by Collins early 17th Century

Portrait of Mrs. Samuel Wells " " " " " "

Home of the Levin P. Williams family in Port Gibson

Portrait of Mr. Levin Powell Williams by T. C. Healey

" " Mrs. " " " " "

" Mr. Philip Williams " "

Two " (bust of a lady) painted on glass-date and artist unknown but pronounced by a representative of the New York Institute to be a lost Italian art and priceless.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Neasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Painting

2. Old Portraits and Rare Paintings (continued)

a. In homes of the county

Home of the Levin P. Williams family in Port Gibson (continued)

Four landscapes of the"Hidson River School of Art"-artist unknown
(Considered valuable)

Home of A.K. Shaifer (Country home on the battlefield)

Portrait Painting of Abram Keller Shaifer-about 1850- artist unknown T.C. Healey

" " Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys " - T.C. Healey

Home of Mrs. Merideth Spencer Port Gibson

Portrait of Samuel Gibson by Nesbet Benson---date unknown

" " Emmet Beaty -artist unknown------1846

Steel engraving of Passmore Hoopes done in 1800 in Chester Co., Penn.

Silhouette of Mrs. Spencer's grandfather -100 years old

Portrait painting of James Hoopes-done by Saunders, New York artist-1886

Home of Miss Mattie Irwin Port Gibson

Portrait painting of Miss Mary Irwin-painted 90 years ago by traveling artist, name unknown.

" " Samuel James Bridges-date and artist unknown

Home of Mrs. E. B. Drexler Port Gibson

Portrait Painting of Mrs. Henry T. Ellett-1854-artist unknown

Home of Earl Jeffries, Pattison, Miss.

Priscilla Shelby Jeffries--T. C. Healy- no date

Dr. David Irwin- artist and date unknown

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment # 16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Paintings

2. Rare Paintings and Old Portraits (continued)

b. In Public Buildings

Town Hall:

Portrait of Samuel Gibson, Founder of Port Bibson- Nesbit Benson
(Date ~~unknown~~ 1926)

Court House

Portrait Judge Thomas Y. Berry- artist and date unknown

" Lauch McLaurin " " "

" Henry T. Ellett- T. C. Healy- 1875

" Johathan McCaleb- artist and date unknown

" John Booth with child, J.B. McCaleb(grandson)- date and artist unknown.

Irwin Russell Memorial Room in Town Hall

" Dr. David Irwin for whom Irwin Russell was named " "

Chanberlain-Hunt Academy

Portrait of Jeremiah Chamberlain - Date and artist unknown

Portrait of David Hunt — " " " "

Catholic Church

Large painting of Christ (almost life size) by Thomas Healey



State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

C. Painting (continued)

2. Old Portraits and Rare Paintings (continued)

a. In homes of the county (continued)

Home of Dr. James T. McCaleb, Byrnmore Plantation, Carlisle

Portrait of Jonathan McCaleb----by George Healy (date unknown)

" " Mrs. Emily Byrnes McCardle by Philo Bush " "

" " Mrs. Catherine Priscilla Smith by George Healy (date unknown)

Home of Mrs. Kate Daniell Magruder, Port Gibson

Portrait of Smith Coffee Daniell---Date and artist unknown

" " Catherine Freeland Daniell " " "

" " Priscilla Daniell " " "

" " Thomas Freeland Daniell " " "

3. Art in Public Schools and Colleges

None

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts:

1. Outstanding Sculptors D. Sculpture

There have been none in Claiborne County.

2. Name Statuary and Sculpture in County

Confederate Monument----Erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy. This monument is a shaft surmounted by a figure of a private soldier. It is 10 by 10 feet at the base and 36 feet high, and is of Georgia marble except for the figure and the medallions, which are of Italian marble cut in Italy. The inscription on the front of the monument is Claiborne County's tribute to her sons who fought in the War of 1861-1865. On the opposite sides are the names of the companies that went from this county. On each reverse side are medallion portraits, one of General Benjamin Humphreys, the other of General Earl Van Dorn. On the front of the shaft is a furled confederate flag, on the opposite side a battle flag. The monument was built by the Columbus Marble Works.(1)

Rogers Group---Scene from Othello---In home of Mrs. J. McMartin in Port Gibson.

1. Port Gibson Reveille of February 10, 1907



Canvassers:
Miss Mary Maasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Division of Fine Arts

D. Sculpture (continued)

2. Name statuary and sculpture in county

Mrs. Frank Headley, formerly Anna Hunt, granddaughter of the widely known David Hunt, who contributed so largely to old Oakland College of this county, has in her home in Port Gibson a very handsome piece of statuary which was the property of her grandfather.

Just prior to the Civil War, George F. Hunt, the father of Mrs. Headley, began the erection of a large home, and his plans were to place statuary at intervals along the driveway leading to the house. He asked a friend who was going to Italy to look around there for something suitable. This friend purchased the above mentioned statue, a representation of an angel three and one-half feet high, at a cost of $1000.00 and sent it to Mr. Hunt as a sample.

Then came the vicissitudes by which the South was beset during and following the War Between the States, and Mr. Hunt was never able to carry out his plans.(1)

1. Information from Mrs. Frank Headley of Port Gibson.

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

FINE ARTS

It's a fact:——

That the first southern writer to use Negro dialect in poetry was a Mississippian—Irvin Russell, who wrote "Christmas Night in The Quarters."

Mississippi Advertising Commission



Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

A. Handicraft

1. Wood Carving

The noteworthy example of wood carving in the county is the altar railing of the Catholic Church in Port Gibson. This is made of solid walnut elaborately handcarved, with symbols of the Christian religion worked into the design. Also carved by the same man are designs at the end of each pew. This carving is considered a work of art and is a mecca for lovers of the beautiful.

This carving was done by Dan Foley, a young Irish lad, son of the contractor who built the church, while he was in his early teens.(1) He also carved the first hand on the spire of the Presbyterian Church.(2) This hand has since had to be replaced.

1. Port Gibson Reveille of Feb. 17, 1927(Letter signed I.D. Magruder)
2. " " Feb. 17, 1927-(Article by Mrs. Maggie Musgrove)

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

## II. Division of Practical and Applied Arts

### 2. Handicraft in Schools

#### a. Where taught

Handicraft in taught in none of the white schools of the county. It is taught in the following negro schools:(1) High School of Port Gibson, school at Peyton, school at Lorman, a school near Port Gibson, and Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College at Alcorn.

#### b. Character of the work

For the girls the work consists of plain sewing, embroidery, rug making(both crocheted and hooked as well as braided), and cooking.

The boys' work is principally in the form of repair work:

1. Wood work ----repairs on buildings and furniture
2. Forge work----repairs on tools and vehicles
3. Harness work--repairing, cleaning and oiling leather harness
4. Concrete work--building ordinary forms, walks, steps, floors, etc.
5. Painting of floors, walls and so on of buildings.

At Alcorn College courses are given in house painting, both exterior and interior finishing; in staining and cutting and embossing glass; bronging on wood; iron and plaster cast; imitating marble; painting in distemper. Also courses in paper cutting and folding; clay molding; drawing and poster making; carpentering, wood-carving and caning; weaving of baskets and rugs.(2)

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1. Information from L. M. Parker, principal of the Port Gibson Negro High School.
2. " " President of Alcorn College.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

## II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

### 3. Basketry

#### a. Made by Whites

Clubs under the direction of Miss Mamie Luter, County Home Demonstration Agent, do some work in basket making.(1)

#### b. Made by Indians

There are no Indians in Claiborne County

#### c. Made by Negroes

The Negro Port Gibson High School makes baskets by weaving with Denison crepe paper, also by weaving raffia over pine needles or over reeds. Trays are made in the same way. Baskets are also fashioned of white oak splits and braded corn shucks.(1) Baskets of oak splits are made throughout the county by negroes, principally for cotton.

### 4. Weaving

#### a. Done by Whites

Demonstration Clubs under the direction of Miss Mamie Luter, County Home Demonstration Agent, do chair bottoming with cane splits. Simple weaving on coarse material with designs of wool thread to fashion purses, and so on probably would not be considered actual weaving.(1)

#### b. Done by Indians ----None

#### c. Done by Negroes

In their handicraft departments, the negro schools make baskets by weaving with Denison crepe paper. Chairs are bottomed in rush weaving, in herring-bone and octagon weaving, and with oak splits.(2)

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1. Miss Mamie E. Luter, Home Demonstration Agent
2. L. M. Parker, principal Port Gibson Negro High School

Canvassers:
Mary Watson
Lela E. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

B. Architecture[1]

a. Public Buildings

Copy page

"Some form of classic has ever seemed best to express civic and national ideals. Several buildings on Main Street express this:

Port Gibson Bank, built 1840. Brick, ~~stone~~ one storied, Doric columned. Solid dignity and power of her business men.

Copy

Person Building, burned in 1876, rebuilt in 1877. Best architecture of any office building in town. Brick, plastered. English renaissance type. Arch of windows and interior all beautifully proportioned, with a facade of dignity and beauty.

Bernheimer Buildings, built 1878, one of the oldest business houses. Solid and spacious.

"Other public buildings in the business district show the prevailing renaissance type translated by home authorities with local limitations and variations.

Court House, erected 1845; remodeled 1903. Present building more ornate, showing prevailing renaissance influence. Old Court House had more quiet dignity.

Oakland College (Main building), built 1828. Classic influence dominant."

b. Churches

"We have been called a "town of churches, tall trees and traditions'.

"Hope had her spire
Star high, and pointing still to something higher."

1. Written by Miss Harriette Person of Port Gibson at our request.



Canvassers:
Mary Watson
Lela E. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

B. Architecture

a. Churches (continued)

"The spire dominates Church Street, the principal residence street of the town. The Gothic influence is seen in the three beautiful spires on the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Catholic Churches, the hand on the Presbyterian Church with finger pointing upward is after an old church in Scotland. The Gothic pervades in tower and steeple, mingled in some features with the English Renaissance influence. The exceedingly graceful spires are distinguishing features. These three churches are reminiscent of the Mediaeval English Parish Churches, and were built during the 'Gothic Revival', which reached its height in 1850-1860 in this county (began 1840-1875).

Copy

Presbyterian Church, founded 1829, built 1860. Largest of the churches. Brick, plastered. Round arched windows, heavy plaster cornice, plaster arch back of pulpit, barrel-vault ceiling. Stateliness, dignity, inspiration.

Methodist Church, founded 1826; burned, rebuilt 1853. Brick, flat ceiling, ~~hand-carved altar railing by Dan Foley.~~ Round arch windows, basement for Sunday School. More like old New England meeting houses.

St. James Episcopal Church, built by J.F. Barnes in 1864. Small Tudor Gothic. Brick, open timbered roof and timbered arch. Chancel decorated with Tudor flower, a modified fleur-de-lis, by Rev. Howard Noll, the clergyman, and Mrs. Jennie Berry.

Baptist Church, organized 1872. Present building built 1924. Its exterior follows the classic influence in part, with Doric columns.

Catholic Church, built 1850. Brick. Gothic, painted Gothic windows and ceiling, hand carved altar railing by Dan Foley.

Jewish Synagogue, built 1891. Brick. Follows the 'Moorish style, now almost exclusively for Jewish synagogues'.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Mary Wasson
Lola B. Hamilton

II. Division of Arts and Crafts

B. Architecture

b. Churches (continued)

Negro Churches:

Christian. Located at end of Church Street. Typical of the old New England churches. There are three other negro churches- modern frame buildings. Good steeples.

"Bells ring from the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Catholic Churches, and chimes from the Episcopal Church. Some one said, 'I had to come home in the spring, on a Sunday morning, to hear the church bells ring, and smell the China blossoms, and hear the mocking birds sing.'"

~~Public Buildings~~

c. Homes

copy

"The oldest homes show the leisurely mode of living with the customary credentials of culture. It is colored, as always, to a greater or less degree by nationality, caste, climate, and individual characteristics. The development of what is known as the Colonial, or Georgian, gave us a domestic architecture full of restraint and restful simplicity of line.

"The early homes in Port Gibson, built in the twenties and thirties, show the prevailing influence of the 'Greek Revival', the Colonial, or Georgian so called, but no formal architecture. All of the 'cottage type', pitch roof, dormer windows, use of porches supported by columns, large, high ceilinged rooms, white wood work, ceilings sometimes decorated in plaster relief, molding and cornice, door and window trims show classic influence. Entrance hall running from front to rear, rooms of generoud proportions arranged on either side of hallway, mantels wide

Claiborne County

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

B. Architecture

c. Homes ( Place as last paragraph under homes in Port Gibson)

copy

Good examples of early architecture seen in the Shreve house; the Presbyterian manse; the old McDougal house, now owned by Mrs Bloomquist; the old Mason house, owned by Mr. Pete Wheeless; the old home built by Peter Van Dorn for his daughter Mrs. Miller and now owned by Mrs. G. L. Disharoon. Also the old home of Judge Gage; and the former Ellett home belonging now to Mr. Lindsay Disharoon. All of these have wide galleries universally characteristic of southern adaptation of the colonial, or Georgian ideals

Canvassers:
Mary Nasson
Lela E. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts
B. Architecture
I. c. Homes (continued)

and high of simple design, of wood hand carved; open fire-places, and in the 30's beautiful examples of wrought iron fireplaces; doorways with colonial arch transoms with fan and side lights, wooden pilasters, door knockers, hinges, foot-scrapers, iron railings and fences, and fire-place fittings are all as beautiful in their way as are the architecture and more pretentious furnishings. Large brick chimneys flank each side; the smaller wings give balance and spaciousness.

"The key to our architecture is simplicity. It makes a picture of our earliest civilization. There was luxury beyond doubt, but with it a dignified simplicity for the well mannered mode of carrying themselves in the world they were making. The spirit of place is exemplified in objects which fall into the general design: furniture, mostly Sheraton, Hippelwhite, and Duncan Phyfe; silver, glass, and so on.

"One of the few remaining examples of earliest settlers in Port Gibson: huge kitchen/fire-place in the old home of Samuel Gibson, place for[illegible]tle, owned now by Miss Elizabeth G. Spencer."

Plantation Homes

"As wealth increased, the homes of the 1840's and 50's became more luxurious in the Georgian, or Colonial, style, mansard or hipped roofs, classic columns supporting pediment roofed porches, or wide columned galleries. The houses became the very embodiment of welcome. All research proves not only that we have a very distinct colonial style but that we have individual styles based on the general American style.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Mary Nasson
Lela E. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts
B. Architecture
I. c. Homes (continued)

"Most of these homes were frame buildings, and fire has taken its toll of houses, furniture, mirrors, silver, whole libraries, papers and letters of great historic interest.

"Among those that have burned are:

Windsor, home of the Daniel family; Ashland and Oak Lawn, the Humphreys homes; Highland Home, home of the Hamiltons; Buena Vista, the Watson home; Rolling Green, the Stamps home; Woodstock, the Parkers; Screwy, the Jeffries; Glensade, the Butlers; Fairview, the home of John Taylor Moore,

"Among those now standing are:

Magnolia Grove, plantation home of the Buck family. Hand-hewn timbers from Virgin forest, 12 inches in diameter. Floor planks cut from largest trees. Ceiled and papered; open fireplaces, small window panes, cottage type, pitch roof, center hall, gallery across front and back of house. Kitchen bar and hooks for swinging crane with kettle and turning spit. Wings added when daughter returned from school at Nazareth, Bardstown, Kentucky, and son returned from Princeton in the early 50's. Live oaks spaced casually, only evidence of design being the fact of an open space in front of home. Garden to left of house, luxurious growth of sweet olives, cape jasmines, and so on. Built in 1820 by William Richardson Buck.

Cane Mount, the Murdock home, now owned by Mr. J.R. Rice, a long, low, rambling house, colonial ground plan but adapted for comfort and convenience.

Greenwood; Cabin Wood; Talbot, home of the William Martins, now owned by Mr. Charles A. Gordon.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Mary Manson
Lela E. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts
B. Architecture
1. c. Homes (continued)

Anchuka, home of the Archers: large proportions, remote stateliness; surrounded by moss-hung trees, a twilight place; signs of decay, deep two-storied gallery across front, and front doorway with fan and side lights; two-storied gallery across back, with blinds that open the length and height of the gallery; footsteps are missing; stories of its past more vivid than its present, and the stories are legion. **

Idlewild
Idlewild, Collins, both built by Judge Stamps.

Claremont, built by Joshua C. Clarke in 1818.

The Manse (also called The Hill), home of the Van Dorns. A transition type between the 'cottage type' and the larger plantation houses. The colonial influence translated to meet local conditions, unusual or pitched roof, high brick pillars, long flight of steps with balustrade, good proportions- the builders' pride and joy in good work, a type that seemed to have developed near the river and toward the Gulf."

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

C. Landscaping

1. Parks

Claiborne County has no parks,

2. Grounds of Public Buildings

a. Schools

Port Gibson High School

The Port Gibson High School, erected in 1924, is a handsome brick building located on a natural slope of lawn and shade trees seven acres in extent. A back-ground of forest trees forms an ideal setting for later landscape development.

The building itself is covered by the dainty ficus repens not usually found in this section. Evergreens of every variety have been planted in the foreground, including two handsome specimens of the cedrus deodora. On the lawn are many forest trees, including dogwoods and red buds. A trellis of two hundred and fifty Dorothy Perkins roses almost surrounds the grounds.

Japonicas, wisteria, vitex and roses afford color in the spring, crape myrtles and altheas brighten the summer, Japanese maples, Chinese tallows, and native sumac lend color to Autumn. (1)

Court House

There is not sufficient space for pretentious planting about the courthouse, as it is built very near the street. But there is a foundation planting of ligustrum and arbor-vitae with magolia to lend a

---

1. Written by Mrs. Carrie W. Ramsey, Principal of the High School.

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

B. Grounds of Public Buildings (continued)

Court House (continued)

touch of color.

Across the road and directly in front of the Courthouse is the Confederate Monument in its attractive setting. It is placed on an elevation of sodded earth in the form of a square, at each corner of which is an arbor-vitae. This square elevation is itself in the center of a long oblong elevation about which is a curbing of cement. The whole is well sodded and makes a striking picture standing as it does at the entrance of the town on Highway 61.

Chamberlain-Hunt Academy (This should precede Courthouse)

Located at the top of a long gradual slope, Chamberlain-Hunt Academy has a setting of great natural beauty, rendering unnecessary a great deal of planting. In front of the group of buildings, which face Highway 61, is a grassy slope with shade trees here and there. Along the curving walk leading from the highway to the buildings ~~from the entrance~~ are planted at intervals of a few feet crepe-myrtle bushes and rows of jonquils. About the buildings themselves is a foundation planting of ligustrum, azbeliac, and arbor-vitae, with occasional specimen plants of the same. To one side and toward the rear is a rose garden with now and then a trellis of climbing roses.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Nasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

C. Landscaping

3. Home Gardens

There are many lovely gardens throughout the county. In Port Gibson home owners are greatly interested in beautifying their grounds by the planting of shrubbery, rose gardens, and blooming trees from the woods, and perennials at their appointed season. One could not make a tour of the town without realizing what a flower loving community they were in.

Garden of Mrs. E. D. Gage

This Church Street garden covers a large space on the south side of the residence, and the arrangement of flowers and shrubs has been carefully planned by Judge and Mrs. Gage, the former spending many of his leisure hours in the supervision of~~&~~ planting and replanting. An entrance at the southern end of the garden leads one through an avenue of lombardy poplars to a fish pond, about which are placed seats for the relaxation of visitors in their enjoyment of which surround them. From early spring to late summer there is a succession of flowering bulbs, roses, and shrubs. From her garden Mrs. Gage gathers flowers for the pulpit stand of the Presbyterian Church the year round. This garden has been the scene of delightful outdoor teas and pageants. The fact that the lot on which the garden grows was the site of the childhood home of Mrs. Gage adds additional sentiment to the garden for her.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

C. Landscaping (continued)

3. Home Gardens (continued)

The Williams Home

Mrs. Musgrove, Miss Williams, and Mrs. Engbesing, sisters, daughters of the late L. P. Williams, have a delightful old fashioned garden strictly in keeping with the quaintly attractive home in which they live. All beds are bricked in with walks winding around and about. From early spring to late autumn, this garden is a mass of flowers in their respective seasons. They tend the garden themselves with the exception of mowing the extensive lawn which joins the rose garden. Specimen plants on the lawn are age old japonicas, sweet olives, and magnolia fuscattis.

Garden of home of Mrs. Leigh Briscoe Allen

Shrubs in variety form a foundation planting across the front of the house. Enclosing the entire yard is a low hedge, together with a one-chain fence held by concrete posts from which the chain falls in scallops. Lillies and bulbs of every variety border the walks and drive way. On the north is a rose garden, which with ornamental fences and trellises make for a perfect background the expansive lawn, which is ever green regardless of the fact that two giant oaks stand on either side of the yard. On the south side of the house is a lovely fish pond shaded by climbing roses on attractive trellises. Beds of verbenas, pansies, and tulips around the pool add to its beauty.

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment #16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

C. Landscaping (continued)

3. Home Gardens (continued)

Garden of Mrs. Annie Heath

To one side of her two story home lies a quaint old fashioned flower garden with beds laid out insquares, oblongs, and triangles and bordered with violets. Many of the old favorites perfume the air here, and about the iron fence which surrounds the yard, bloom roses in great profusion. Near the house grow early blooming japonica bushes, reaching to almost the stature of trees and bringing cheer with their colors of red, pink, and white,to the early spring landscape. Sweet Olive trees spread their fragrance throughout the neighborhood. Many hearts have been made happy by the exquisite bouquets which Mrs. Heath makes a practice of sending out to her friends.

Garden of Mr. Percy Shaifer

Almost in the center of Church Street on the east side, occupying one of the most desirable lots in town, is the home and very extensive flower garden of Mrs. Percy Shaifer. This garden is an example of modern planting and although only several years old promises to be one of the beauty spots of the state. The garden is in the rear with a foundation planting and a few specimen plants toward the front.

Garden of Mr. J. W. Person

Next door to the Shaifer garden, there is the yard of J.W. Person. This place deserves mention particularly because of the planting about the whole lot of native flowering trees, dogwood and red bud. While there is no formal planting, the place is striking in the spring

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts and Crafts

C. Landscaping

3. Home Gardens (continued)

Garden of J. W. Person (continued)

for its massed plantings of flowering quince, forthysia, and other early blooming shrubs, together with the masses of wistaria which droop from the pergola on the north side of the house along with climbing roses.

Garden of Mrs. Jessie Cason

One of the prettiest gardens in Port Gibson is that of Mrs. Cason, located at the southern end of Church Street on the West side. About the front and side of the house is a foundation planting of ligustrum, nandina, abelia, juniper, and flowering shrubs. The back yard and a vacant lot to the north of the house have been converted into rose gardens. One hundred and fifty roses of every variety and hue bloom there. The rose garden to the rear is bordered with bulbs, lillies, jonquils, narcissi and violets. The garden to the north makes an unusual picture with its background of native trees, dogwood, redbud, magnolia, yellow jasmine, flowering quince, forthysia, and others; and before its beds of roses and pink, purple, and white irises. With the exception of the fronting, this lot is enclosed by spirea and flowering quince. Very close to the house on the north are massed hydrangeas. In the rear garden mention must still be made of the Van Fleet climbing roses and coral honeysuckle just outside the kitchen window and rows and rows of Easter lillies about the garage. Especially beautiful is this garden in spring and early summer when every known perennial

State-Wide Historical Research Project
Claiborne County
Assignment 16

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Naasson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

II. Division of Practical Arts (cont.)

C. Landscaping (continued)

3. Home Gardens (continued)

Garden of Mrs. Jessie Cason (continued)

blooms in great profusion. A long row of watermellon pink crepe-myrtle bushes border on the street from one end to the other of this property.

Garden of Mrs. E. P. Jones, Hermanville

Few are the gardens in Claiborne County that excel in beauty the quaint old fashioned garden of Mrs. E. P. Jones, located on an elevation overlooking the little village of Hermanville. The house gleams softly,restful beyond a picket fence that encloses an ample garden. There are a few big trees with sunny open spaces between them set with shrubs or ordered flower beds in luxurious bloom. Parallel to the fence may be seen very old beds held in place by beer bottles placed here by a previous owner more than three quarters of a century ago. A paved walk leads to the house, between long flower beds that are always brilliant with bloom, and each breath of air brings a whiff of jasmine or sweet olive. A collection of shrubs very close to the house make a pretty background for the remainder of the yard. To the rear of the house, Mrs. Jones has a large rose garden, including every variety imaginable.

There is no way of measuring the influence of this garden upon the individual family, or even upon the little town as a whole. The least that can be said is that it is a genuine joy to all, a place long to be remembered.

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, County Supervisor

STATE WIDE HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

ASSIGNMENT #21

Canvassers:
Mary Naasson
Lela E.Hamilton

The Local Press

Newspapers

I. The County's First Paper

"Port Gibson was the second town in Mississippi that could boast of a home newspaper, Natchez being the first. The Correspondent, a four-page, six-column weekly was started here in 1818." (1) (2)
With this paper the newspaper history of Claiborne County begins.

a. By Whom Edited and Published

"It was started" here by W.A.A. Chisholm.(1) Whether he was both editor and publisher, and who was printer we do not know. He removed to Woodville five years later and established the Republican .(1)

b. Extent of Files Kept with Dates

"In the department of Archives and History at the capitol in Jackson is a volume of the weekly issues of the Port Gibson Correspondent for the year beginning November 9, 1821. It was published by J. Hughes, publisher of the laws of the United States. It gives news from Great Britain, Spain, Portugal and Italy. This news was usually about one month in coming from New York to Port Gibson, and about two months coming from these countries to New York." (3)

In the files kept in the vault of the Chancery Clerk in this county, the earliest paper is one volume of The Mississippi Correspondent and Mississippi General Advertiser from Dec. 15,1830 to Sept. 29, 1832. "The December 30th issue is number 8, volume 13; therefore, the

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1. Port Gibson Reveille, Friday,Sept. 15, 1893
2. Biog.and Historical Memoirs of Miss.,Vol.1,p.180
3. History of Port Gibson by Hawkins,p.286 pub.in Pub. Miss.Hist.Soc. Vol.X,p.286

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

I. The County's First Paper (continued)

the first newspaper published in Port Gibson was probably in 1817, a year or more before the death of Samuel Gibson.(1) This estimate varies only slightly from that given before as 1818.

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

I. The County's First Paper

d. Policy of editor, politics, history, etc.

The first editor, W.A.A. Chisholm, was father of a Port Gibson resident, B. F. Chisholm. He was born and reared in New Madrid, Missouri. There are no copies of the paper of these earliest years extant, but the fact that Mr. Chisholm came from Missouri and that a few years later he published in Woodville "The Woodville Republican" may mean something as to his politics. He died in Woodville in 1866.(1)

e. Successors of the original publication

"In September of 1848 The Correspondent was sold to W. H. Jacobs editor of the Port Gibson Herald and Correspondent. The Correspondent thus had a separate and continuous existence of thirty years." Mr. Jacobs had previously edited the Port Gibson Herald.(1)

f. Name editors and publishers in order(2)

W. A. A. Chisholm----------1818-1821
J. Hughes ----------1821- ?
B. F. Stockton ---------1831,32,33
Jas. H. Maury ----------1834
A. W. W. Parker ----------1835,36
Jas. Sharpe ----------1836,37
T. D. Jeffers ----------1837,38,39
A. S. Clarke ----------1839
Archibald.S.Cary and Robt. L. Brennan -------1840
T. D. Jeffers ---------1841 (the second time)

1. Port Gibson Reveille of Sept. 15, 1893
2. Same as (1) except J.Hughes found in Hist.of P.G. by Hawkins,p.286

The Bayou Pierre Herald

A copy of this paper dated August 9th, 1823, is referred to fifty years later by the Port Gibson Standard of Sept.5,1873. Little information other than that it was a four-page paper is indicated. The name of the editor is not given. We have been unable to find any other reference to this paper and hence cannot give the date of its founding and end.

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

I. The County's First Paper

f. Name Editors and publishers in order (continued)

James A. Gage and
Samuel F. Boyd----------1844

W. B. Tebo ----------1845 to Sept.1848

II. Name Papers and Magazines Down to Date (1)

Port Gibson Correspondent------1818-1848

In Sept. 1848 sold by W.B. Tebo to W.H. Jacobs, editor of "Port Gibson Herald."

The Mississippi Watchman------1832

Had a short career. Edited in Port Gibson by Marschalk and Ewing.

The Grand Gulf Advertiser-----1834

The first paper at Grand Gulf, known to have flourished over a period of years. Founded by Wm. M. Smythe with whom a little later John D. Freeman, later attorney-general of the state, was associated. Maintained an independent and neutral attitude politically.

The Southerner (Port Gibson) ----1837 (short lived)

The Grand Gulf Advocate, published by W. B. Tebo in the early '40's.

The Grand Gulf Whig --date unknown. Edited by Jas. M. Duffield, a Marylander, who afterward moved to Natchez.

The Port Gibson Herald--Sept.1,1842 to Oct.6, 1848

Founded by Edwin Junius Foster, who ten months later sold out to W.H. Jacobs, young lawyer from Maryland, who served as editor until 1851, selling out to E. Bruuer of New England.

1. Compiled from article in Port Gibson Reveille of Sept.15,1893

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

II. Name Papers and Magazines Down to Date (continued)

The Southern Star (Grand Gulf)----1845--?

Started April, 1845 by W.P. Kirkland. Controlled by the whigs. "It is in all respects superior to its predecessor "The Advocate". (1)

The Port Gibson Herald and Correspondent--Oct.6,1848-1853 about (2)

Controlled by whigs. Mr. Bruuer retained control of the paper until his death about two years after buying it. Soon after this, Mr. Bridewell, editor of Reveille, bought the "Herald and Correspondent" which then ceased to exist.

The Southern Reveille (Port Gibson)--1851-1861

Suspended on account of war. A democratic organ. Founded by L. O. Bridewell, a native of the county. In 1854, he sold it to the democratic party of the county, who made Rufus Shoemaker its editor. He was soon succeeded by Joshua S. Morris, later by Jas. S. Mason. Bought again by Mr. Bridewell in 1856 who edited in for one year, when in 1857 Mr. Mason resumed control until '61, when enlistment of all printers in the confederate army forced suspension. Daily editions 1856-1859.

The Claiborne Gazette (Grand Gulf)---1851

Published by Wiggins and Marschalk. Only one issue when the great fire in Grand Gulf of April 15,1851 took place. Appeared again in June but for how long is unknown.

The Type of the Times--# 1861.

Started in the fall and lived about a year. No other paper was issued in Port Gibson during the war. Editor B. H. Farmer. "It

1. Port Gibson Herald of April 17, 1845
2. Date arrived at from files of papers in office of Chancery Clerk
3. All other information on this page compiled from Port Gibson Reveille of Sept.15,1893.

The Local Press

II. Newspapers and Magazines down to Date (cont.)
The Type of theTimes (cont.)

had but six columns, being printed on one side only of a 21x15 sheet of brown tissue paper. There was hardly any local news in the paper,most of the space being occupied by war talk. A number of candidates for county offices were announced in this issue." (1)

The Standard (Port Gibson)--Nov. 1865-1876

Founded by Francis Marschalk with J.S. Mason editor until June of 1867, when Mr. Marschalk acted as editor in association first with A. J. Lewis and later with Rev. J.G. Jones. Paper came to an end when Marschalk left Port Gibson.(2)

The Southern Reveille (Port Gibson)--Revived 1876 (Now Port Gibson Reveille)

Revived by Mr. Mason and managed by him until his death in 1887. In November of that year bought by A.C. Wharton, editor of "The Weekly Record". In June of 1890, Mr. Wharton changed name to"Port Gibson Reveille". H.H. Crisler became associated in 1892 with Mr. Wharton, as publisher and manager of the Job Department.(3) In '96 Mr.Wharton sold out to Mr. Crisler and L.I. Pollitt(4), and in 1898 Mr. Crisler became editor, which office he still holds(5).

The News (Port Gibson)-----1882-1887(Jan.)

Started by P.B. Moore, printer from Winona. A.J. Lewis was editor for a while. In 1884 J.W. Crisler of Hinds County bought the paper and in 1885 in conjunction with his brother C.W. Crisler became sole owner. (2)

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of July 13, 1892
2. " " " Sept.15,1893
3. " " " July 13,1892
4. " " " Feb. 6, 1896
5. " " " Aug. 11, 1898.

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

II. Name Newspapers and Magazines down to Date (continued)

~~The News (Published)~~

The Weekly Record-------Feb. 1887-Nov. 1887

Democratic in principle. Started by A. C. Wharton, who had bought The News outfit. Merged in November of the same year with the Reveille of which Mr. Wharton had got control.

The Bi-Metalist-----1894 Published first at Martin(now Pattison)[1] then at Hazlehurst(Copiah County)[2] and in March 1896 moved to Port Gibson[3]. A Free silver organ edited by D. Q. Griffing.

The Defender of the Constitution----Nov. 1899. Established and edited by Mrs. S. R. Bertron of Port Gibson, the only woman journalist in the county.

The Claiborne Journal---1915. Established by J. M. Scanland, a Louisianian, lasting about a year.

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of Jan.25,1894
2. " " " Nov.23,1894
3. " " " March 1, 1896

All other information compiled from article in P.G.Reveille of 9/15/93

The Local Press

Newspapers

II. (a) Local, Civil and Political Attitude

The Correspondent "seems to have been what its name implied, a kind of general advertiser for the state of Mississippi. It published by authority the laws that were enacted by the Legislature; it gave the proceedings of Congress at Washington, the latest news from Europe; it advertised various lines of business for Port Gibson and other towns."(1)

It must have been democratic, for an editorial in the "Port Gibson Herald"(2), copying from the Correspondent, says: "The democrats of Port Gibson hereby declare that they will give a larger democratic majority at this precinct than will be given at any other in the county."

Very little space was given in this paper to local news, as a study of the paper shows.

The Grand Gulf Advertiser. "It is our determination", remarked the editor, H. Homer Smyth, Esq.,"to stand on independent and neutral ground." (3)

Grand Gulf Advocate. If our presumption above that the"Correspondent" was democratic is correct, then the Advocate must have been also, for W.B. Tebo was ~~its~~ editor of both papers.

Grand Gulf Whig. The name tells politics.

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1. History of Port Gibson by Hawkins, p. 287
2. Port Gibson Herald of Oct. 26, 1843
3. " " " Nov. 17, 1842



Newspapers

II. (a) Local, Civil and Political Attitude (cont.)

Port Gibson Herald. An editorial in the first issue(1) of the paper states: "To the Whigs of Claiborne and Adjoining Counties. We cannot suppress a feeling of gratification at the idea of sending forth to our Whig brethren the first number of a Journal which is henceforth to be devoted to the promotion of the Whig principles, and to the defence of the Whig Party against the unprincipled attacks of the malignant demogogues with whom they are at war. There may be some amongst the many Whigs to whom this number will be sent, who may conclude from previous failure to establish a Whig journal on a permanent basis in this county, that the "Herald" will not be able to survive the attacks which will be made upon it- that it, too, will fall still-born from the press.

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Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

II. (a) Local, Civil, and Political Attitude

The Port Gibson Herald and Correspondent (1)

Controlled by the Whigs, continuing the policy of the Herald.

The Southern Reveille- Founded in 1851 by L. O. Bridewell and issued as a democratic organ. Sold in 1854 to the democratic party of the county. (1) Mr. L. I. Pollitt for two and a half years editor of the successor to "The Southern Reveille", the Port Gibson Reveille, said on selling the paper:

"Since this paper was purchased by its present owners two and one half years ago, it has ever striven to promote the best interests, business and moral, of Port Gibson and Claiborne County.--------It has advocated good laws, good roads, prohibition, stock law, a fire proof vault at the Court House. For the town, it has urged good streets, good officers, water and lights, and the fostering of the progressive spirit generally." (2)

The Weekly Record- Thoroughly democratic in principle but aspired to no prominence in politics. Its aim was to be an accurate, well informed local paper, concerned chiefly with affairs of the county and town, "undertaking only to uphold nothing but what is good, and to keep its columns pure." (3)

The Bi-Metalist--a free silver organ (1)

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1. Port Gibson Reveille of Sept. 15, 1883
2. " " " Aug. 11, 1886
3. " " " Aug. 19, 1926

N.B. Papers not listed above are those about which we have no information as to attitude.

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

THE LOCAL PRESS

Newspapers

II.(a) Local, Civil and Political Attitude

The Port Gibson Standard

"This number closes the third volume of the Standard. It was started upon its career at a time when the industrial and political prospects of our state were shrouded in uncertainty and gloom. It has been a witness and a chronicler of her wrongs and her sorrows, and has never hesitated to protest against the one nor to deplore the other."

"We believe, however, that we have seen the darkest days of our history; and we start our fourth volume under brighter and more encouraging auspices. An increased circulation and a more liberal advertising patronage are the encouragements upon which we rely for a useful and prosperous future."

"We have no pledges to make. Our readers know our sentiments and our principles, and they know, too, that our humble abilities will be devoted to their maintenance. They know that to the rights, interests and liberties of the people of Mississippi we are unalterably devoted. With home born traitors and imported adventurers we can have no sympathy, and in the future as in the past our earnest energies will be devoted to their defeat and final expulsion from the State." (1)

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1. The Standard of Oct. 30, 1868

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

II&. Quotations from files of papers

"The more we see of this beautiful place and its intelligent inhabitants, the more we are determined to invest in it our political and temporal capital, and to make it a battle-ground and a rallying*p point, until the State is redeemed from the odium of Repudiation and disinthralled from the creed of the Locos."

"We believe that all good citizens are bound by their allegiance to the Government that was handed down to them by their ancestors to take a stand in defence of their political inheritance, and if needs be to 'carry the war into the enemby's country'." (1)

"The Grand Gulf Bank- We see that the Sheriff has at last taken hold of the effects of this institution, and has advertised her Railroad, with the lumber on the ground, together with a large amount of real estate, to be sold at the court house door on the first Monday in October next." (2)

"The fact that Port Gibson was for many years the residence of the gifted but unfortunate Blennerhasset and his most elegant and accomplished lady, will give it an importance in the eyes of the general public which no other place in the South can command. All of our readers are doubtlessly familiar with the charming picture which the brilliant Wirt drew of Blennerhasset's delightful retreat, when Burr stole upon it like a serpent and blasted his happiness and his prospects forever. We intend taking up this subject hereafter, and dwelling upon it at some length." (2)

1. Port Gibson Herald of Sept. 8, 1842
2. " " " Sept.15,1842

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

II.(b) Quotations from files of the papers

"As our friend of the 'Advertiser' was disposed to be somewhat facetious at our expense last week, we trust that he will yield us the same privilege. Taking this for granted, we will propound to him the following conundrum:

"Why is the 'Grand Gulf Advertiser' like a bursted musket? And for fear that his genius will not suggest a proper answer we reply by stating, Because the whole tribe of Smiths might exhaust their ingenuity upon it, and it would be worthless still." (1)

"The following letter was addressed to several gentlemen of this place, who, in accordance with the request of the friends of Mr. Clay, wrote to and tendered him a public dinner in Port Gibson, at such time as he might think most convenient and compatable with his other engagements; as it will be seen, Mr. Clay declines the invitation:

'Ashland, 9th Nov.,1842'

'Gentlemen: I am greatly obliged by your friendly letter, inviting me to visit Port Gibson, on the occasion of my intended descent of the Mississippi; and I am truly grateful for the favorable opinion and sentiment towards me, which prompted you to convey it. My voyage to your State and Louisiana, being one purely of business, and in the pursuit of health, I h ve been desirous to avoid any occasions which might give it the appearance of my having public motives or objects

1. Port Gibson Herald of Oct. 1, 1842. Founded by Wm. M. Smyth

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

II. (a) Quotations from Files

in view**********.

"'I should be happy to see Port Gibson, and meet you gentlemen, and other friends there; but I hope you will not think me wanting in a high sense of the hospitality which you have so kindly tendered, by my adherance to the rule which I have thought it best to observe.

'With my greatest acknowledgements, accept, gentlemen, cordial assurances of the esteem and respect of

Your friend and ob't serv't

H. Clay.

To Messrs Jas. H. Maury, J. P. Parker, R. Parkinson, Richd T.Archer, J.B. Coleman, Volney Stamps, Benj. G. Humphreys, George Connelly, etc.'"(1)

"Mr. Healy of Boston, a distinguished young artist, is now in our town, and if any of our readers wish their portraits correctly taken, and in a finished style, we confidently recommend him to their patronage. Specimens of his work may be seen at the Washington Hall, where the portrait of one of our oldest citizens will be immediately recognized by all who knew him." (2)

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1. Port Gibson Herald of Dec. 1, 1842
2. " " " Oct. 26, 1843---Numbers of Mr. Healy's portraits are to found today in this county.

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

II. (a) Quotations from Files of Papers

"On the 8th day of Aug., 1813, a draft of Militia was ordered by the Governor of Mississippi Territory, from the 5th Regiment, Claiborne County, which was to consist of seventy-three men, including officers and musicians, and accordingly on the 21st of the same month, at Port Gibson, the order was carried into effect. Parmenas Briscoe volunteered as Captain, Joseph Nicholls volunteered as Lieutenant,and Jeffries H. Moore was elected by the Company as Ensign."

"On the 24th of August, the Company again met at Port Gibson-54 members only were present, four having absconded, and the rest were reported to be sick. On that day, orders were received from the Governor for the members of the Company to return to their homes and to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning to the frontier of the Creek Indians, who, it was reported, were about to commence hostilities."

"The anticipated hostilities having been commenced by the massacre of Major Beasley and his comrades, the company was rendezvoused at Port Gibson by orders of the Governor, and on the 26th of Oct.,1813, marched for the town of Washington, in charge of the officers, there to join the regiment."

"All the officers and men belonging to this company, we believe are now dead. The Captain, the late Gen. Briscoe, died but a few years ago on his way to California.", etc., etc.(1)

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1. Southern Reveille of Sept. 14, 1858

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

THE LOCAL PRESS

Newspapers

II. (b) Quotations from files

"Port Gibson and Vicinity Forty-Five Years Ago" (1)

"This county, in point of population, ranks according to the census of 1820 as the fourth county in the State, and is, in wealth and political standing, probably the third. In 1820 it contained 5993 inhabitants and gave 696 votes at the election that year.

"On the 3rd and 4th inst at the general election for Governor, members of the Legislature, etc. 775 votes were polled; but the county is believed to contain between 800 and 900 voters. It is spread over an area of 190 square miles, and is divided nearly through the middle east and west by the 32nd degree of latitude. Its shape resembles a triangle, the Jeffersonville line forming the base, Copish and Hinds the perpendicular, and the Mississippi and Big Black rivers,(which latter divide it from Warren), the hypothenuse. It is bounded on the east by Hinds and Copish, south by Jefferson, and northwest by the Mississippi and Big Black."

"State and County Officers. Judge of the Circuit Court, Hon. Josua Child; Chief Justice of the County Court and Judge of Probate, Hon. P. A. Van Dorn; Associate Justice of the County Court, Thomas Freeland and Thomas Sale, Esquires; Assessor of Taxes, Francis Wood; Collector, John B. Cobun, appointed by the Legislature. Senator to the Legislature, Parmenas Briscoe; Representatives, Samuel K. Montgomery and Adam Gordon; Sheriff A.K. Shaifer; Coroner, John Jennings, elected

1. Port Gibson Standard of July 17, 1874

Claiborne County
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THE LOCAL PRESS

Newspapers

II. (b) Quotations from files

"Port Gibson and Vicinity Forty-five Years Ago" (cont.)

by the people. Magistrates in the county, Robert Guy, Isaac Powers, William McClure, Dougall McCall, Nathan Mansfield; in the town, Samuel Holt and John Robertson, appointed by the county court. Surveyor, Wm. Davis, appointed by Surveyor General. Clerk of Circuit Court, P.A. Van Dorn, appointed by court. Clerk of county and probate court, Wm. Davis, appointed by court.

"Road Commissioners, etc., etc., etc.----------

"There are five election precincts in the county, viz., Port Gibson, Rocky Springs, Griffin's Store, Grand Gulf, Presbyterian Meeting House. Four postoffices, viz: Port Gibson, B.F. Stockton, P.M; Rocky Springs, Isaac Powers, P.M.; Red Bluff, Samuel Osborne, P.M.; Port Gibson, Grand Gulf, Thomas M. Newell, P.M. Three towns: /Grand Gulf, and Buckland.

"Grand Gulf is a flourishing town situated on the Mississippi eight miles from Port Gibson in a northwestern direction, between which places a good road has been established, and a low water bridge built across Bayou Pierre. It is in contemplation to build a high free bridge across either the north or south fork of the creek, which forks join about a mile below Port Gibson. Grand Gulf is situated upon a beautiful level plain near the mouth of Big Black. It was laid out about a year ago by Amos Whiting and Ezra Marble, of Claiborne, and White Turpin of Adams, proprietors of the soil, and promises fair to become a place of considerable trade. It contains at present three stores, one tavern, and several dwelling houses, and the enterprising postpaster, Doc McNew-

THE LOCAL PRESS

Newspapers

II. (b) "Port Gibson and Vicinity Forty-five Years Ago" (cont.)

ell, has in contemplation the running of a stage to Port Gibson. Two houses are now being built,( a phrase lately come in vogue) sixty feet long. The postoffice is established on the system of private offices.

"Buckland is situated at the mouth of Petit Gulf Creek, on the Mississippi, 18 miles southwest of Port Gibson."

"Rocky Springs is an old established tavern 18 miles north of Port Gibson. The tavern is at present kept by Isaac Powers, on his plantation. The great mails from the North and South meet at this place at 12 O'clock three times a week. Dr. Garet Keirn has a store in the vicinity."

"Red Bluff post office is on the lands of E.W. Haring, called Cayuga, who together with the postmaster is engaged in mercantile pursuits; it is 25 miles northeast of Port Gibson, on the Nashville road."

"Port Gibson is situated on the south fork of Bayou Pierre, at the head of navigation, a little south of the 32nd degree of latitude and contains 592 inhabitants, white and black, of whom 135 are white children, under fourteen years of age. There are a hundred dwellings and store houses in the place, sixteen of which are brick, only three houses unoccupied; about sixty families. Seven years since there were but few families, few children, and but one young lady, but plenty of bachelors. The number of these vegetating nondescripts has considerably diminished, as the increase of families and fair attractions win them from loneliness. Yet there are many left. We suspect with some it is because nobody will have them. It is a pitiable sight to see them turning out of their haunts to go silently and melancholy to dinner. One of

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THE LOCAL PRESS

Newspapers

II (b) "Port Gibson and Vicinity", etc. (cont.)

brick houses is three stories high, is being finished in fine style, and is designed by its enterprising owner, Gen. Haring, for an extensive tavern. The town is principally indebted to C. Haring, Israel Loring, Passmore Hoopes, D.D. Downing, and Robert McCay for its brick improvements."

"The public buildings are the Court House, Jail, Banking House, Methodist Church, and Market House, all of brick."

"The public institutions and societies are ten in number, viz: The Clinton Academy, superintended by the Rev. Spencer Wall, till lately, and Mrs. Goddard, it instructs about fifty scholars and was incorporated about January last; the Methodist and Presbyterian Sunday Schools of two and three years standing, attended by 100 children; Branch of the Mississippi Bank, Joseph Calendar Cashier; Robert W. Campbell Clerk; President Daniel Vertner; Directors: Abram Barnes, Thomas Gale, David D. Downing, P. Hoopes, Ben Hughes, A.K. Shaifer, A.W. Putman, Joe Calendar.

"The Methodist Church, under the charge of the Rev. Thomas Lynch, has forty members; Presbyterian Church, under charge of Rev. Zebulon Butler, fifty members; Episcopal Church in charge of Rev. Spencer Wall."

"Fire Company, Samuel Holt, Capt.; Thespian Society. The Bank and Fire Company are improvements of the last three and four years, in which time, too, the most agreeable change has been effected in the morality of the town. Though they are absent we ought not to forget to whom we are indebted for the first efforts. The Rev. John C. Burruss of the Methodist persuasion was our first stationed preacher, and his

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Newspapers

II. (b) "Port Gibson and Vicinity", etc. (cont.)

successor, the Rev. John O.T. Hawkins, gave the start to Sunday School instruction, evidently so beneficial."

"The town was incorporated Feb. 9, 1811 and chooses its officers the first Monday of April of each year. The present officers are: James H. Maury, President and Town Magistrate; Selectmen: Stephen D. Carson, Cornelius Haring, P. Hoopes, B. Hughes, Ben Watkins, Abram K. Shaifer; Assessor and Collector, John Jennings; Treasurer, B.F. Stockton; Town Constable, Edward J. Smith."

"There are six physicians: James D. Parker, Elias Ogden, Thomas B. Magruder, Arva Wilson, P.B. Wilcox, Geo. M. Smith. Lawyers twelve: Amos Whiting, A.M. Putman, George Irish, John B. Thrasher, David Hoopes, James H. Maury, William B. Lindsay, Andrew Knox, Volney Stamps, H.N. Spencer, John H. Farmandis, William H. Martin. The merchants are C. Haring, H. Carpenter, P. Hoopes, B. Hughes, Collier andDowning, Watson & Pope, J. Nicolls & Company, John Bryant, S. Douglas & Company, etc. (There follow other names)----------

"The annual sales of merchandise, groceries, up country produce, etc. in Port Gibson amount to about $400,000.00 a"

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The Local Press

Newspapers

III. (a) Outstanding News Items

"Church Pews- The sale of the pews in the First Presbyterian Church in Port Gibson will commence on Saturday the 29th inst. at 10 o'clock A.M. A fee simple title will be made known on the day of sale; the property in the pews to revert to the Trustees of the church at the end of two years after the decrease of the purchaser, if not claimed in writing within that period by the heirs or legal representatives of such prroprietor deceased. A credit until the first of January, 1833, will be given to purchasers, upon satisfactory notes drawing interest after the first day of January next. By the Trustees" (1)

"Wanted: A powerful strong man is much wanting in this State to squeeze the truth out of whig editors. He could find constant employment. Such an individual might get truth from a whig editor, but we defy the powers of the Louisiana Cotton Press to squeeze a single drop from any one of our Locofoco contemporaries. The harder they are pressed the faster the lie runs." (2)

1. Correspondent of Oct. 22, 1831
2. Port Gibson Herald of April 17, 1845

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials
a. Unusual News Items
(1)

Oakland College

"The Winter season in this Institution will commence on the 9th of October. The Faculty at present consists of the following gentlemen:

Rev. Jeremiah Chamberlain, D.D. President and Professor of Moral and Mental Philosophy.

John Chamberlain, A.M. Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

Rev. Samuel B. Jones, A.M. Professor of Theology and Evidences of Christianity.

Rev. Samuel V. Marshall A.M. Professor of Languages and Classical Literature.

Edward Payson A.M. Principal of the Preparatory Department.

It is expected that the students will be punctual in their returns at the opening of the session, so as to cause no unnecessary interruptions in the regular classes; and those who desire to enter for the first time, should make as early an application in the session as possible.

The college year is divided into two sessions. The first commencing on the 2nd Monday in October and continuing for six months and ending on the 2nd Monday in April The second commencing on the 2nd Monday in April and continuing for four months, end the second week in August. There is one vacation of two months commencing the 2nd week in August and ending on the 2nd Monday in October.

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1. Port Gibson Correspondent of Oct. 14, 1837

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

Oakland College (continued)

There are two examinations- one in the first week in April, and the other in the first in August. The first Thursday in April is the day of Commencement.

The terms of board $12 per month, or sseventy-two dollars for the first session, and forty-eight dollars for the 2nd session, if paid in advance, the steward is authorized to charge fourteen dollars per month.

Board includes diet, washing, fuel and shoe blacking.

Tuition in the Preparatory Department is eighteen dollars for the first session, and twelve dollars for the 2nd session, and sixteen dollars for the 2nd session.

Payment is required for each session in advance.

The annual expense, therefore, for board and tuition in the Preparatory Department amount to one hundred and fifty dollars, and in the college one hundred and sixty dollars.

The rooms of the students are furnished at present with chairs, tables, pitchers, wash-basins, andirons, shovels, and tongs, but if any of these articles be hereafter needed, they are to be furnished by the students themselves.

There is a charge of one dollar in each session for necessary repairs. The students furnish their own bed, bedding, and lights.

The faculty would strongly inculcate upon all the students the necessity of strict economy, and hope that the parents and guardians of their people will cooperate with them on this subject, and, as no account is allowed to be opened against any of the students without a written permission, it is hoped that the parents and guardians will

The Local Press

Newspapers

Oakland College

give this permission, on deposit of a sufficient sum in the hands of the Professors for incidental expenses to be disbursed asneeded. The greatest caustion should be observed in regard to packet money.

Four new Professors have lately been appointed, gentlemen of distinguished reputation. They have not as yet arrived, but are expected early in the session.

A new steward Mr. Eligh Mount has lately been appointed. He is on the ground and prepared to receive boarders.

The faculty deem it unnecessary at present to say anything of the many advantages of Oakland College. The confidence expressed in it by all those who are best acquainted with it, inspire the hope that it will continue to receive the same confidence from a generous public.

By order of the faculty

John Chamberlain, Secretary."

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N.B. Oakland College founded 1830; located in Claiborne County near Rodney.



THE LOCAL PRESS

Newspapers

III. Unusual news items

"The Bayou Pierre Herald"

"A newspaper with the foregoing title and dated August 9, 1823,(just fifty years ago), has been handed us by a friend. The contents of this sheet reveal much of the condition of this town and county at the time of its publication. The first page contains a statembyt by J. Moore, Chief Justice of Claiborne County, regarding the clearing out of obstructions from the Bayou Pierre, which was at that time navigable for large boats; an advertisement of a stock of goods probably superior in variety, cost and quantity to that now held by any merchant in this place; other advertisements. The second and third pages are mostly occupied with news, foreign and domestic."

"Under the head of Election Returns we find that Lake had been elected Governor; Brandon,Lieutenant-Governor; Thos. Freeland,Senator for Claiborne and Warren; Jas. Gibson, Representative; and Andrew Glass, Sheriff. Who remembers any of these? Among the advertisers on the third page we find the name of T. Gibson & Co. This merchant stood godfather to this old Port and helped to train it up in the way in which it should go."

"The advertisements on the third and fourth pages indicate a thriving state of trade and business in those palmy and peaceful days. Yet we have no doubt that in many respects we are head of our immediate ancestors who used to peruse the Bayou Pierre Herald. The latest foreign news they had was over two months old. It all had to come by mail, and though the ocean packets made about as good time then as now, the inland mail was slow and probably irregular. The reading matter of the

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1. Port Gibson Standard of Sept. 5, 1873

Claiborne County
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THE LOCAL PRESS

III. (a) Unusual News Items

"The Bayou Pierre Herald" continued:

Herald was not extensive nor various. Nothing to compare with that of our Standard, and such as it was, its perusers had probably no better light to con it by than a pine torch, a tallow dip, or at best a sperm candle."

"Music" (1)

"We have been hearing for the last few days the sound of the old Washington Hall bell, which now rings for the Gibson House. How the sound of that merry old bell, which has so long called us and all others to the meal time repast, brings back to memory happier days and youthful recollections. Hundreds, who, within the thirty years past, have heard its mellow tones, have gone far beyond the reach of earthly bells, but we hope the present chief of the county exchequers will live to cater and caper at the Gibson House for lo these many years. A kind smile- a good meal- and a soft bed are all to be found at the Gibson House."

"Thanks. The Steamer Magenta and our merchant friends at Grand Gulf have furnished us with good supplies of late papers for which we tender our thanks." (2)

1. Port Gibson Standard of Dec. 9, 1865
2. " " " Jan.27, 1866

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THE LOCAL PRESS

III. (c) Odd Advertisements

"Negroes for Sale. I have arrived in Port Gibson with a likely lot of Negroes consisting of house servants and field hands. Call and see them. John Miller." (1)

"Old Bourbon & Rye Whikkey. 20 bbls and 20 kegs(5 gal) Bourbon & Rye Whiskey. At Walkers." (2)

III. (a) Unusual News Items

"Grand Gulf is soon to have an iron cage to put its bad people in. Port Gibson had given hers to Grand Gulf, not having use for such a thing. Our jail is sufficient. Originally there were two of these cages, one in Grand Gulf and the one mentioned above. During the war, Gen. Bowen made use of the one in Grand Gulf for a magazine, and when he evacuated that place he blew it up. We hope that Grand Gulf will not often have occasion to use this 'man trap'." (3)

1. The Southern Reveille of Nov. 29, 1856
2. " " " Dec. 6, 1856
3. Port Gibson Standard of June 7, 1872. It is interesting to note that this same iron cage was brought back to Port Gibson about two years ago and has become a part of the jail.

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The Local Press

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials

"Whig Meetings" (1)

"On Saturday night last an eloquent address was delivered before the Port Gibson Clay Club----------held in the open air-------. It is with pleasure we note the great and growing interest----------. We do not believe that the Whigs of Port Gibson were ever so thoroughly aroused before, nor is the spirt confined to our town, but is spreading----------throughout the county.----------.The ground was brilliantly illuminated by transparencies and bonfires----------.

"The hour of the final struggle is fast approaching, the time of preparation is short, and it behooves every good Whig who wishes to see triumphant the principles for which the Whig Party has so long contended, to put forth every energy and strain every nerve in the contest ----------.

"Come and take counsel with us, bow together, firm and united we may best defeat the demon of Locofocoism, who now owns the land in thrall, sets law and order at defiance, and mocks at honor, truth, and justice."

"Carrs's Lard Lamps" (2)

"As everything relating to economy is matter of importance these hard times, we presume that Lard Lamps will soon be in general

1. Port Gibson Herald of Sept. 19, 1844
2. " " " Mch 2, 1843

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Newspapers

Carrs's Lard Lamps (continued)

use. We have at this time one of those lamps,----------and readily agree------not only as to the great saving in the cost of the light produced but also on account of their neatness and beauty. They are admirably adapted for use in the country, where it is sometimes difficult to obtain sperm candles or oil, and they are as handsome as any other lamp, having a glass hlobe which can be put over them when required. The light produced is beautiful and brilliant, without the least appearance of smoke; nor does any unpleasant odor arise from the lard. These lamps produce decidedly the cheapest light, considering its brilliancy, that we have ever seen, (a ½ lb. of lard being sufficient to last a whole night).----------.

"There have been several kinds of lamps invented for the purpose of burning lard, but the difficulty has always been, that the lard could not be used until it was made into oil. Mr. Carr has obviated this difficulty----------the lard is melted in the lamp by a heater."

---

"The backwater from the Mississippi is sufficiently deep in the Bayou for all purposes of navigation. There are at this time at The Landing 13 flat boats, laden with most of the varieties of western produce adapted to the southern markets; and business there would be lively, were not the prices demanded exorbitant. We understand that an attempt is making to discourage boats from entering the Bayou and that persons at different landings above its mount are instructed to represent this market as glutted and price very law." (1)

1. Port Gibson Correspondent of April 2, 1831

Claiborne County
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The Local Press

III. Outstanding Editorials

- "We have been furnished by the Tax Assessor of this County with a statement of the taxable property in the County, number of persons paying poll tax, and amount of state and county tax, which we publish below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Money loaned at interest, including value of bank stock | $28,736.00 |
| Amount of sales of Mdse at auction -------- | 4,263.00 |
| " " " in gross ---------- | 230,554.00 |
| Value of Pleasure Carriages ---------- | 17,100.00 |
| " " Watches ---------- | 21,035.00 |
| " " Clocks ---------- | 3,030.00 |
| Number of Bowie Knives ---------8 | |
| " Taxable cattle ------ 7315 | |
| " White Polls -------- 732 | |
| " Free Persons of Color -- 11 | |
| " Slaves Taxable ---- 6999 | |
| Amount of State Tax---------- | 6,759.12 |
| " County "---------- | 4,054.81 (1) |

"Modern Democracy is certainly the most heterogeneous and filthy compound that has ever existed since the night that Macbeth's witches cooked their famous hell-broth. It is anything and everything. In Pennsylvania it is the advocate of low wages and a high tariff. In

1. Port Gibson Herald of August.10, 1843

Claiborne County
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The Local Press

III. Outstanding Editorials

South Carolina the champion of free trade, direct taxation and nullification; in Mississippi that beauteous bantling, repudiation, nestles in its bosom; in Tennessee, it demands a duty on iron, none on sugar, and favors a National Bank; in Louisiana, Vice versa. It is a thing of vapors, bloated with dropsy, covered with wens and excrescences, and if the present symptoms do not deceive us, will soon die in the ditch." (1)

"An Ordinance in Relation to Slaves" (2)

Sec. 1- Be it ordained by the President and Selectmen of the town of Port Gibson that it shall not be lawful for any slave not residing in the town of Port Gibson to remain within the corporate limits on the Sabbath day, after the hour of half past two o'clock, during the months of March, April, May, June, July, August and September, and after the hour of half past four O'clock during months of October, November, December, January, and February, except at the house of the owner or employer of such slave, or of the owner or employer of such slaves wife or husband.

Sec. 2- Be it further ordained that if any slave not residing in the corporate limits shall be found staying therein after the hours specified in Section 1, on the Sabbath day, it shall be the duty of the Police Officer to chastise such slave by an infliction of any number of lashes not exceeding 25. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sec. 3 Be it further ordained That it shall not be lawful for any slave to leave the premises of his or her owner, overseer, or employer, after

1. Port Gibson Herald of Feb. 8, 1844
2. " " " June 20, 1844

Newspapers

An Ordinance in Relation to Slaves (cont.)

the hour of nine o'clock at night, unless such slave shall be furnished with a pass-----and if such slave shall be found without a pass---- it shall be ~~found~~the duty of the Police Officer forthwith to punish such slave by an infliction of any number of lashes not exceeding 25. etc.etc."

"Supper for the Benefit of Epiphany Church"(1)

"The ladies of Epiphany Parish will give a supper at Hopewell, the residence of Col. Jno. G. Hastings, Jr., ten miles east of Port Gibson on the Burtonton road, on the night of Friday, Oct. 11, for the purpose of raising funds to repair their church. The public are cordially invited to attend, and all are guaranteed the worth of their money. Supper 50 cents."

"Brown's Wells-(2) This favorite and popular resort for the afflicted is open for the benefit of all invalids. Col. Stockton, the proprietor, has left nothing undone to secure the comfort of his guest. His terms are $2.50 per day and $12.50 per week; children and servants half price."

1. Port Gibson Standard of Oct. 11, 1872
2. " " " May 31, 1872

Claiborne County
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The Local Press

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials

b. Note disasters

The Big Fire, June 1, 1839(1)

"Port Gibson was almost destroyed by fire on June 1, 1839, an account of which, taken from the Correspondent of June 7, and reproduced in the Reveille about thirty years ago, and explanatory notes and comments below, is as follows:"

"It is our melancholy duty to record the total destruction of the whole business portion of our town by fire. On Saturday morning Port Gibson was unquestionably the most beautiful town in the state; now it is a pile of ruins."

"The fire broke out about eleven o'clock am. in the kitchen in the rear of H.& H.O. Anderson's store, and in a few minutes communicated to the beautiful new stores and warehouses of Messrs. Anderson.(This building was on the west side of Main street, where Bock's store now is, occupying part of lots 1 and 2, square 10.) The building used by the Bank of Port Gibson came next; then the store of Moore, Burroughs, & Co., and the splendid corner property of J. O. Pierson & Co., occupied below by Bush & Elmer, and above stairs by the P.G. Insurance Co., and Messrs. Ellett & Payson as offices."

"The progress of the fire was stayed in this direction at the corner of Bank Street (N.W. corner of Main and Walnut); but it had made rapid progress in the other direction (north), and eventually every house was consumed on that side of Main from Bank (Walnut) Street to the court house."

"The court house, too, fell before it, and the buildings in the

1. P. G. Reveille of Aug.19, 1926

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials
b. Note Disasters

The Big Fire, June 1, 1839 (continued)

in the rear of it up to the Grand Gulf road. The destruction on the west side of Main was unsparing and complete."

"But the calamity did not end here. The flames communicated to the stores on the east sideof Main, known as Loring's Row, and soon the whole row from Washington Hall (where the Cith Hotel now is, S.E. corner of Main and Fair) to Bank Street was in full blaze. The store of Butler & Forbes and the offices annexed to it are the only buildings that escaped destruction on the east side of Main from Bank Street to the market house (near where Mr. Cahn's residence is in Sq.4). The jail was with great difficulty preserved."

"Between thirty-five and forty buildings are in ashes, most of them brick buildings of first quality. A large quantity of goods was also destroyed. The books and papers of every house were saved, including the bank and insurance company."

"A large amount of the loss was insured in the Port Gibson Insurance Office; and consider ble in the Grand Gulf and Natchez offices. The first named office will be the heaviest loser, but will be abundantly able to sustain itself."

"Nearly every one of our citizens has sustained loss, which for a time will cripple the business and weaken the credit of our place. No suitable buildings are left for the homeless to occupy with the remnant of their property. Some, we fear, are ruined and may need aid. Most of us, however, only ask forbearance until industry and enterprise enable us out of the ruin to reconstruct our fortunes. Never was destruction more complete, and never was calamity borne with greater manliness."



The Local Press

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials
b. Note disasters

The Big Fire, June 1, 1839

"A meeting of the citizens of the county was held at the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, June 5, to consider the adoption of measures of relief. At this meeting a committee previously appointed reported the loss and insurance to be as follows:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| On buildings-----Loss | | $140,000 | Insurance | $32,000 |
| On merchandise | " | 118,450 | " | 24,000 |
| On court house | " | 15,000 | " | None |
| On arms, etc.(state | | 1,000 | " | " |

"Though the burned district was soon rebuilt, the fire proved ruinous to many of the merchants. Several of them soon afterwards removed to New Orleans and became prominent in business there."

Second Burning of Court House (1) (Editorial)

"About 4 o'clock yesterday morning the cry of fire was heard in our streets. The alarm bells rang, and our citizens were aroused from sleep to find the Court House in flames.

"We were among the first on the ground, and when we reached it, the fire was pouring out of the windows of the sheriff's office,--------from that office nothing was saved--------But from the Clerk's offices everythint was removed in safety."

1. Port Gibson Herald of Nov. 9, 1843

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials
c. Note disasters

"The severe blow on Sunday last did considerable damage on the Mississippi River a few miles above and below this place. We have heard from no other quarter but fear the damage has been extensive. Mr. Moore's Keel boat, bound for this place, was sunk at the mouth of Bayou Pierre; her cargo was principally groceries for various persons in town, who have sustained greater or less losses by its almost total destruction----------
--------Three flat-boats from the upper country laden with produce from our markets were sunk-------A boat load of cotton was also sunk; the cotton will probably be saved. Also a Keel boat, bound up the Big Black, having on board dry goods and groceries for the inland stores----------It was rumored that Mr. Richard Armstrong of this county, who was bound up the river with intention of making a settlement in Washington County, all his family and negroes, were drowned at the mouth of the Bayou." (1)

1. Port Gibson Correspondent of Feb. 5, 1831

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

III. (b) Note disasters

Destructive Fire at Grand Gulf (1)

" Our neighboring town of Grand Gulf was visited on Tuesday last by one of those calamities which have rendered so many persons houseless, homeless, and penniless."

"About half past twelve o'clock, noon, a fire was discovered in the front building, corner of China and Fronts', owned by J.H.Maury, Esq., which despite the vigorous efforts of the citizens and the convenience to the river, was soon enveloped in flames, communicating to other adjoining frame tenements, spreading rapidly in every direction over the square- a high wind prevailing at the time- until in less than twenty minutes time the entire square was in ruins. The fire soon began its destructive work upon the square below, which was entirely destroyed, the wind in the meantime favoring that portion of the town above Church Street and the square East of the first square destroyed, covered by the extensive livery stable of W.R. Keys and the large brick cotton shed and stores occupied by Messrs W.P. Holloway and Co, and the long warehouse owned by C.D. Hamilton. A sudden veering of wind soon communicated the flames to these, and in a few minutes they too were in ashes. The large new Brick Presbyterian Church, south side Church Street, caught fire on the roof and the entire wood work was destroyed leaving all the walls standing."

1. Port Gibson Herald of April 18, 1851

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The Local Press

Newspapers

III. (b) Note disasters

Destructive Fire at Grand Gulf (cont.)

"The wind continuing to blow to the southeast, the fire raged in that direction, destroying every dwelling which was not guarded closely."

"The buildings on the north side of Church Street were saved by efforts almost unparallelled in the history of fires. Had they caught, the entire business portion of the town must have been consumed."

"Nearly 700 bales of cotton, usually the property of Planters, under Messrs. Holloway and Co's shed, were burned."

"We give below the names of the sufferers, and a description of the property, so far as we have ascertained them. We have not heard that any of the property destroyed was covered by insurance."

"The stores and shed occupied by Messrs. W.P. Holloway & Co., owned by Richard Nugent of New Orleans- Messrs Holloway & Co. losing almost their entire stock of groceries, produce, etc. The livery stables and contents, save the horses, owned by W.R. Keyes, and the long warehouse on the same square, owned by C.D. Hamilton. The Planters' House and all the furniture, owned by Joseph Cropoo and occupied by H.B. Harrington. Keyes' Jewelry Store, stock mostly saved. French's brick store, stock principally saved. The large two story frame and adjoining buildings, corner of Front and Chruch Streets, owned by Ellett & McClean, and occupied as a dwelling, grocery, billiard-room, etc. McNenar's Hotel and adjoining buildings. The large house occupied by J.D. Griffing and Levy and Morris as dwellings, and in which the postoffice was kept; letters and mails saved. The building in which were the Ma-

Claiborne County
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Newspapers

III. (b) Note disasters

Destructive Fire at Grand Gulf (cont.)

sonic and Temperance Hall; books, jewels, regalia, etc. a total loss. The grocer stores of Daniel Bliss, Charles Johnson, and E. Conklin, g goods partly saved in a damaged condition. Thomas Brian's dwelling and storehouse, and adjoining buildings- McCall's blacksmith shop; Zengline's carpenter shop and lumber; Denman's carpenter shop and lumber, and two small dwellings on the same square. Joseph Crayson's large dwelling house, occupied by C. Davidson. Mrs. Horner's large dwelling house. The dwelling house of Q. Rayne, C. Johnson, Mrs. Gilkey, E. Conklin, etc., etc. Very little of the furniture contained in the dwellings was saved and that in a damaged state. Furniture and goods which had been removed from the buildings caught fire and was burned on the streets. It is estimated that the total loss will not fall short of two hundred thousand dollars."

"In addition to the losses above detailed, we learn with much regret that the press of "The Claiborne Gazette", but one number of which paper had been issued, was destroyed. We trust that the energies of the enterprising publishers (Wiggins and Marschalk) and the liberality of the uninjured portion of the population of the place will be sufficient to enable the owners to start again."

"The fire is supposed by some to have originated from sparks having been blown into the building from the steamer Tuscumbia, which passed the town a short time before the fire was discovered."

---

N.B. At that time Grand Gulf was a town of 3500 people and a rival of Port Gibson, the county seat.

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The Local Press

Newspapers

III. (b) Note disasters

"The Caving at the Gulf"

"Through the politeness of a friend, we have been furnished with the detailed account of the recent land slides at Grand Gulf, from which we glean the following particulars:

"The caving commenced on Sunday morning the 4th of July, upon the cotton-yard of J. Buckingham & Co., causing Mr. Shupan to remove his store instanter. The bank actually caved under the store three times, while in transit. Sunday night the buildings owned and used by Mr. Martin (formerly belonging to H.O. Kelly) went in. On Monday the brick store recently occupied by H.P. Levy fell in, containing seventy-five sacks of sale, and other articles, belonging to Mr. Shupan. Our friend Holloway was compelled to remove his family on Sunday night, in consequence of the continued caving near his dwelling; and before he could tear it down, his kitchen, store-room and the largest portion of the building frame were swept away by the river. It then ceased until last Saturday, when it took a fresh start at the corner of A. Hutchinson's cotton shed, taking in the entire end brick wall in the course of an hour, and causing the William Hutchinson store to be torn down, and the demolition of Aby & Bros. store the following day. W.P. Holloway has removed his store to the commons immediately in the rear of Mrs. Ritchey's Cottage Hotel."

"The caving at the present time is going on at the shed of J. Buckingham & Co., and so fearful are they of its progress that they have determined to move their new store."

"The caving has now been in operation for the last six weeks

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III. (b) The Caving at Grand Gulf (cont)

in various places, from 'the rocks' above down to Colonel Coffey's plantation, a mile below the town. Coffey's Point has worn off considerably during this high water, which throws the bulk of the water and the eddy (which formerly struck the point of rocks above the saw mill) upon the town, and causes the bank to melt away like snow."

"The buildings in Keyes' Row have all been torn down as also the St.Louis Hotel, kept by James Lewis, who also performed tonsorial operations in connection with his business de coussine. Dr. Harwood had to vacate his premises about the same time as Mr. Holloway; also the old Rundell dwelling has been torn down, the postoffice, telegraph office, and tailor shop of Docterman, and last, though not least, our old friend John Hunter's Depot went in bodily about a month since. Martin's dwelling has been torn down, just in time to save it from the river, and Mrs. Denman has removed her dwelling for preservation."

"Such destruction is calculated to awaken the sympanty of the community generally, and we would suggest to our citizens to look into the matter and see if there are those who may need and could receive assistance. We have thought that our Grand Gulf friends would do well to build, if lots can be had, on the hill adjacent to Mrs. Horner's, and be safe at once. It would be no further from the landing than Natchez is from its landing point, and then all contingency would be at an end. A ferry boat and a turn in the road leading from Rocky Springs would put matters as they were before the caving commenced."

---

L. The Southern Reveille July 17, 1858
N.B. It was continued caving that finally led to the abandonment of the once thriving town of Grand Gulf.

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The Local Press

Newspapers

III. (c) Odd Advertisements

"Lost: On Wednesday, April 19th, a GRAY WOLLEN SHAWL such as gentlemen wear. It was lost on going from Carroll Street down Main Street. A liberal reward will be paid by leaving the shawl at L.Kiefer & Co. Apply at the Reveille office." (1)

"ICE! ICE! There will be kept constantly on hand at McComb's Corner, during the summer season, as supply of superior Boston Ice, which will be sold at the lowest possible rates." (2)

Editorial: "We beg leave to remind our friends at Grand Gulf in general, and steamboat agents in particular, that we are a candidate for advertisements and late papers, either of which will be thankfully received." (3)

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1. The Southern Reveille of April 29, 1882
2. Port Gibson Herald of June 20, 1844
3. # " " June 22, 1843

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The Local Press

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials

c. Odd Advertisements

"Runaways in Jail" (1)

" A runaway negro man by name of Spencer---about 25 or 30 years old, 5 ft.5'tall------two of his upper teeth are out; also some of his jaw teeth appear broken off, with a sear on each side of his head, above each of his ears, which he says was occasioned by his mother combing his head when a child; his back is scarred with a whip. He is rather of a down look when spoken to." etc.

"House of Private Entertainment" (1)

"The subscriber begs leave to inform his friends that he had opened a house of PRIVATE ENTERTAINMENT 2½ miles from Port Gibson on the main stage road leading to Natchez, where he flatters himself to be able to give satisfaction to all who may favor him with their custom.

Andrew Ellis, Senior"

"Dentistry"(2)

"Doctor Enbree(from Cincinnati) will remain in town for a short time and respectfully tenders his professional services to the citizens of Port Gibson----------will wait on Ladies at their residences when requested."

"Sheriff's Sale" (2)

"By virtue of ----------I shall expose to public sale----a negro man named James;----committed to prison of said county as a runaway slave, and has not been claimed by any owner within six months from date of commitment, and will be sold for his prison and other fees."

---

1. P. G. Correspondent Jan.15,1831
2. " " " Jan.22,1831

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Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials
c. Odd Advertisements (continued)

"Price of paper is $5.00 per annum. No subscription will be taken for less than six months, and a failure to notify a discontinuance at the expiration of the time subscribed for will be considered as a new engagement." (1)

"New Establishment" (2)

"E. S. Goodwin & Co., Merchant Tailors, most respectfully give notice to the people of Port Gibson and adjacent territory that they have opened a store in this village--------offer for sale:

Broadcloths of the most fashionable colors
Cassimeres, extra superfine and common
English and French Silk Vestings
Plain and Figured Silk Velvet Vestings
Marseilles and Valencia Vestings
Real Goatshair and boilt Camelot for cloaks and overcoats with fur trimmings to match
Flannels, Baizes, and Frize
Elegant assortment of plain and fancy Cravats, Splendid Silk Handkerchiefs
Japanned, silk, and bombazine Stocks
False Collars, Cravat Stiffeners, Gloves, Suspenders and Safety Chains."

"For Sale" (3)

"A very handsome sideboard, a few rifle guns, 30 bbls Old Whisky-----20 kegs of manufactured tobacco----and a very likely Negro Woman with her Child, who is described as a good house servant and seamstress; and will be sold low for cash, or good paper due 1st Jan.next."

1. Port Gibson Correspondent, Nov. 8, 1821
2. " " " Jan.22, 1831
3. " " " Jan. 29, 1831

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Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials
c. Odd Advertisements

"By virtue of the above writs to me directed, I shall expose to public sale for cash, at the house of Jonathan McCaleb, in said county on the 3rd Monday, the 21st day of Feb. next One Pleasure Carriage, One Sett of Blacksmith's Tools, and Some Old Iron."

"I will also sell on the same day, at the Court House in Port Gibson One Female Negro Child named Mary about three years of age; Kitty, a Negro Girl, about 12 years old; a Negro Boy William about 8 years old; one Secretary and Book Case."

A.K. Shaifer, Sh'ff. (1)

Notice: "The Claiborne County Temperance Society will met at the Presbyterian Church on Saturday, the 18th inst. at early candle light. An address may be expected from A.W. Putnam, Esq.

H. N. Spencer, Secretary." (2)

"Mail Arrangements to and from Port Gibson"

"Northward; The Northern mail, via Grand Gulf, arrives every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8 A.M. Departs every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 2½ P.M.

"Southward: The Southern mail (from Natchez) arrives every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday at 2 P.M. Departs every Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8¼ A.M." (3)

1. Mississippi Correspondent and Mississippi General Advertiser of Feb. 26, 1831
2. " " " " Feb. 4, 1832
3. Port Gibson Herald, Jan. 19, 1843

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

III. Outstanding Editorials
c. Odd Advertisements

"Free Ferry"-"We have been requested by the board of selectmen to state that the Corporation Ferry at the foot of Main Street is now in operation, and ready at all times to convey passengers, etc. across the Bayou, free of charge." (1)

"Grand Gulf and Port Gibson
Steam Packet
Lema Muir
H. C. Caldwell, Master

"This new and substantial steamer having been built expressly for the above trade, will commence her regular trips on or about the 1st of September next, at which time she is expected to arrive, and will run regularly during the season, water permitting. For further particulars apply to W. O'Kelly, Port Gibson, or to T.N. Muir. Grand Gulf Aug.22, 1844." (2)

"Steam-Boat Register
Grand Gulf
Passage and Departure
May 19-25" (3)

(Below this notice are listed boats to New Orleans, Nashville, St. Louis, Manchester, Cincinnati, etc.,showing what an important river point was Grand Gulf at that time.)

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1. The Port Gibson Herald of June 6, 1844
2. " " " " of Aug. 22, 1844
3. The Correspondent of May 28, 1831

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

Newspapers

III. (b) Unusual social items

"Dear Standard:

"After spending four of the most delightful weeks visiting relatives and friends, pic-nicing, partying and frolicking generally, in the surroundings of Port Gibson, I am suddenly reminded by the force of circumstances, that I promised myself the pleasure of dropping you a line."

"On last Wednesday, I attended a most delightful picnic in Dr. Magruder's woods (1) gotten up by those living in that immediate neighborhood. It was a great success, and we were truly sorry you were not there, as croquet and flirtation were the order of the day I am sure you would have enjoyed yourself. The young ladies, about twenty in number, were dressed in real picnic style- linen lawns and percales- and all were gay as larks, and it seemed to me I had never seen so many beautiful young ladies together. There were quite a number of elegant beaux, some from Jefferson County, some from our dear old town, and many from the neighborhood."

"About three o(clock we were invited to partake of one of the most sumptuous of dinners. All manner of delicious meats, cakes, fruits, and knick-knacks in the greatest abundance. After dinner a violinist made his appearance and one and all joined in a regular "break down". Just before leaving wewere given a cordial invitation by Mr. Richard Archer to attend a dance at "Anchuca", (2) which we accepted with pleasure; and although it had been years since I had attended a dance in that grand old hall, still was very natural to me, and when the belles and

---

1. Dr. Magruder of Cabin Wood, old home south of Port Gibson
2. About threde miles south of Port Gibson. Both homes still standing.

Newspapers

III.(b) Unusual Social Items

Dear Standard (continued)

beaux began to assemble to 'trip the light fantastic toe' for a few mo-
ments I was carried back to the 'happy days of yore', and I lived in
the past. Rarely do we ever see such handsome toilettes as were dis-
played on this occasion, and I must follow the lead of more pretentious
reporters, by giving you a description of some of them. The lovely
Misses H. were there and never looked better; rarely do we ever see two
more beautful sisters. Miss K.H., a brilliant brunette, wore an exquis-
ite white dress, with handsome scarlet trimmings and scarlet geraniums
in her raven hair, and as she danced the eyes of not a few were constant-
ly watching her. Miss M.H., a lovely blonde, whom I never gaze upon
without associating her with the aggels in Heaven, wore also a white In-
dia mull of rare fineness, with pink trimmings. The beautiful blonde,
Miss T.H., was also there, after an absence of some months, looking
more divinely fair than ever; she wore lavendar silk en train, low cor-
sage, blonde puffings and overskirt; very bouffante, looped with pink
roses. The Misses J. were exquisitely dressed, and were considered the
handsomest ladies in the dance. Miss E.J. wore white tarleton en train,
trimmed in ruchings of the same to the waist, corsages, low white silk
bodice, which displayed her magnificent shoulders and arms to advantage;
her beautiful auburn hair was arranged a la Louis XIV style, and as she
moved in the dance she seemed the embodiment of queenly grace. Miss
Ellen J. wore also white tarleton en train, trimmed in ruchings of the
same, with a very handsome pink sash looped and tied at the side in the
Grecian style, the lovely pink flowers in her hair only enhanced the



Newspapers

III. (b) Unusual social items (cont.)

Dear Standard (cont.)

beauty of her raven tresses."

"The beautiful, sweet Miss J.M. was in pink tarleton, ruffled to the waist, no overskirt, corsage low trimmed in alternate white and pink ruching. In her hair, which was arranged a la Marie Stuart, were worn pink morning glories. Miss J.M. has a face of wondrous sweetness, and a figure that moves with the utmost grace. The gay and beautiful Miss A.H. from New Orleans was present winning all hearts by her unaffected and fascinating manners. We have scarcely ever met a Miss so young with such refined and gracious manners. She wore tarleton with alternate white and pink ruffles, and pink ribbons. Miss E.A., the lovely daughter of the hostess, was not well and did not make her appearance till late in the evening, looking quite pale but very charming. She wore white India swiss, with scarlet ribbons and corals. Miss A.M. who originated the idea of the picnic, was also there, looking more beautiful than we have ever seen her. She wore white swiss with black chantilly lace overskirt, low white silk bodice with black lace fichu, which well became the most beautiful neck and arms I ever beheld; as she glided in the dance, who was the observed of all observers as the personification of the poetry of motion. There were several married ladies also present who seemed to enjoy the whole affair. Mrs. A. not being well, her lovely daughter, Miss Jennie, acted the part of hostess for the evening, and about 11 o'clock sat us down to a very elegant and delicious supper."

"Of the gentlemen I cannot speak particularly. Most of the

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

III. (b) Unusual social Items

Dear Standard (cont)

town beaux were out, and I thought never looked handsomer, or appeared better. You know Port Gibson can boast of beautiful girls and handsome young men. Messrs C.L.S. and O. McC., four handsome and accomplished young men, were there from Jefferson County, and considering the time they remained in the neighborhood after the picnic, I judge they were very much pleased. Messrs. C. and O. McC. gave us some charming music on the violin, and Master Ben Magruder, the prince of jig dancers, gave us one of his best. Four littles misses, the three Misses M. and Miss D. added very much to the pleasure of the evening.

"But I have perhaps worn out your patience with this letter; if so pardon me. If I should attend any more picnics or parties during my stay in the country, Ill keep you posted.

Yours, P. C. "

"From The Port Gibson Standard" Aug 29, 1873

Claiborne County
Assignment #21

The Local Press

IV. Commercial Job Shops

All newspapers apparently had commercial job shops except the Port Gibson Standard in its early days. Our opportunities for research on this point do not extend farther back than this paper.

Magazines:

Chamberlain-Hunt Academy publishes twice a year THE WILD CAT,? dealing with student activities.

Alcorn A. & M. College publishes a magazine, but repeated inquiries in regard to it have brought forth nothing but promises.

There are in the county no religious, trade, or civic magazines published.

"The Tide", a typewritten paper issued monthly by the Senior Class of the Port Gibson High School.

"The Greater Alcorn Herald", published monthly since 1931 by Alcorn A. + M. College.

Enid Richmond
Enid Richmond, County Historian

Enid Richmond

COMPILATION Claiborne County

Chapter XX

THE BAR

The bar of Claiborne County has held a position in the ranks of the legal fraternity, far out of proportion to the size or importance of the county. It has always had, not only men of ability among its numbers, but men of high personal character as well.

The first court in the new county met July 19, 1802, and was in session three days. At this time five attorneys were admitted to practice; Drury W. Breazeale, Stephen Bullock, Edwin L. Harris, Theodore Stark, and T.E. Trask; three constables were appointed (1) and two guardians; one surveyor was named to run the line between Jefferson and Claiborne; two persons were recommended to the executive for the magistracy. Action was taken in reference to six ferries, and three persons were appointed to supervise the election for representative for the county. A venire was issued to the sheriff to summons eighteen jurors to appear before the superior court of the district. Committees were appointed to examine the roads, and petitions were heard concerning opening and re-opening of roads all the way from the Jefferson line to the Walnut Hills. Ten road overseers were appointed. Several criminal and civil cases were called, but in most of these the plantiffs did not appear. One or two wills were offered to be proved. During this session William Smith presented a deed containing three acres of land, the first record of deed ever made in the county.

(1) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol. I- P.179



The sheriff and clerk the first year were paid only fifty dollars each for their services, but the above items of business were shown in the minute book of the first court and reveal an inroad of settlers.

The first lot sold at the county seat was on July 10, 1803, to Frederick Myers, Number 3, Square 8, for $115. Soon there was a brisk demand, and by November, 1804, the village contained, as Lorenzo Dow declares, thirty houses. Dow himself brought colonists several times. The first license to keep a public house was granted in 1803 to Moses Armstrong and Robert Ashley, the court at the same time fixing the rates for the county, including the prices of various wines, of the diet, lodging, stabling, and pasturing. In 1804 the court appointed a keeper of Gibson's Landing Ferry and fixed the rates as follows: Wagon and team, $1.00; cart and team, $1.00; cart and team, fifty cents; man and horse, twelve cents; man, five cents.

The right to vote was conferred on the freeholders, landowners and householders within the said town of Port Gibson, "all free males inhabitants subject to taxation who shall be in the occupancy of a room or rooms, being deemed householders and entitled to vote at town elections." (1)

(1) Rev. H.G. Hawkins "History of Port Gibson, Mississippi (Pamplet) Reprint Publications of Mississippi Historical Society

Attorneys of the Past

"JOSHUA G. CLARKE- was a native of Pennsylvania, where he was educated, Before the formation of the state government he came to Mississippi territory, and soon made himself prominent in political affairs. He became a member of the territorial legislature from Claiborne county and also in 1817 was a member of the convention convened to form the state government. He was one of the most conspicuous and active members of that body. In 1820 he became a member of the supreme bench, and the following year, upon the foundation of the special Chancery system, was appointed the first chancellor of the state, which position he held with great credit until 1827. He was a lawyer commanding ability, broadminded, upright, skillful, and possessed the utmost confidence of his associates and the people of the state, His temper was always under control, yet was sufficiently strong to give zest and earnestness to everything he said. He possessed great learning, which he continued to improve until the time of his death, which occured at Port Gibson in 1828. The high character of Mississippi judicial decisions is in a large measure due to Judge Clarke." (1)

(1) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol. 1-Page 555



WALTER LEAKE was born in Albermarle County, Virginia, May 2, 1762. He had represented his county in the Virginia Legislature and was defeated for Congress by the son-in-law of President Jefferson Davis, who later appointed him Judge of the Mississippi Territory. He arrived in Washington, the Territorial Capital, in May 1804 and immediately assumed the duties of his office. Judge Leake made his home in Claiborne County. He served as member of the Territorial Court until October 9, 1817, when he was elected United States Senator from the new state of Mississippi. His term in the senate expired in 1820 when he became a canidate for governor, and was elected to this office. Before the election for governor, he was appointed to the Supreme bench and served there until his inauguration, January 7, 1822. He died November 17, 1825. (1)

(1) Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi Statistical & Official Register, P 130 (1908)

JUDGE VOLNEY STAMPS was a native of Tennessee, born March 18, 1803, and settled in Port Gibson, a promising young attorney in 1827, Of steady habits, industrious and frugal, and always attentive to business, he was not long in accumulating enough to make him independent, nor long in acquiring public confidence. Soon after he settled here he occupied an office jointly with Doctor A.H Peck on the corner near the old brick market house, and held for several years, the then very incrative office of Magistrate; subsequently he was elected Judge of Probate Court, and a few years after, perhaps in 1833 or 1835, he was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court.

When the banking institutions of the state succumbed to the crash that followed flush times, Judge Stamps was appointed in conjunction with the late William F. Goodin to close up the affairs of the Branch of the Planter's Bank in this town.

Judge Stamps had no taste for public station, but shunned it, and hence the foregoing embraces all of his official life outside of his oft repeated election to the Town Council, and as a director in the Grand Gulf Railroad Company.

Judge Stamps was a friend to young men, and one of his chief enjoyments was to love and to help his little town. In 1839 when a disasterous fire laid the public buildings and all business houses in ruins, he came forward in connection with Benjamin G. Humphreys and Honorable James H. Maury to help rebuild the town, and they errected ten two story brick stores which were known as Stamps Row.



When the railroad company property was bought from the assignees of the Grand Gulf Bank, he subscribed from five to eight thousand dollars in stock, to complete the road and never ceased to help it. He built two of the Ante-bellum residences - "Collina" and "Idlewild". (See chap. 6-Ante-bellum Days) Mr. Stamps died in May, 1879. (1)

Probably the most prominent lawyer who ever lived in Port Gibson was JUDGE HENRY T. ELLETT.(See chap.6-Ante-bellum Days) He moved here a young man in 1837. He was elected to Congress in 1846 to fill the unexpired term of Jefferson Davis. Several times he was a member of the state senate and was one of the confiders of the Code in 1857. He was empowered by the state to prepare manuscripts of the code for painters, which he did in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was a conspicuous member of the Secession Convention and a member of the committee to draw up the Ordinance of Secession, the original draft of which is in his own handwriting. He was on the supreme bench just after the War Between the States along with Judge Handy and Harris, but he resigned and went to Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. Ellett died there upon the platform in 1887, just after having introduced Grover Cleveland to an audience. (2)

JUDGE LAUGH MCLAURIN came to Port Gibson in 1876, and formed a partnership with John McCaleb Martin. He resided here about ten years, during which time he served as Chancellor by appointment of Governor Lowery. He moved from this place to Texas where he later became an instructor of law in the University of Texas at Austin,

(1) The Southern Reveille, May 3, 1879, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Mrs. Sarah J. Mann, Port Gibson, Miss.

which position he held until his death, December 1920. Mr. McLaurin was highly esteemed here, being regarded as an able lawyer, as well as a upright and honorable man. His remains were brought to Port Gibson where he expressed a desire to be buried. (1)

J. B. PATTON-" our friend Patton inserts his law card in this week's issue (September 22, 1866.). He has filled the position of Commonwealth's Attorney for the District for many years, with eminent success and satisfaction to all parties. While he has been indefatigable in the prosecution of criminals he had avoided the common error of States Attorneys, and has not persecuted any. Mr. Patton is a lawyer of excellent attainments, and a kind-hearted, courteous gentleman, and worthy of every confidence. Business entrusted to him will be faithfully attended to." (2)

JUDGE THOMAS Y. BERRY- whose portrait now adorns the walls of the spacious Claiborne County courthouse, was appointed Chancellor of his District April 14, 1876, by Governor Stone.

Mr. Berry, ranking high as a lawyer practiced at the bar in Port Gibson for more than twenty five years.

JAMES H. MAURY- was a prominent lawyer and leader in financial, political and social affairs of Claiborne County in 1827. His closest friend was Honorable Henry T. Ellett.

Mr. Maury was of French Hugeuenot decent from Virginia. He came to Tennessee thence to Claiborne County, not as an ordinary pioneer, but highly educated, having already perfected his law profession, and immediately began practicing. His eldest daughter Mildred, married

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, December 23, 1920
(2) The Weekly Standard September 22, 1866 Port Gibson, Mississippi



Governor B G. Humphreys in 1839.

He was appointed circuit judge in 1837. (1) (See chap. 6. Ante-bellum Days)

CHARLES A. FRENCH, was a native of Claiborne County, spending his early life at Hermanville and marrying Miss Davenport of that place. He was a member of the bar for over thirty years, practicing law in Port Gibson; was Justice of the Peace for the first District for two years. He was a Mason and a Woodman of the World.

"Mr. French figured in all of the public activities of the town and county for the past third of a century, only retiring from public life when his health began to fail." (2)

He died April 20, 1922.

JOHN B. THRASHER- "with whom Stephen Thrasher was associated in the practice of his profession for sometime, came to Mississippi in 1826, and became very prominent in the legal circles of this section, as well as in all matters of a public nature. He died of yellow fever in 1878, at the age of seventy eight years." (3)

JOSHUA S. MORRIS was a native of Jefferson County, locating in Claiborne County in early life. Mr. Morris was a lawyer of considerable ability. In 1867, he became associated with the Republican Party. In 1869, he was chosen attorney general and held that office until the year of 1874. Afterwards resuming the practice of law in Adams County where he died in 1890.(4)

(1) Mildred Morehead, Port Gibson, Mississippi
(2) Port Gibson Reveille April 20, 1922
(3) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol. 11-Page912
(4) Port Gibson Reveille, August 19, 1926, Port Gibson, Mississippi

COLONEL GEORGE V. MOODY- "One of the most shocking events that we have read of or recorded, occured in our town last Saturday night. At about twenty minutes after ten o'clock Colonel Moody, while sitting in his office writing, as is supposed with his office door open, was fired upon by some unknown person, and instantly killed. He was shot in the side of the head and neck, no less than fifteen buckshot having penetrated those parts of his person.

Colonel Moody was a native of Maine, but spent the greater part of his early life in the city of Baltimore, and in the state of Ohio. In 1836 he came to Claiborne County, and entered in the drug business, having business houses at Grand Gulf and Port Gibson, but in the general commercial revulsion that swept over our county at that time, his business failed and he was compelled to resort to other means of support. Possessed of great energy of character and blessed with fine natural mental endowments, to which were added the advantages of a superior education he applied himself to the study of law, and graduated at Cambridge Law School, in Massachusetts. He soon commanded a large practice and acquired very considerable reputation at the bar in the Courts of the State, and at the time of his unfortunate and untimely death, was in attendance upon the Circuit Court now in session, employed in many cases of importance. When the war broke out he raised a company of about one hundred men with which he reported to the army in Virginia. He was promotted to a Colonel for distinguished services.



He was buried on Monday last at ten o'clock from the Presbyterian church by the Masonic Fraternity, embracing the Lodge of this place and deligates from all the Lodges in the County. The Circuit Court adjoined out of respect to his memory, and Judges and all the officers of the County together with a large concourse of his late companions in arms, and of the citizens of the town and county, male and female, black and white, followed the remains to the tomb. He was a prominent man in all matters of public interest; a brave and gallant soldier, and in his manners a courtly gentleman." (1)

WILLIAM HEYWOOD MARTIN was born in Maryland in 1800 and was a graduate of Princeton College, afterwards becoming an eminent lawyer in his native state. When quite a young man he came to Port Gibson where he opened a law office, and soon won the reputation of being one of the most talented lawyers of Claiborne County. He died in 1878 of yellow fever. (2)

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(1) The Weekly Standard, September 15, 1866 Port Gibson, Mississippi

(2) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol.11-p405

JUDGE L.N BALDWIN- came to Claiborne County in 1836. He was born in the state of New York in 1817. He attended school and college in Ohio, and Amherst College in Massachusetts, graduating with distinction from this college.

He began as a tutor in the family of W.R. McAlpine, one of the leading citizens, and largest planters in the county, also a political leader.

Shortly after the attainment of his majority, his legal studies were finished, and with distinction he entered that profession, which he subsequently followed with so much ability and well deserved success.

In politics, Judge Baldwin was one of the strongest and sturdiest Democrats in the State of Mississippi. He sought no office of honor emolument or profit. His friends proposed to send him to the state senate. He respectfully declined the honor. (1)

Mr. Baldwin died July 24, 1893.

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(1) Port Gibson Reveille. July 28, 1893 Port Gibson, Mississippi

"JAMES DOUGLAS VERTNER- was born in Port Gibson, Claiborne County in 1837, his parents being J. D. Vertner and Jane Van Dorn.

For three generations the Vertner family has resided in this section, where they have been conspicious for the intelligence, refinement and hospitality that were the common characteristics of cultivated southern society. After a thorough collegiate course at Princeton, New Jersey, Mr. Vertner graduated with distinction at that institution in 1857. Having returned to, and remaining in his Mississippi home but a few years, he embarked for California and spent several years on the Pacific coast. On his return from the far west, Mr. Vertner found his family fortune lost, the patrimonial estates ruined by the ravages of the war, and the county in a condition of demoralization as a natural result of conquest and absolute subjugation.

With zeal and energy he endeavored to rebuild his limited patrimony by following agricultural pursuits. Sharing the almost universal fate of the ones who endeavored to restore their standing through the same means, and meeting with no success in his endeavors, Mr. Vertner prepared himself for practice of law, and entered upon that profession in 1874. In his profession, naturally through his high order of talent and indefatigable industry, he rapidly rose to prominence, and becams a successful practitioner at a bar honored by the presence of such men as an Ellet, a Coleman, a Baldwin, a Thrasher, and a Maury. In 1876 Mr. Vertner married Miss Constance Kearney, and at the time of his death left three children.

In the dark days of reconstruction Mr. Vartner figured very prominently in the political history of this state as one of the political leaders, ever ready to lift his voice and arm in defense of the liberties of her persecuted and representative people. In the memorable campaign of 1875, when the question was narrowed down to restoration of representative government, or the overthrow of alien misrule by swift revolution he helped materialy in wresting the state goverment from the corrupt dominion of radicalism and driving the carpet baggers forever to the rear. In all his efforts in this direction he was influenced by motives of pure patriotism, and a worthy interest in the public welfare." (1)

In private circles in his profession, and in public life Honorable J.D. Vertner was a great man. Mr. Vertner died in Columbus, Mississippi, February 9. 1886.

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The Southern Reveille, February, 13, 1886. Port Gibson, Mississippi



"WILLIAM SILLERS- was a native of Jefferson county, whence he removed to Port Gibson in early life, and after studying in the office of J. B. Thrasher, began the practice of law. He was very successful in his profession, being especially skilled in Chancery practice, and he soon became master of a charming home on Bayou Pierre, three miles west of town. About twenty years ago he had his first attact of paralysis; and was disabled from practice ever afterwards, though regaining a fair degree of health. Ten or twelve years ago he removed to Bolivar county, where he was living at the time of his death on March 30, 1891. The remains were brought to Port Gibson for burial". (1)

HONORABLE WILLIAM M. RANDOLPH- moved to Claiborne county in 1834, to practice in the profession in which he had chosen. The esteem and confidence with which he inspired the community in which he lived, are best attested by his repeated elections to the important office of Judge of Probate Court in the county, which for several succeeding terms he filled.

His brethern of the bar were attracted to him by his amiable and estimable qualities, and his gentlemanly deportment.

He died on February 20, 1850, at which time he was Judge of Probate Court of the county. (2)

(1) The Port Gibson Reveille
April 1, 1891
Port Gibson, Mississippi

(2) J.T. Drake
Port Gibson, Mississippi

"HONORABLE STEPHEN THRASHER- This eminent attorney in one of the leaders of his profession in this section of the state, for his long experience in the practice of law his intellect and his powers as an orator, have tended to place him on the topmost round of the ladder. He possesses all the fire, vim and eloquence of the native Kentuckyian, for in that state he was born February 24, 1833, being the eldest of seven children born to William and Henrietta (Hook) Thrasher Stephen Thrasher began the battle of life for himself in 1852, at which time he came south. After remaining here a short time he returned to Bloomington, Indiana, where he entered an excellent institution of learning and graduated in 1857. He then once more returned south, and settled at Port Gibson where he followed the practice of law until the breaking out of the War between the States, at which time he cast aside personal considerations to enlist in the Claiborne guards of Port Gibson, which was afterwards incorporated in the Twelfth Mississippi regiment with which he served until the close of the war. Upon his return home he formed a copartnership with his uncle J. B. Thrasher, in the practice of law at Port Gibson, and since 1875 had been at his present stand. Mr. Thrasher was a lawyer of experience and possessed broad and liberal views. He was first elected a member of the state senate in 1886 and was returned in 1889, serving two terms in succession.

Mr. Thrasher is a man who has made his way to the front by sheer force of will and native talent and it is acknowledged by competent judges that he ranks among the highest civilians" (1)

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(1) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi — Vol. 11-pp-910-11-12

"HONORABLE STEPHEN THRASHER- This eminent attorney in one of the leaders of his profession in this section of the state, for his long experience in the practice of law his intellect and his powers as an orator, have tended to place him on the topmost round of the ladder. He possesses all the fire, vim and eloquence of the native Kentuckyian, for in that state he was born February 24, 1833, being the elest of seven children born to William and Henrietta (Hook) Thrasher. Stephen Thrasher began the battle of life for himself in 1852, at which time he came south. After remaining here a short time he returned to Bloomington, Indiana, where he entered an excellent institution of learning and graduated in 1857. He then once more returned south, and settled at Port Gibson where he followed the practice of law until the breaking out of the War between the States, at which time he cast aside personal considerations to enlist in the Claiborne guards of Port Gibson, which was afterwards incorporated in the Twelfth Mississippi regiment with which he served until the close of the war. Upon his return home he formed a copartnership with his uncle J.B. Thrasher, in the practice of law at Port Gibson, and since 1875 had been at his present stand. Mr. Thrasher was a lawyer of experience and possessed broad and liberal views. He was first elected a member of the State senate in 1886 and was returned in 1889, serving two terms in succession. Mr. Thrasher is a man who has made his way to the front by sheer force of will and native talent and it is acknowledged by competent judges that he ranks among the highest civilians" (1)

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(1) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi — Vol.11-pp910-11-19

ELIJAH STEELE DRAKE- was born in Jefferson County, began the practice of law in Port Gibson in 1867. He was a graduate of Centenary College in Jackson, Louisiana, and served in the Confederate Army the four years of the War between the States. He was a leader in his profession, and in the civic, moral and religious life of the community. He was a member of the legislature of the state in 1876-1877, a term noted in the State's history as one of its ablest sessions.

Perhaps the greatest work of his life was the part he took in the moral and political reforms in county and state.

When the saloons had reached their greatest power, unable to bear longer the sin and bribery, and dreadful moral condition they caused, he led the temperance forces of the county in a great prohibition campaign, and by means of local option, the saloons were closed.

He was a public spirited citizen, and a prominent and able lawyer. Mr. Drake typified to the young men of his day, that finest legal attainment and success may be united to the highest form of Christian character. He died in January, 1914.

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, September 9, 1909, Port Gibson, Mississippi



"HONORABLE HENRY MOUNGER- first Circuit Judge furnished by Claiborne County was appointed September 4, 1909, by Governor Noel. Probably there has not been an aspirant for office in the State who had a more enthusiastic endorsement of his home people. Not only was Mr. Mounger supported by every lawyer at the Port Gibson bar, but almost every man in the county signed his petition, and many of them used every influence within their power to secure his appointment. In addition to this, he was endorsed by the majority of the members of the bar in the other portion of the district,(ninth judicial district).

He was forty eight years of age at the time of his appointment, ranking high as a lawyer at the Claiborne County bar for many years" (1)

Mr. Mounger moved to Indianola, Mississippi about 1913, practicing there until a few years ago when he moved to Greenwood, Mississippi to make his home. He was seventy-six years old at the time of his death, February 9, 1938.

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, September 9, 1909, Port Gibson, Mississippi

HONORABLE JONATHAN MCCALEB MARTIN, son of William Heywood and Mary McCaleb Martin, was born in Claiborne County June 2, 1846, being the sixth in a family of ten children; married Amanda M. Myles, a native of Mississippi and daughter of Dr. William and Amanda Wood Myles.

Mr. Martin received his early education under governess and tutors. His education was interfered with by the bursting of war clouds which were hanging over the county, and at the early age of fifteen shoulded the musket and doned a suit of grey to defend his country. Prior to his enlistment he had taken part in the Battle of Port Gibson, and only three days after his enlistment had his horse shot from under him, this being at the Battle of Harris Landing. After the War Between the States on returning home, without a dollar, he put his shoulder to the wheel to retrieve his fallen fortune.

In 1866 he entered the University of Virginia at Charlotsville. After a two year course he returned and taught school in Copiah County. The money thus earned was sent to his brother to carry on farm operations. He then went to New Orleans where he studied law and worked at the same time.

He was admitted to the bar in 1875. Shortly after was called home on business and here drifted into politics. In this same year he was the prime organizer of the revolt against the Republicans, and pushed his venture to a successful issue. Three years later he was elected to the House of Representatives and was reelected in 1879 and 1881; was also chosen to the State Senate from Claiborne and Copiah Counties. His measures which were so successfully handled and perfected were the following: The Emergration law of 1880, State Census 1880, Compromise of Mobile and Ohio Railroad of money borrowed from the Chickasaw school



fund in 1857, and creating of the Mississippi Industrial Institute (now Miss. State College for Women) for girls in 1884. He was a trustee of Mississippi State College for Women and a member of the I.O.O.F. of Port Gibson.

Mr. Martin spent almost his entire life in Claiborne County, and was one of the counties most prominent citizens, being regarded as one of the best criminal lawyers in the state. He was seventy-eight years of age at the time of his death, July 13, 1924. (1)

The following lawyers were advertised in the county papers between the years 1830 and 1900: E.PAYSON, W.R.T.CHAPLAIN, J.E.P.BACON, J.B.COLEMAN, WILLIAM D. SAYER, DAVIS H.HOOPES, C.T.PURNELL, G. W.THORP, W.W. PUTMAM, J. L. TORREY, H. T. GARNETT, JOSEPH CRAPPOC, H. W. ALLEN, W. SIDNEY WILSON, C. S. LOBDELL, WALTER MCDOUGAL. F. T. WELDON, E. H. STILES, L.C. BRIDEWELL, BEN JOHNSON, AMOS WHITING, J.MCALLISTER, J. CALVIT CLARKE, D. GREENLEAF, GEORGE IRISH, WILLIAM B. LINDSAY, ANDREW KNOX, JOHN H. FARMANDIS, A. J. LEWIS, R. A. GREEN, JOHN W. CHRISLER, D. Q. GRIFFING, J.N. BRASHEAR, EVON M. BARBER.
No other information about them is available.

## Attorneys of the Present

JOSEPH TURPIN DRAKE- son of Elijah Steele Drake and Ellen Davis Turpin, was born in Port Gibson, Claiborne County Mississippi, August 24, 1870, the oldest child in a family of six.

He was a member of the first graduating class of Chamberlain Hunt Academy, Port Gibson, Mississippi, receiving his diploma in June 1886. He then attended Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. In June 1889 he received his A. B. Degree, and in 1890 the degree of LL.B. from that University.

Returning to Port Gibson, he entered the office of his father, E.S. Drake, and was admitted to the bar in November 1890. Being under age he was made of age by Chancery Court. He then became a partner of the firm of E. S. and J. T. Drake. His career as a lawyer has been most successful. He stands high in his profession in community and state. Honorable and upright in his dealings with his fellow men, he has upheld the highest standards, not only in his profession, but in the civic and religious life of the community, and in his family and personal life.

He served as mayor of the town for a number of terms, beginning January 1919 and extending through 1928; an office which he ably filled, advancing the moral and financial interest of the community. He is now attorney for the Board of Supervisors and the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, and for the Port Gibson Bank. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of that bank. He has served as city attorney. He is a member of the Methodist Church and has been a member of the Board of Stewards and church treasurer for many years, and is the teacher of the Men's Bible



Class. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Port Gibson Female College for years. On January 21, 1914, Mr. Drake was married to Miss Mary Person of Port Gibson. She is also active in community life. They have three children, a son Joseph T. Drake Junior, a graduate of Washington and Lee, and now a law student there, and two daughters, Isabella Person, and Ellen Davis, both students of Randolph Macon Womans College, Lyncheburg, Virginia.

MILLING MARION SATTERFIELD- Born in Montgomery county, Mississippi, July 11, 1869; parents, William Earle and Renna Rebecca Lindsey Satterfield; graduated at Chamberlain-Hunt Academy 1889; graduated at University of Mississippi 1894; admitted to the bar 1894; taught in Chamberlain-Hunt Academy 1894-1905; married Miss Laura Stevenson Drake of Port Gibson, Mississippi, 1901; mayor of Port Gibson, Mississippi, 1908-1910; County Prosecuting Attorney 1910-1931 and 1936-1940, and until his death on July 5th, 1946. M. Laura D. S. Harrell Methodist, Mason and Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

JOHN CRELIGHTON SATTERFIELD- Born in Port Gibson, Mississippi, July 25, 1904; parents, Milling Marion and Laura Stevenson Drake Satterfield; graduated at Port Gibson Female College 1922; graduated at Millsaps College 1926; graduated in law at University of Mississippi 1929; member of the Mississippi Legislature 192801931; married Miss Ruth Quin of Jackson, Mississippi 1933; admitted to the bar 1929; Methodist, Mason, and Beta Theta Pi, Sigma Uplison, Alpha Phi Eplison, and Beta Theta fraternities. Now practicing law at Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Satterfield was elected President of the Junior Bar Association at a meeting held in Jackson, Mississippi in June 1938.

"It is an honor and distinction any young attorney would desire, a tribute to Mr. Satterfield's character and professional talents." (1)

(1) Daily Clarion Ledger June 10, 1938, Jackson, Mississippi

"ROBERT BUCKNER ANDERSON attorney at law and ex-member of the House of Representatives of Mississippi Legislature, was born at Port Gibson, Mississippi on January 24, 1876, the son of Lomax and Nellie (Buckner) Anderson. Loma Anderson was born at Bladon Springs, Alabama, on January 23, 1846, and his wife was born in Clinton, Mississippi, on May 5, 1846, both families being of English and Scotch decent. Robert B. Anderson was educated in the high school at Port Gibson, and entered the University of Mississippi at Oxford where he was graduated in June, 1897, with the degree of IL.B. After his graduation Mr. Anderson began the practice of his profession the same year and is now regarded as one of the most distinguished members of the bar of Claiborne county, having practiced law continuously since that time. He was elected mayor of Port Gibson in 1899 and served to 1905. In 1908 he became a member of the House of Representatives of Mississippi Legislature, serving to 1910, having during his incumbency the best of his constituents at heart.

Mr. Anderson belongs to the Masonic fraternity and his church associations are in the Presbyterian church of Port Gibson. In politics he is a democrat and in all matters pertaining to public welfare he is a prominent factor." (1)

Judge Anderson who is now serving the ninth Judicial District, was appointed by Governor White, December 3, 1936 to fill the unexpired

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(1) Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi the Heart of the South. Vol.4,p 521

term of the late Judge E. L. Brien.

Judge Anderson has not only been one of Port Gibson's leading attorneys for many years, but has on several occasions served both as special judge and as special district attorney.

ERNEST PEYTON JONES, youngest son of Dr. Ernest P. and Annie Richmond Jones, was born May 13, 1906 at Hermanville, Mississippi. He attended grammer school at Hermanville and graduated in 1923. During his senior year he won $250.00 offered by the Mississippi Fire Insurance Company for an essay on fire prevention, also a medal given by the Canal Bank and Trust Company, for an essay on cooperative marketing. He attended Millsaps College at Jackson, Mississippi for two years, and was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He then transferred to the University of Mississippi at Oxford to begin a law course. He was a member of the Phi Delta law fraternity, and during his senior year was assistant professor of Phychology, business manager of the "Mississippian", the University News Publication, president of the Hermain Society, a literary and debating organization, and president of the senior law class. He received his A.B degree in 1927 and LL.B in 1929. Immediately after his graduation he entered the practice of law in the office of R. B. Anderson of Port Gibson.

In the fall of 1929 he became associated with R.H. and J.H. Thompson at Jackson, Mississippi and at the same time maintained a law office in Hermanville.

Mr. Jones was elected to represent Claiborne County in the House of Representatives in 1932-1936, during that time was chairman of Committee on Printing; Secretary of Appropriations Committee; and a member of the Judiciary Committee. In March 1933 he was appointed clerk

of the United States Senate Finance Committee by Honorable Pat Harrison, resigning that position in 1934 to return to Mississippi in order to serve a session of the Mississippi Legislature. While in Washington he did post-graduate work in law at the George Washington University; was deligate to the Democratic National Convention in 1932 at Chicago and 1936 at Philadelphia.
In the summer of 1934 he became affiliated with the Federal Housing Administration in Washington, D. C. as an attorney, and was later made assistant to the Federal Housing Administrator which position he now holds.

He was married to Miss Kathryn Elizabeth Schwab of McCook, Nebraska, on April 30, 1936.

(ELECTIOUS WILLIAMS) E.W. DAVIS was born March was born March 25, 1874, near Caseyville, Lincoln County, Mississippi, coming to Claiborne County in 1880. He married Miss Rhoda Belle Middleton, of this county, January 8, 1899. He attended the county schools, Port Gibson High School, and Chamberlain Hunt Academy.

Mr. Davis begum studying law in 1898 under Judge H.C. Mounger, took the bar examination November 6, 1916, and was admitted to the bar January 2, 1917. During the interveining years he was Justice of the Peace nine years and taught school five years. He was appointed local attorney for the Federal Land Bank in 1918, also Land Title Examiner, which position he still holds. Mr. Davis has been mainly engaged in Chancery and Civil practice.



GUILFORD STAMPLEY WATSON, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Madison Watson, was born January 1893 in Claiborne County, where he still resides. He attended High School and Chamberlain Hunt Academy in Port Gibson; was graduated from Washington Lee University in 1916, Mr. Watson entered the law office of J. T. Drake in Port Gibson in 1917; was a member of the State Legislature from 1920 through 1924. In the election of 1931 was chosen County Attorney, serving from 1932 through 1936. Since then he has been practicing law in this county.

KARL WEIL, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Weil, was born in Port Gibson, April 18, 1909. He was educated at Port Gibson High School, Chamberlain Hunt Academy, Port Gibson, University of Mississippi, Oxford, where he was graduated with A.B. and LL.B. degrees.

Mr. Weil was admitted to the bar at Oxford, Mississippi, June 1932, and began the practice of law at Port Gibson in that same month, where he has practiced continuously since. At a State Bar Association meeting held in Jackson, Mississippi in June, 1938, Mr.Weil was elected a member of the executive committee of the Junior Bar Association.

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2nd copy

Health

Lincoln Co
✓ Claiborne Co
Copiah Co
Pike "

D. W. JONES, Brookhaven.

PRESIDENT 1909-10

Dudley Watson Jones was born in Claiborne County ~~xxx~~ July 10th 1870. His father was Dr. D. W. Jones, a physician of Claiborne County, and his mother, Laura Peyton Jones, was a daughter of Chief-Justice E. G. Peyton.

Dr. Jones first attended he country schools of Copiah County, going later to the University of Mississippi, from which institution he was graduated in 1894. He served one year as principal of the Yazoo City High School and two as county superintendent of education in Copiah, resigning the latter position to take up the study of medicine. Graduating from Tulane University in May 1900 he formed a partnership with his brother, Dr. E. P. Jones, at Fermanville and served one term as county health officer of Claiborne. In 1904 he moved to Fernwood to accept the position of surgeon to the Fernwood Lumber Company and in 1909 resigned this position and moved to Brookhaven where he went into partnership with Dr. J. H. Johnson, the two esphlishing the Brookhaven Sanitarium.

In 1903 Dr. Jones married Miss Alice Lewis, daughter of Rev. W. B. Lewis, at that time presiding elder of the Jackson district, M. E. Church, and of this union there are three children, Ephriam Peyton and Mildred and Gladys, twins.

The doctor was one of the organizers of the Claiborne-Jefferson Medical Society, of which he was the first secretary; of the Tri-County (Pike, Lincoln, Copiah), of which he was the first vice-president and is now secretary. He is also counselor for Mississippi of the Southern Medical A ssociation and a member of the A. M. A .

Personal Notes, 1910

Ref. History of The Mississippi State Medical Association.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

Claiborne County

Assignment # 24

HEALTH

Enumerators:
Mary Naasson
Lela E. Hamilton

I. 1. Mississippi's First Board of Health (1877)

a. Richard Goode Wharton

Dr. R. G. Wharton, Port Gibson, Claiborne Co. was a member of the first State Board of Health, in 1877.

"Richard Goode Wharton was born at Cartersville, Va. January 11, 1815 and lived to be eighty-one years old. He was educated at the University of Va., and received his degree, Dr. of Medicine, from the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia in 1837. He began the practice of medicine in King William Co., Va. but soon afterward came to the then flourishing town of Grand Gulf, Claiborne County, Miss. and entered upon the practice of his profession. He traveled to Cincinati by stage coach then by boat to Grand Gulf." (1)

"From the time of his arrival in Grand Gulf he devoted himself closely to his profession, never leaving his office except on business. He was far in advance of his contemporaries of this time, and always kept abrest of his profession." (2)

"There Oct. 9, 1845 he married Miss Catherine Cronly; in 1851 he removed to Port Gibson, remaining in active practice of his profession until 1885, when a severe illness partially laid him aside. Not wholly however, did he give up his life work as a physician. Not only in this county but throughout the state, he was known for many years as a member of the State Board of Health and a valuable contributor to medical

1. Memoirs of R. G. Wharton by Mrs. Kate Wharton Grafton-Page 72
2. " " " " " " " " " " -Page 9



I. 1. (a)- continued

literature. Dr. Wharton was a great reader, his mind reaching out on all sides for information, as a man, as a student, as a thinker, in and out of his profession, he was hospitable to thought. He was progressive." Dr. R. G. Wharton was for forty-four years a ruling elder of the Port Gibson Presbyterian Church. His was a great, eager, and kindly spirit." (1)

2. Secretaries of the State Board of Health since the year 1877.

a. None.

3. Present State Board of Health:

a. Secretary, etc. --------- None.

1. Memoirs of R. G. Wharton by Mrs. Kate Wharton Grafton -Pages 72-73.

HEALTH

II. 1. a. Yellow Fever, 1878 ---------continued.

beautiful town. And the plague came, and its raven wings have been spread over us like an angry cloud or a funeral pall, until there isn't a home that isn't in mourning, nor a heart that doesn't throb its silent, pensive, mournful wail of agony and anguish, woe are we - woe are we."

"On the morning of the 8th of August, Simonson, an employe of the railroad, died. He was mail carrier for the road, and contracted the disease of which he died from the ill-fated steamer John D. Porter . His case baffled the medical skill of his physician, who concluded, however, that it was bilious fever, and on the Monday before his death two other physicians were sent to diagnose the case, and they thought it intermittent fever, but on Wednesday one of the same physicians saw the case again and pronounced it yellow fever, and on Thursday, the 8th the patient died in delirium, and with black vomit - and then

The Stampede

"And such a stampede-such hurrying to and fro-on foot-on horseback-in carriages-buggies-dump carts and all sorts of improvised conveyances, was never witnessed before. The word frantic fails of its meaning to tell of the speed and seeming dispair with which nearly two thirds of our people made their exit, and subsequent events showed too plainly that there was not too much haste nor too great alarm, and it was a happy circumstance that so many left, for had all remained the well could not have nursed the sick - the living could not have buried the dead. Notwithstanding this general exodus there were yet about 700 people left in town just 46 of whom were known to be acclimated to yellow fever. Immediately there

Claiborne County
Assignment #24

HEALTH

II. 1. a. Yellow Fever, 1878 ----------continued.

was a call for the organization of

The Howard Association

"A meeting was held and large numbers enrolled their names on the books as ready to meet the dreaded foe. Jas. A. Gage,Eq was elected President of the Association for the whites, with power to appoint two assistants, and Mr. W. B. Fulkerson was Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Thomas Richardson was elected President of the same organization for the colored people.

"A lull followed, and the Reveille went to press on Friday night, 16th of August, announcing only one case of sickness in town-that of Geo. Goodrich, a colored man and a railroad employee, then being treated by the lamented Dr. Strobridge. Hope inspired mingled feelings of doubt and anxiety, as to this case, until Saturday morning, next day, the 17th of August, three cases were reported at the Boarding House of the worthy and lamented Mr. A. J. Louder, the same in which Auguste Simonson, the first victim, had died, and these developed unquestionable symptoms of yellow fever. All hope fled, all doubt was dispelled and sad faces said to sad faces, we must prepare for pestilence and death."

The Progress of the Epidemic

"On the next day, Sunday morning, the 18th of August, rapid reports of new cases flew all over town like the firing of holiday rockets, and that evening the sun set upon a gloomy people a scourged town, with 30 people young and old writhing under the burning, scorching treacherously fatal fever of the tropics

"The Howards went forward boldly, but it soon became evident

II. 1. a. Yellow Fever, 1878 ----------continued.

that other help must be had for dim lights shone during the ensueing week in every home, and the number of prostrated yet struggling victims of the pestilence already figured in the hundreds.

"Of the progress of the disease - the employment of nurses from a distance - the immense sum of money sent from neighboring towns, and Northern cities, villages, churches, and from indifiduals as well as the large shipments of supplies, we must await the forthcoming reports of the officers of the two Howard Associations. It is due to all - to those who gave their charity with prodigal munificence, as well as to those who receive it with such emotions of prayerful, heartfelt gratitude, that a full explicit exhibit, with proper vouchers, should be made of receipts and disbursements, that the world may see that we have judiciously used, and not abused, the great, the spontaneous benevolence which has so beautifully exemplified the charity inculcated by the great apostle who said - "tho I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am as sounding brass and as a tinkling cymbal," and God knows, and our suffering people know, that in the tens of thousands of dollars sent us, and as many thousands, possibly in supplies of every imaginable kind, there was no sounding brass, no tinkling cymbal.

Our Doctors

"At the beginning of the epidemic we had four physicians -Dr.Peck, Dr. Wharton, Dr. Russell and Dr. Strobridge; the three first named, were acclimated, and had all had experience in treating yellow fever having practiced in the epidemic of 1853 & 5 in this place.

Dr. Strobridge, a good physician and an accomplished gentleman, had

Claiborne County
Assignment #24

HEALTH

II. 1. a. Yellow Fever, 1878 ----------continued

only been a citizen of our town, and of the South, for about a year. He died on the 10th of Sept. It would be impossible to do justice to the untiring zeal and sleepless energy of our physicians in town and to those who witnessed their patient endurance and self-sacrificing devotion to duty, night and day, early and late - it is a matter of wonder and amazement that they stood up so long, and so manfully, during the almost ninety days and nights of unflagging labor and constant devotion.

"We hear the highest praise of the physician in the country. Dr. Bromly, (who died early) Dr. Young, Dr. Allen, Dr. W. P. Hughes, Dr. Redus, Dr. Hoopes, Dr. Cessna, of Rocky Springs, a vicinity in which the fever spread with great rapidity, in so much that the Howard Authorities sent Dr. W. C. Miller of Grand Gulf to that point, and he did excellent service. Dr. Edwin McCallister, an old and successful practitioner in the epidemics of 1854-5, at Grand Gulf and this place, was in attendance on patients in both Brandywine and Pattona districts, and did his duty faithfully, as did all others. Dr. T. B. Magruder was not in the infected region, yet did his duty when called upon, as he has always done.

"It may be that we have omitted the name of some of our country physicians. If so we have only to be reminded of it to make the amends promptly.

"Very much of the practice of most of the physicians, especially in town, and it may have been as in the country was for the poor, and it is due to justice and humanity that arrangements should be be made to fairly remunerate all for the faithful services they performed.

II. 1. a. Yellow fever, 1878 ----------continued.

"Ye ancient undertaker, our old friend Q. L. Foote had a herculean task, and the lights were burning in his shop nearly all night, for many nights, preparing coffins for rich and poor. He was faithful in the performances of his sad duty.

"Our nurses, and we do not dare to individualize, won laurels. We do not know how to say enough in their praise. Many of them were of those who wore the gray, and they never flinch. Many of them from a distance, New Orleans and Natchez, rendered conspicuous service, and will be long and gratefully remembered.

"The "white bonnets", the Sisters of Charity were here, there and everywhere doing their duty.

"Our country friends were alive to the dreadful situation, and, assisted by refugees from town, kept our people supplied with fresh meats, butter, eggs, poultry, etc., in such liberal abundance as to show that they were denying themselves to give to the more needy ones in town. These supplies, in addition to the abundance in the Commissary Department of the Howards, kept away want and suffering.

"Our Drug Stores reflected the only business in town. The lamented Mr. Shreve, too feeble to attend to business was at his post until he died, early in the pestilence. The Drug Store of R. M. Hastings was kept open constantly, and at times almost all night long, and was the chief reliance, Mr. Charles S. Mason, prescription clerk, never left the post of duty. Subsequently Mr. R. F. Gordon took charge of the other drug store, and had been at his post.

"Our preachers, the only ones who remained in town were all smitten with the pestilence and all recovered. Rev. D. A. Planck, of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. E. H. Mounger, of the Methodist Church were among the early cases, they recovered, and then went about at all hours,

Claiborne County
Assignment #24

HEALTH

II. 1. a. Yellow fever, 1878 ----------continued

in town and country, doing great good as nurses and Divines. Father Jones of the Catholic church in this place, was in Minnesota when he heard of our great calamity - came in haste to help his people, was taken with fever on reaching town, recovered and afterwards rendered good service. Rev. John G. Jones, a superannuate of the Methodist church, after recovering from the fever, did all that could be expected of a man of more than three score and ten years.

"The colored people with but few exceptions were down with the fever and it proved unusually fatal to them. Very many of them were found faithfully doing their duty, and some of them were among the most successful nurses. We may take occasion to allude to the more deserving ones in future.

"It is estimated that up to this date there have been 1300 cases in the town and county, and we have no doubts very nearly 300 deaths. We give a list of the dead as complete as we could obtain. It would be impossible to describe the pestilence when in the height of its fury. From the 18th of Aug. to the 31st fifty deaths occurred.and during that month and September, silence reigned in our streets - every home was a hospital - the dying and the dead were all around and about us,- corpses just as the victims died - wrapped in sheets and blankets, and hurriedly encoffined, were steadily lifted out of doors and sometimes out of windows, and buried in haste, at sunrise - after dark, by dim lanterns, and frequently lay all night long in the graveyard, unburied.

The Epidemic, at the outset, produced a most unparallelled panic, and it never lost its panic feature. Financial panics are severe, and the

HEALTH

II. 1. a. Yellow fever, 1878 ----------continued

war panics, which all remember, were hard to get used to, but of all the terror and horrors known to man, a pestilence panic exceeds them all." "[1]

1. The Southern Reveille of Nov. 9, 1878.

Claiborne County
Assignment #24

HEALTH

Ii. 1. Three Epidemics of Disease have visited Mississippi:

b. Small Pox, 1900-1901

"Claiborne County has never been known to have an epidemic of small pox, although in 1900 there were a few cases scattered over the county, and a few in the town of Port Gibson."[1]

c. Influenza, 1918-1919

" " By Oct. 10, 1918 influenza was becoming an epidemic. The State Board of Health closed all the schools, churches and placed a ban on all gatherings because of influenza.

"By order of the State Board of Health, the local schools were closed Tuesday on account of influenza, and they will remain closed until the outbreak of the disease subsides or until it becomes so widespread that there is no further use to attempt to stay its spread. The local boarding schools are permitted to continue with their boarding pupils, but day pupils are forbidden to attend."

"In addition to the closing of the schools, a ban is placed on churches, picture shows and all other gatherings, and unless there is a change in the ruling will not only eliminate the war relics train, but also the County Fair. This last named institution has already cost the Kings Daughters a considerable sum, and the order will work a great hardship on them."

At a meeting of the business men of Port Gibson Monday night, County Health Officer, Dr. A. L. Chapman, was requested to confer with the state Health Officer relative to holding the funeral of young Roberts; the coming of the war relics train, and the Fair. Dr. Chapman did so, and permission was given to hold the funeral because it was in the open; but the other two requests were taken under advisement. Later, however, Dr. Chapman was notified that it

HEALTH

II. 1. c. Influenza, 1918-1919 ----------continued.

had been decided that the other two gatherings could not be held.

The State Health Officer stated in his telegram that persons infected with the disease are to be isolated during illness and four days after recovery.

The telegram ordering the County Health Officer to take the step of closing schools is as follows:

"Reports show that epidemic influenza continues to spread. United States Public Health Service adivses discontinuing all public meetings, public schools and places of public amusement on appearance local outbreak of influenza, which is hereby ordered until conditions are relieved. Would not advise closing Agricultural High Schools, Colleges, or similar institutions where student body comes from a distance. Please inform me of any action taken. Request doctors to report all cases to Board of Health on post card every night. Urgent. "Leathers"

Later the following letter was received by County Health Officer Chapman: "In view of the fact that many cases of influenza are mild and difficult to diagnose, you are urged to take the same precautions with such cases as would be followed with the severe cases. You are authorized to prevent the attendance upon school of any suspicious cases whether it be the pupil or teacher, and also to prevent the attendance upon school of all children and teachers who may contract the disease. It is also desirable that all pupils or teachers from families when cases of influenza occur be requested not to attend school while such sickness exists in the family.

"Please notify the Principal or Superintendent of each school to co-operate with you in the control of this disease. All children

Claiborne County
Assignment #24

HEALTH

II. 1. c. Influenza, 1918-1919 ----------continued

should be sent home from school who are suffering from 'colds' or who may show symptoms of influenza and requested to remain at home until they recover.

"It is also desirable that children be prevented from attending all public gatherings and all persons be advised not to attend such places, except when absolutely necessary for the next few weeks.

"It may be necessary in some localities to close the schools, the theaters and to prevent all public gatherings for a certain length of time. The Health Officer should authorize that this be done when necessary. You should insist upon rigid observance of the regulations for the control of the so-called Spanish Influenza on the part of schools.

"It is believed by strict isolation - prevent all pupils and teachers from attending school where cases of influenza occur, and by avoiding as much as possible public gatherings, the course of influenza epidemic will be checked and finally suppressed.

"In order to protect the individual as well as the public no person who is suffering from this disease should attend his place of business. It is urgent that the public co-operate in the prevention of what may be a state wide epidemic. I am

"Very sincerely,

"W. S. Leathers, M.D." (1)

"Executive Office". "

According to the notice in the same paper the County Fair had to

1. Reveille, Oct. 10, 1918.

HEALTH

II. 1. c. Influenza, 1918-1919 ---------continued

postponed to Oct. 31st.

At this time the county had 45 cases of influenza, seven new cases being reported the day before. There were 4 points of infection, - Port Gibson, Hermanville, near Rocky Springs and Alcorn College. The paper reported only one case had been serious and he came from St. Louis the week before with the malady. He slowly recovered.(1)

"Influenza Claims Many Victims"

"Influenza continues to spread and the number of cases in the county is nearly 200. However, it is gratifying to know that none of the sufferers are seriously ill. Most of the patients are painfully sick, but, aside from a generally weak condition, there are no serious after effects." "When one member of the family contracts the disease it usually spreads to every member, and the spread is so rapid that in many cases all are sick at the same time and none is able to nurse the others."(2)

Influenza was still spreading as late as Nov. 1, but pneumonia was on the decrease. There were about 843 cases in the county.

"The influenza situation in Claiborne County is about at a standstill. The number of new cases reported each day has run about the same for the past 10 days, the rural districts showing the greatest number of cases and the sp read is largely among negroes. The percentage of pneumonia is slightly decreasing.

1. Reveille of Oct. 10, 1918 (not exact words).
2. Reveille of Oct. 17, 1918.

Claiborne County
Assignment #24

HEALTH

II. 1. c. Influenza, 19181919----------continued

The State Board of Health has granted the opening of all white schools this week but requires that the colored schools remain closed until next Monday, Nov. 11. I want to specially request all teachers in the county to give their schools a lecture the opening day on the great importance of following the sanitary and hygienic laws governing coughing, spitting, sneezing and kissing.

The State Board of Health has very correctly stated that it is going to be a "Pneumonia Fall & Winter" and its up to us to use every known method of preventing this much dreaded and death dealing disease".

A. L. Chapman
County Health Officer.(1)

The State Health Officer ordered the daily reports of physicians to them by Nov. 20. Up to that date there had been 1018 cases.(2)

1. Reveille of Nov. 7, 1918.
2. Reveille of Nov. 20, 1918. (not exact words).

HEALTH

II. 2. Elimination of Yellow Fever Mosquito (Stegomyia)

a. During the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, carbolic acid was used to disinfect the streets, as they knew nothing of the mosquito theory.(1) So much was used on the streets that it often made people sick. Quarantine was one of the most important methods of combatting the disease. Complete isolation of not only the individuals but of infected communities became necessary in order to prevent the spread of the disease.(2)

"Dr. J. B. Green, a Marine Hospital Surgeon, arrived from New Orleans early in the epidemic of 1905 and took charge of the screening and fumigating and his services were invaluable. Those who remained through the epidemic and watched the course of the disease know beyond a doubt that the mosquito is the only means of communicating the disease." "The fight against the mosquito at Port Gibson was successful - a complete victory has been won and yellow fever has been stamped out. Immediately after the first case was reported a vigorous war was made on the mosquito by our local people until the arrival of Surgeon GREEN. He continued the fight along scientific lines with much better results."(3)

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1. Reveille of November 9, 1878
2. Interview with Jno. Kelly, a citizen of Port Gibson, during the epidemic. of 1878.
3. Port Gibson Reveille - November 2, 1905.

Claiborne County
Assignment #24

HEALTH

II. 3. Elimination of Small Pox

In the case of a small pox epidemic general vaccination is the only means of stamping out the disease. Its use should always be advocated; and the prejudice against it in some sections should be overcome. Quarantine or complete isolation of the individual becomes necessary in order to prevent the spread of the disease.(1) In Claiborne County quarantine and vaccination were the only methods used.

II. 4. Definite information in regard to the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 in Claiborne was given under II. 1. c. Influenza, 1918-1919

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1. Living Things, An Elementary Biology by Arthur G. Clement, Pages 269 & 270.

HEALTH

III. a. Malaria control.

Claiborne County has a part time doctor and a full time nurse to help in malaria control. The County Health Officer is Dr. W. N. Jenkins; the County Health Nurse is Miss Viola Jones. "The county is well drained; the citizens cooperate with the health nurse and health officer in every way in which they can."(1)

IV. Sanitation:-

1. a. Food control

Dairies - There are two dairies in Port Gibson, one owned by Mr. Geo. Hay and the other by Mr. McClendon; two in district 3, one owned by Mr. A. McBurns and the other by Mr. K. Faris. The government requires tests for tuberculosis and Bang's Disease. Concrete floors are needed in the dairies where the milking is done but is not required by law. Everything must be kept perfectly sanitary but the dairies are very seldom inspected by government men.

Bakeries - The owner of the only bakery in the county (located in Port Gibson) says the only sanitary measure required is screening. A member of the State Board of Health inspects the bakery occassionally.

Candy factories, storage plants, fruit stands - None.

Grocery stores, meat markets and slaughter houses - A representative of the State Board of Health is sent out about once every 60 days to

1. Miss Viola Jones, County Health Nurse.

Claiborne County
Assignment #24

HEALTH

IV. Sanitation

1. a. Food control ----------continued

Grocery stores, meat markets and slaughter houses -continued

inspect the stores.

Requirements:

Meat boxes are examined for bad odors.

Floors must be clean and covered with sawdust.

Meat, butter, etc. must be in refrigerators and kept at a certain temperature.

Everything must be screened.

Butchers must wear aprons.

The slaughter house must be screened.

Fruit and vegetables must be 2 feet from the floor.

Bulk sugar, meal, etc. must either be covered or kept in wooden containers.(1)

Hotels, restaurants - Hotels and restaurants must be screened and everything kept clean. Owners and operators say they are never inspected.

Drug stores, soda fountains - Drugstores must be screened; the glasses at the soda fountain must be sterilized. A representative of the State Board of Health comes occasionally to inspect the store to see that everything is perfectly sanitary.(2)

Barber shops, beauty parlors - All barber shops and beauty parlors must have instruments and combs sterilized.(3)

1. Jeanette Le, manager of Lee's Grocery Store and Meat Market.
2. Mr. Virgil Watson, a druggist in Port Gibson.
3. Barber shop owner.

HEALTH

IV. Sanitation

1. b. Water Supply

The water supply in Port Gibson comes from a deep well. A representative of the State Board of Health comes periodically and takes samples of the water to examine. It is not compulsory to keep the reservoir covered but it is done. The water is pumped from the wells into a reservoir high above ground and is treated with chlorinated lime as a precautionary measure.(1)

In rural districts water is supplied from wells, cisterns, and springs. Rural homes have large tanks into which water is pumped from wells and piped into the houses.

c. Excreta disposals

In some places in the county excreta disposal is not very sanitary. A few people in the county have water works and have indoor toilets. Others have outdoor toilets.(2)

d. General Sanitation -

There is no sanitary inspector for the county. One private swimming pool in the county, located at Chamberlain Hunt Academy is used for only a few weeks in the year. Most swimmersgo to creeks and ponds. The water at the C.H.A. swimming pool is changed at regular intervals.

There are no tourist and scout camps.

The garbage in the county is fed to hogs and chickens. In Port Gibson a town cart passes each residence twice a week and carries

1. Mr. H. D. Brownlee, Supt. Miss. Power and Light Co.
2. Miss Viola Jones, County Health Nurse.



HEALTH

IV. Sanitation

1. d. General Sanitation ----------continued.

off the garbage of any kind and dumps it near the Bayou Pierre. A committee called the Street Committe in the Board of Aldermen has this in charge.

Fly control and mosquito control - In Port Gibson a man with a hand spray goes from house to house with his sprayer filled with disinfectant and sprays the damp places for mosquitoes and flies.(1) The rural homes are screened and each individual family uses his own precautionary methods.

Public service places are not as sanitary as they should be.

V. Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing

1. Information on each -

a. Maternal Hygiene - Literature is given to the mother, the health nurse talks to her and advises her on all points, the midwives are taught, schools are provided for them and examinations are held and they are not allowed to work if they do not pass a creditable examination. The mother is advised to consult a physician at special times. The health nurse tries to see that everything is done that should be done. The death rate in Claiborne County is very low. It has decreased very much in the past few years, especially since 1931.(2)

1. Member of the town Board of Health.
2. Miss Viola Jones, County Health Nurse.

HEALTH

V. Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing

2. Infant and Child Hygiene

a. Infant mortality - is very low.(1)

b. Physical defects - Everything that can be done to improve conditions for a child to be well born is done by the nurse, doctor and midwife. The mother is examined to see that she is free from disease, she is told what diet she should have. The midwife is examined to see that she has no communicable disease such as syphilis. The state furnishes material and treatment for this disease so there is no reason why the child should not be well born. About 2/3 of the nurse's time is taken up in teaching mothers.(1)

3. a. Mouth Hygiene - Nothing is done about mouth hygiene in the county except to encourage the children to have their teeth examined twice a year and tosspray their mouths and throats especially when communicable diseases are in the community.

VI. Tuberculosis control:

a. Number sent to Sanitorium:

During this year, 1937, only two have been sent to the Sanitorium for tuberculosis.

VII. Industrial Hygiene and Factory Inspection:

a. We have novery large factories in this county and these are not inspected for hygienic purposes.

V

1. Miss Viola Jones, County Health Nurse.

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VIII. All communicable diseases - control.

Diphtheria is controlled by toxin-antitoxin; also by isolation.

Measles and scarlet fever are controlled by isolation. There is a vaccine that is of proven worth.

Small pox is controlled by vaccination and isolation.

Typhoid fever has been greatly reduced by sanitation and vaccination.(1)

IX. Number and Accidental Deaths.

a. Number and causes - Exact number not known.

"There is no doubt but that nearly half the automobile accidents are the direct results of alcohol. Also alcohol is concerned in a heavy percent of all the homicides that take place in the state."(2)

X. Number of:

a. Doctors in county, and names of each.

There are 6 white doctors and one negro doctor.

White - Dr. James F. McCaleb, Carlisle, Miss.
Dr. E. D. Jones, Hermanville, Miss.
Dr. D. M. Segrest, Port Gibson, Miss.
Dr. W. N. Jenkins, Port Gibson, Miss.
Dr. G. W. Acker, Port Gibson, Miss.
Dr. J. V. May, Retired, Port Gibson, Miss.
Dr. T. T. Bailey " Port Gibson, Miss.

Negro - Dr. Shipp, Port Gibson, Miss.

b. Number of Nurses and names of each. - 4 white nurses.

Miss Viola Jones, Health Nurse -Port Gibson
Mrs. Margaret Seldon, -Port Gibson
Mrs. Geo. Ogden, -Port Gibson
Miss Mary Foster, -Port Gibson

c. No hospitals, infirmaries or sanitariums.

1. Health Syllabus Page 63 2. Health Syllabus - Page 58

HEALTH

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses.

Dr. Adderton Maddox.

Dr. Maddox was born in Prince George County, Maryland, Nov. 2, 1814, graduated in medicine, came to Mississippi by stagecoach about 1840, settled in Jefferson County, and moved to Claiborne County about 1872. Dr. Maddox was a true representative of the "country doctor" of long ago. These early doctors were wonderful men, resourceful and successful in their practide. They carried their own medicine with them, filled their own prescriptions, did their own cutting, sawing and sewing without the aid of anesthetic, nurses, and hospitals. The night was never too bad nor the distance too great for them to answer a call of distress.

Dr. Maddox once had a young doctor holding his thumb on a patient's artory while he amputated his leg above the knee. The young doctor could not stand the sight and ran. Doctor Maddox made a negro hold his thumb on the artery and finished the operation. The patient recovered.

Doctors were dentists in those days. He would sit a patient on a log, lean his head back against a tree and extract the tooth. He once told a negro to open his mouth wide, the negro did it so well that his jaw became unhinged. The doctor pulled the toohh first, and then set the jaws again.

Dr. Maddox was captain of the Home Guards during the four years War Between the States. He was once shot from his horse in a battle near Rodney.

He was a devout member of the Episcopal Church, held family prayers each night and lived principally for others.

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HEALTH

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses.----continued.

Dr. Adderton Maddox ----------continued.

Dr. Maddox was one of the trustees of Oakland College for many years.(1)

Robert Adoniram Segrest, B. A., M. D.

Dr. Robert Adoniram Segrest was born July 31, 1880 and reared in the Brandywine community in the environs of Copiah and Claiborne counties, Mississippi.

His secondary education was acquired from the tutelage of an older brother, under Dr. Grafton at Union Church, Mississippi, and from Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, Port Gibson. After graduating from the University of Mississippi, he began his medical studies at the Memphis Hospital Medical College, of which the University of Tennessee Medical School is the successor. At the young age of 21 he was licensed to practice medicine by the Mississippi State Board of Health. In his medical practice he was a man of great charity and tenderness of heart.

Dr. Segrest won a high place in the love and esteem of the people in the community where he practiced medicine for more than 26 years. In order to secure a larger field of work, he moved to Port Gibson, Mississippi on August 26, 1927 where he was likewise respected and admired. He was eminently successful in his new field and was a very useful man when stricken with the illness which he endured with

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1. Information from Mr. A. Maddox, son of Dr. Adderton Maddox.

HEALTH

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses--------continued

Robert Adoniram Segrest, B. A., M. D. ---------- continued.

great patience and fortitude until his death. He passed to his eternal reward on October 31, 1931 and was interred in the Port Gibson Cemetery on November 2, 1931.

It was on very rare occasions that Dr. Segrest would relate incidents of his work to members of his family; nevertheless due to a close association with his family, some epiaodes of his professional career are recalled to their minds:

During the earlier years of his practice, it was necessary for him to ride on horseback to visit most of his patients. One dark and dreary night while making a distant call on horseback he was stopped at the entrance of an old covered-bridge by a highwayman who demanded all of his pe rsonal effects. While submitting to the commands of the robber, he was recognized by the thief as the local doctor. The masked-rogue then told him that he could not rob the doctor, and with due apologies the thug implored Dr. Segrest to retain his personal belongings.

It was on another occasion that he was stopped by armed force while carrying out his duties as a physician. This time he was mistaken for someone else by several men who were dressed in ghostly attire. When they found his true identity, he was liberated unharmed with apologies from the depredators.

For more than 15 years, it was necessary to practice his art by horseback. Almost nightly he was called to make visits to the sick within a radius of 20 miles from his home in all kinds of weather. It was always his policy to go whenever needed no matter what the weather conditions may have been. Upon several occasions he was really sicker

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XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses ---------continued.

Robert Adoniram Segrest, BB A., M. D. ----------continued.

than his patients; however he would go, for it was his desire to work as long as there was an ounce of energy remaining in his body. All of these trips brought on new adventures which pleased rather than feared him.

An old negro man came running to the Segrest home one day and said to Dr. Segrest: "Doctor, Oh! Doctor, come quick, my ole 'oman she am spokeless." On examining the old negro woman he found that she had really feinted this mock attack to produce some desired psychological effect upon her husband and he obtained a statement from her to this effect.

Due to the fact that there were no dentists in the community, and because modes of travel were not accessible, that he be a dentist in addition to his duties as a physician. Dental instruments were among the numerous equipments which was necessary for him to carry in his medical bags. He had to play the role of a druggist also during the first years of his practice, as did many physicians of that time.

The majority of his patients were unable to pay for his services, but these unfortunate circumstances did not prevent him from giving them his best attention. There were some who were fixed a little better economically who would give him something which they had grown on their farm. Then there was a small percentage of his patients who could pay him in the fall of the year when their produce had been sold. Dr. Segrest was well-satisfied with the meager returns from his work, for it was his greatest pleasure in life to be of service to those in need.

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses ------continued.

Robert Adoniram Segrest, B. A., M. D. ----------continued.

Often he would have to sit up all night with his patients and catch short naps on the floor of their humble dwellings with his medicine case serving the purpose of a pillow.

Dr. Segrest knew the art of hypnotism and he used this art to an advantage where the patient would not submit to the proper medical treatment. Some of these acts are recalled to the writer's mind. Once a patient on his plantation had suddenly been converted to membership in the local colored church. Prior to this he played dance music on his fiddle and had been otherwise sinful. Dr. Segrest believed that this sudden conversion was not sincere. He then hypnotized this old negro, named Mingo Cason, and made him play dance music on his fiddle.

It was during the World War that the automobile partially replaced his bay-colored horse, Chester. He would use the car to make short trips but felt that the horse was more trustworthy for the longer trips. It was several years later that he completely substituted his automobile for this trusty old steed. When in need of sleep, after missing several nights of rest he could fall asleep on the old horse and be safely conveyed home. He was unable to do this with this new mode of transportation; therefore he often resorted to riding his horse at times. This means of travel did not materially shorten the time required to make his trips, for the roads in the early twenties were not very good nor did they go within the reach of as many homes as they do today. It was often nessessary for

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XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses --------continued.

Robert Adoniram Segrest, B. A., M. D. ----------continued.

him to do a great deal of walking in order to reach the bedside of those who were ill and in need of medical care.

Doctor Segrest belonged to several medical associations and followed the new trends that were developed in his profession. He was a student and scholar in other fields in addition to his chosen profession.

Despite the fact that he was a rural physician for many years, he served as County Health Officer of Copiah County for a number of years.

Dr. Segrest was a faithful member of the Masonic Lodge and was very interested in its work.

Dr. Segrest loved his professional work, devoted and sacrificed himself to his family, and was friendly to and considerate of all with whom he came in contact.(1)

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1. Information from Mrs. Segrest, wife of the late Dr. Segrest.

HEALTH

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses ---------continued.

Dr. J. Vernon May

Dr. J. V. May tells the following story that happened while he was a practicing physician:

"One night about twelve o'clock the telephone rang and when I answered it a man said "Doctor, I'd like for you to come to Grand Gulf to see my wife, she is very sick". The man was a fisherman and he and his family lived on a boat at Grand Gulf about 8 miles from Port Gibson. I asked him if it was raining down there as it was raining a little in Port Gibson. He said it was but a man had just come from Port Gibson in a car and he thought I could make it in mine. So I said, "I'll start right away."

There are two roads that lead from Port Gibson to Grand Gulf - one is fairly good and the other a shorter one is always bad. Of course I took the bad one. My car slipped a good deal but I reached a place called "Benjamin Hollow" about two miles from a store near Grand Gulf. I went on a little farther and came to a bridge over a little branch. A farmer nearby had fixed the bridge but the rain had washed up the bridge and some of it was lying by the road. When I drove up nearly to the bridge I saw that the approach to it was a mud pile about eighteen or twenty feet deep. I didn't think I could drive my car over that and not get stuck. The road on each side of the car had a deep ditch that gave me very little room for my car. If I backed, which I would have to do, I might go in the ditch and then someone would have to pull me out. So I decided to walk. When I reached the store several men were there waiting for daylight so they could continue on their hunt. I stopped, also, for it to get lighter. I asked the storekeeper if this certain man

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XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses -----continued.

Dr. J. Vernon May ----------continued.

lived in Grand Gulf. He said the man lived on a boat near the landing but he had gone in his car to Port Gibson thinking I was not coming. Of course he went over the better road and I missed him.

At daylight I found a negro I knew and asked him if he could row the skiff and take me to the man's boat. He did. We went down the river for some distance but could find no boat, then we rowed up the river and found a boat. No one was in it. So we rowed farther up the river and found a boat. The people in that boat said this man lived down the river, so we decided to go back. We went farther than we went the first time but no boat. In a few minutes we heard a little gasoline boat chugging up the river. We waited till the man came up and found it was the father of the lady we were looking for. He said he had moved the boat because he thought it would be closer to the landing and save my time. I found the lady very sick; it was then about 12 o'clock. I stayed until the lady was better and her husband drove in."(1)

1. A true story, showing some of the trials of the country doctor, as well as those of the patients.

HEALTH

XI. Biographies of old family physician s and nurses ----continued

Dr. A. H. Peck

" Dr. Peck was a native of Boston, Mass., but, at an early period of his childhood his parents moved to Lexington, Ky. in which city Dr. Peck was raised, and there studied his profession under the tutorship of the learned Dr. Dudley. Dr. Peck settled in Warren County in 1829 but a year after, came to this place where he has since resided, and for half a century practiced his profession. In 1836 he was married to Julia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Merrifield of Windsor, Vermont. Mrs. Peck died in 1848 leaving two children, a son and daughter. In 1853 the idolized son died at the age of seventeen years of yellow fever and the daughter was taken by her aunt and tenderly reared in their home in Lexington, Ky., while the father continued to occupy the old home in comparative recluse, never having remarried.

When the illness of the deceased friend became known to his friends, he was attentively cared for, and he had the constant professional attention of Drs. Wharton and Redus, who gave him all the aid enjoined by friendly and fraternal duty. He was frequently visited by the Reverend John G. Jones, from whose product and pious counsels we have reason to believe he derived great comfort and consolation. Mr. Edward Lischer was with the deceased constantly during his last weeks illness, and other friends were equally assiduous in their attentions to him.

His only daughter, an only child, was telegraphed for a few days before his death, but unhappily only reached here two hours after his death.

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XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses --------continued.

Dr. A. H. Peck ----------continued.

Dr. Peck was buried on Tuesday afternoon from the Presbyterian church, the funeral services being conducted by the Reverend John G. Jones assisted by the Reverend D. A. Planck."[1]

Enid Richmond
Historian
Claiborne County

1. Reveille of April 3, 1880.

HEALTH

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses -----continued.

Dr. William Myles.

Background:

In the year 1842 a young medical student is leaving his home in Ireland, the North of Ireland, County Fermanagh, near Lake Erne. If he will stay with his uncle in Edinburgh and take his Scottish mother's maiden name of Musgrave, his uncle, Dr. Musgrave, will leave him his fortune and his practice. But hsi eyes are turned toward America. His father is dead, and he leaves his mother and sister in the Irish home, and his uncle in the Scotish home in Edinburgh, where happy memories linger of his medical student days.

His father, Frederick Ferdinand Myles, was an Irish gentleman, Unionist in politics and protestant in religion, and the love of Ireland in his heart. His love and prejudices, principles and patriotism lived in his son, William Myles. He did not dream of an Irish Republic, nor that you could separate the waters of the Liffey and the Mersey in the Irish Sea. He loved the old city of Dublin, that had known much grief, and many troubles, as he could never have loved London.

His school days were spent at Trinity College, Dublin.

America:

A short stay in the West Indies, a short stay in New Orleans, and work in the Charity Hospital; then to Port Gibson with a letter of introduction to the English family of Murdocks.

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XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses ---continued.

Dr. William Myles. ----------continued.

Here he met the beautiful widow, Mrs. William Wood (Amanda McCall of Kentucky) who was visiting at the home of Judge Baldwin.

They were married in 1846 and made their home at Cove Brook, a plantation in Copiah County on the border of Claiborne. He practiced in the two counties and lived the life of a country doctor of those days.

The plantation, with a few slaves brought more revenue than his practice, for the people were poor, and the rich plantations few and far between.

Then in the 60's war came and took its toll. Horses and cattle and provisions were given to companies of Confederate soldiers who camped near by, or passed that way, and nothing much was left. Stories are remembered of the family's flight to the woods when the doctor was away, and they heard the dreaded news "The Yankees are coming."

Then the lean years, and growing children to be educated, governess and tutors must be had but the Doctor managed somehow.

In later years daughters must be sent to boarding school, Belle to New Orleans, and later, Mallie, to Columbia, Tennessee and the boys to the new University of the South

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses -----continued.

Dr. William Myles. ----------continued.

at Sewance. One son, Rober C. was to carry on the family tradition in medicine, and the Doctor lived to see in his distinguished career in London and New York his own early ambition realized. The other sons Frederick F. and Beverly B. became outstanding figures in the business and social world of New Orbeans.

In 1880 he moved with his wife and daughter, Mallie, to Port Gibson to be near "Belle and the children" (Mrs. James Wells Person).

The sturdy figure on horseback became as familiar and beloved as on the country roads, and old patients still called him.

He made only one visit to Ireland. After his wife's death in 1887 and his son Robert was living in London, he went over, but the changes were too much for the Doctor, and he did not wish to go again. Few old friends were left. His aunt's drawing room in Edinburgh, where as a boy he remembered the happy afternoon tea hour, was vacant, and Ireland, his beloved Ireland, was not the same. His home and work were in America.

The house at CoveBRook was a long low rambling cottage, with rooms opening on a gallery, and stood near the road among beech and pine trees. To the right of the house stood a garden that grandchildren thought must be like the Garden of Eden, for every flower bloomed there. Here Mrs. Myles spent her days,

Cliborne County
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HEALTH

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses ------continued.

Dr. William Myles. ----------continued.

spring and summer and autumn, and expressed her love of beauty in her flowers; and in winter her hands were busy with embroidery, the designs from flowers in her garden.

Back of the garden the abundant orchard, and vegetable garden, for the Doctor's table was famous for good things grown at home. To the left, the office, and at the back of the house a running brook that grandchildren remember with joy, and near by the spring, by a fern green bank, the water icy cold and dappled with light and shade of the trees over head. His home had always a welcome for friend s and passersby. It is said that an Irish tramp or an Irish pedler got a goodlier share and a heartier word than the others.

His bookcase held the English Classics. His favorite nbvelist was Sir Walter Scott, and his favorite poet, Thomas Moore.

The Doctor did his best for every man and woman and child in the sparsely settled country, year in and year out, in heat and cold, over dusty and boggy roads, and often at the risk of life, horse and rider often had to swim the swollen creeks and bayous to reach their destination; and there was no holiday for many years.

One horse could not do the work of this country doctor, Monk, the stable boy, was always ready, day or night with

HEALTH

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses ------continued.

Dr. William Myles. ----------continued.

a fresh horse for the Doctor. We know without the telling that when the rattle of his horse's hoofs was heard they knew it wad Dr. Myles, and wished him Godspeed. Behind his saddle was strapped the instruments and medicine the doctor might want, for he never knew what was before him. There were no specialists, so he had to do everything he could and quickly. He was doctor for every organ, surgeon, occulist and dentist, besides being chemist and druggist. We can well imagine the words that must often have been said in homes on those lonely roads by rich and poor, "Will he never come?" and at the sound of his horse's feet "God be praised".

A quiet dignified man, of robust and positive personality, strong an heavy set, hair and beard grey, honest blue eyes that looked you straight in the face, a face burned by constant exposure to the weather, a kindly face, and hands as delicate as a woman's.

The confidence of the two counties, Copiah and Claiborne was unbounded, and rested partly on long experience of the Doctor's resources, his friendliness, his strength of character, and partly we think on his hereditary service in the profession in his Scottish Musgrave line, and his Irish Myles line, doctors and surgeons in the British army and navy, holding honorary place.

His fees were pretty much what his patients could pay

Claiborne County
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HEALTH

XI. Biographies of old family physicians and nurses -------continued.

Dr. William Myles. ----------continued.

him, and he collected them once a year.

He was accustomed to deliver himself of his opinions on politics and religion with vigor--the politics of an Irish gentleman from Ulster, and a Southern gentleman of antebellum times. He made his diagnosis on sight, and stated the result with vigor, clearness, and with silent sympathy.

His pew in church was never vacant unless he had a patient's urgent call. The little country church, Epiphany, owed much to his staunch Churchmanship. He was one of the founders. The parish was later moved to Hermanville, and the little old organ that was so prized by the parishoners was moved too. It is still in use.

He died on a June evening in 1892 just as the sun went down, still in active service, and beloved by town and county.

It may be said of him as of all country doctors, who have given quiet heroic service, in their profession,

"Come ye blessed of my Father---I was sick and ye visited me."(1)

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1. Interview with Miss Harriette Person.

2nd copy

COMPILATION
Enid Richmond

Claiborne County

Chapter XXII

ORGANIZATIONS

It has been said, "in unity there is strength" which is a plausible reason for county and local organizations. Claiborne County is fortunate in being well fortified in this manner, having fraternal, patriotic, civic, cultural, social, and community organizations as well as auxiliaries. Such bodies create friendly relations and bring about activities that would otherwise lie dormant.

## Fraternal Clubs

a branch of the Masonic order,

WASHINGTON LODGE, chartered as Washington No. 17 by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee and registered as No. 3 by Mississippi, was chartered January 5, 1820, and located in Port Gibson.

The first officers were: Isreal Loring, Master, Claudius Gibson, S.W.; James Hughes, J.W.; George Fisher, sentinel and tyler; Aaron Faulk, treasurer; Thomas Cotten, secretary; Cornelius Haring, S.D.; Burnett M. Hines, J.W. (1)

There was a Masonic Lodge at Pattona as early as 1857, (2) and later this lodge moved to Hermanville. Other lodges were located at Rocky Springs, Grand Gulf, and Braddywine. This has been an outstanding organization in Claiborne County since its beginning in 1820.

Tradition says the first Mason that died in Mississippi, was buried in the cemetery at Grand Gulf.

(1) E.L. Faucette, Meridian, Miss.
(2) Southern Reveille May 9, 1857



The Franklin Lodge No.5 of the INDEPENDENT ORDER of ODD FELLOWS was chartered in Port Gibson in 1839. (1) Officers for that early date were not obtainable. Later there were other branches in the county.

In 1887 the lodge was in a flourishing condition, and continued to exist until some time in the 1900's. (2) The following were officers in 1887: "E. Kiefer, V.G.; S.Blomquist, N.G.; C.O. Watson, Secty.; R.C. Kelley, treasurer; F.H. Foote, R.S.-N.G.; C.D. Wharton, L.S.-N.G.; E.P.Briscoe, warden; Robert Watt, con.; T.W. Morris, S.S.; N.S. Walker, S.S.; J.B. Jordan, host; G.W. Wheeless, R.S.-V.G.; James A. Gage, L.S.-V.G." (3)

This is one of the great benevolent forces of the world, however there is no branch of this organization in the county at this time.

The KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF HONOR was organized in 1878.(4) In the Weekly Record of February 25, 1887, we find an account of a Lodge of Knights and Ladies of Honor at Brandywine, with the following officers: "J.D. Bridger, P.P.; S. Nesmith, P.; Mrs. S. E. Childs, V.P.; H.H.T. Segrest, secty. and F.C.; R.McBride, treasurer; Mrs. M.E. Reaves, chap.; C.P. Lee, guide; F.A. Childs, guardian; T.B. Butler, sentry; Dr. W.W. Legget, Med. F.X.; C.B. Nesmith, J.L. Segrest, William Winters, trustees. There were twenty seven members."

In 1891-1892, Mrs. O.A. Hastings of Port Gibson was grand secretary. (5) This organization has ceased to exist.

(1) Weekly Record, Feb.25, 1887
(2) J.T. Drake, Port Gibson, Miss.
(3) Weekly Record, Feb.25, 1887
(4) Ibid
(5) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol.II-59

On Monday night July 11, 1892 the WOODMAN OF THE WORLD was organized as the Port Gibson Camp No.5. Thirty nine charter members were enrolled. This organization ~~is~~ was a cooperative insurance order, similar to the Knights of Honor: The first officers were: "H.Marx, Consul Commander; C.A. French, Adviser Lieutenant; G. Hann, Clerk; B.H. Levy, banker; J.B. Cronin, escort; M. Kaufman, inside watchman; H.C. Cochran, Sentry; C.A. Gordon, A K. Jones, and L.R. Levy, managers." (1) There was an active camp at Hermanville for years, but is no longer functioning.

This organization is still active in Port Gibson, and the present officers are: S.H. Bagnell, Consul commander; Joseph Davenport, lieutenant; E.W. Davis, Clerk and Secretary; J.P. Watkins, banker; E.V. Rogillio, escort; George Ellis, watchman; J.L. Torrey, Sentry; auditors; Dr.L.A. Smith, chairman; B.H. Morehead and J.B. Moore. (2)

In the Southern Reveille of January 27, 1883, there is mention of the KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS LODGE with officers as follows: "R.F. Gordon, C.C.; William Cahn, V.C. E.J. Smith, P.E. Keifer, M. of E.C.; Doremus, M.of F. and K. of R. and S.; R.W. Magruder. P.C."
It is possible there was an earlier organization but no authentic records can be found.

In the Southern Reveille of February 3, 1883 the following announcement was made in regard to insurance: "Endowment Rank of K.P. Section No. 455 meets every 4th Monday. William Cahn, President, R.F. Gordon, S & T."
Mr. Samuel Bagnell. a member, says the name of the Port Gibson chapter was the Warwick Lodge. There was a branch of this organization at Hermanville of which no information has been available. These orders have ceased to exist in this county.

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, July 13, 1892
(2) E.W. Davis, Port Gibson, Miss.



No. 163

An EASTERN STAR chapter was organized in Hermanville in 1921, and continued active for a few years but gradually ceased to exist. Mrs. W.A. Fife was first worthy matron and Mrs. Louis Lehman, first secretary. Among the charter members were Robert Herrington, Mr. and Mrs. M.D. Foster Jr., Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Torrey, Mr. and Mrs. J.F. McCaleb, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lehman, Mr. and Mrs. T.R. Trim, Mrs. Jennie Sugg, and others. (1)

In April, 1921 the Port Gibson chapter of the Eastern Star, No. 170, was organized. This second chpater grew and flourished for a few years and ceased to exist in 1933. Among the charter members were Mrs. Edgar Shaifer, first worthy matron, Miss Ella Brown, secretary, Mr. and Mrs. David Clark, Miss Addie Clark, Mrs. Rose Bock, Mrs. Orah Jones, Mrs. F. M. Sprott, Miss Nettye Chesterman, Mrs. Wolcott Sr., Mrs. Emma Levy, Mrs. I. R. Meyer and others. (2)

The PORT GIBSON CAMP # 16123 of the MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA is a fraternal organization with an insurance feature. It was organized about 1912. This order is still active in Port Gibson. (3)
In the Port Gibson Reveille of January 27, 1916 there is an announcement of this organization with officers as follows: S.H. Bagnell, consul; D.W. Clark, clerk; S.E. Hawes, advisor; J.W. Webb, banker; Edgar Shaifer, escort; W.H. Hudson, watchman.

(1) Mrs. J. F. McCaleb, Hermanville, Miss.
(2) Mrs. Edgar Shaifer, Port Gibson, Miss.
(3) S.H. Bagnell, Port Gibson, Miss.

## Social and Cultural Clubs

The BOOK CLUB was organized in October, 1901, meeting from October to June. The first officers were Miss Belle Person (Mrs. Plantz), chairman, Miss Linda Watson (Mrs. A.J. Montgomery), secretary; and Miss Harriette Person, treasurer. Miss Belle Person served as chaiman and maker of programs for the first three years. Since that time, with the exception of one year, the chairmanship and making of programs has been under the direction of Miss Harriette Person. The club is limited to sixteen members, elected for certain qualifications.

The programs are distinguished by their breadth of interest and competence of presentation. The meetings during the Club year have made an impress on the cultural life of the community. Many distinguished guest speakers have been invited to speak or review books on the program.

In the early years of the club work, the great books of literature were studied, the great epics, dramas, prose, and our own American heritage. Since the World War, the programs have been built on newer books, evaluation of lives and times, and the underlying forces at work in our changing world, the new biography, and the new fiction, the new history, our modern singing strength, and what our physicists are finding about the universe.

The following have been accomplishments of the clubs work: Light and leading, new companions, new glory, new faith, new strength, new understandings of life as we look into the mirror of art and read the new chronicles of events, and catch the main currents of literature in the new criticism.



New life has been brought into the club by younger members; only four of the charter members are now active in the club. One of these has always said "The Book Club has been my University"; and another "To transmute knowledge into love, that is culture." (1)

~~The UNITED DAUGHTERS OF CONFEDERACY was organized in 1907. The present officers are Mrs. L. B. Allen, president, Mrs. L. C. Disharoon, secretary and treasurer. Thirty four members make up the organization. Mrs. Joseph T. Drake, who proceeded Mrs. Allen as president, has for many years been a force in the club.~~

~~This club sponsors Memerial Day, erected the Confederate monument, and have recently erected a stand in the cemetery as a memorial to the soldiers. (2)~~

In November, 1911 the Civic League was organized for social service and Civic welfare. The meeting was called at the home of Mrs. R.W. Magruder and eighty members enrolled. Miss Mary Person (Mrs. Joseph T. Drake) was elected president and served for two consecutive years.

The County Fair, county health, clean streets, and the preservation of trees in town and on roadsides were the outstanding objectives.

Miss Ottilie Redus was elected the second president. Gradually, the club membership dwindled to those who were vitally interested in public welfare and were willing to give time and thought to the work.

In 1917, on the eve of war, Miss Harriette Person was elected president, with the understanding that the club adjourn until after the war, and the members give all their time to Red Cross work, and on reassembling that the club join the State and General Federations of Women's Clubs.

In October 1919 a meeting was called by the officers of the Civic

(1) Miss Harriette Person, Port Gibson, Miss.
~~(2) Mrs. G.L. Disharoon, Port Gibson, Miss~~

League at the residence of Mrs. Samuel Weil, the stated purpose to reorganize on the State and General Federation lines. The name was changed to the WOMAN'S CLUB. Mrs. Carrie W. Ramsey was elected president. She was the newely elected principal of the high school, and was then serving as chairman of the sixth district (our district) in the State Federation. She served one term and was followed by able officers.

New interest was instilled into the work by fellowship with the women of the state. Committees were appointed to carry on the State and General Federation departments, and the work is still carried on by women whose interest in community service has has never lagged.

Three loving cups Have been presented by this club, one to Miss Ottilie Redus for civic service in 1914, one to Miss Harriette Person for public spirit and public service, and for establishing the county library in 1915, one to Mrs. Mary Person Drake for public spirit and public welfare through the years. Mrs. Drake is now servig as president of this club.

Outstanding accomplishments of the club are: planting trees on the streets and roadsides; beautification and protection, annual flower exchange and garden teas, conservation of natural resources, annual book week celebrations, programs for children, luncheons and teas for adults, proceeds to public library for children's books, annual Loan Scholarship fund, $200.00, annual opera radio luncheon, (proceeds to scholarship fund), library extension to rural communities, public health work, crippled children particularly, annual spring art exhibit of painting and prints (the sixteenth in 1937), sponsoring federal projects, library project, art class, adult education, historical research projects. (1)

(1) Miss Harriette Person, Port Gibson, Miss

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The HOWARD ASSOCIATION, a branch of the international association, named for Mr. Howard, a British philanthropist, was organized during the yellow fever edidemic of 1878. James A. Gage was president, and W.B. Fulkerson was secretary.

The purpose of this organization was similar to that of the Red Cross of today. The most outstanding accomplishments were during the epidemic of 1878, when it provided doctors, nurses, medicines and other necessities for those stricken with this terrible malady.

This association has had a continuous existence since that day, but it is not active except in extreme cases. They do not have regular meetings, but occasionally the members meet and discuss donations. They have, today, a fund of seven hundred dollars in the Mississippi Southern Bank of Port Gibson.

Of the many associations at that time, this is the only one that exists today. (1)

There was a colored Howard Association among the Negroes, with Thomas Richardson as president. (2)

(1) H.H. Crisler, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Southern Reveille, Nov.9, 1878

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As early as 1882, the citizens of Claiborne County were interested in the preservation of historical records. In the Southern Reveille of November 11, 1882, we find an account of a branch of the Southern Historical Society being organized, and called the CLAIBORNE COUNTY AUXILIARY BRANCH. Rev. Nowell Logan was president, A.K. Jones, secretary, E. J. Smith, treasurer.

The RED CROSS (See chap.VII Wars) was declared a duly organized concern in Claiborne County, June 26,1917. (1)

As early as 1848, the people of Claiborne County were vitally interested in Library and Literary Associations, as we see from the Port Gibson Herald of March 17, 1848. "It gives us pleasure to announce that the Mississippi Library and Literary Association will soon be revived under most favorable auspicies after an interval of some fifteen years, during which many of the valuable books belonging to it have been lost, and the rest have been inactive upon the shelves. The old library now contains about five hundred volumes and the number will doubtless be increased."

The Claiborne County Library was organized in January,1915 (See chap. 15 The Arts) and occupies the second ~~xxix~~ floor of the Irwin Russell Memorial building. The Board of Supervisors give a certain sum each year to the support of the library. Often donatons are made by friends. There are 6,187 volumes in the library. The name was changed to the HARRIETTE PERSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY in November, 1937, at the first meeting of the association after Miss Harriette Person's death.

On November 15, 1938, an oil portrait of Miss Harriette Person

(1) J.W. Persom, Port Gibson, Miss.



was placed in the library and unveiled in her memory, with the following inscription on the plate: "To the founder and for many years the custodian of this library, a grateful community dedicates this portrait as a memorial of the high worth and unselfish service of Harriette A. Person, who departed this life October 18, 1937." (1)

There are four W.PA. Library's throughout the county, with three hundred and ninety three volumes of their own.

It was during a revival, conducted by Mr. Inge, an evangilist, that the IN AS MUCH CIRCLE of the KING'S DAUGHTERS was organized December 19, 1891. There were twenty seven members meeting weekly at first. The following were the first officers: Miss Genie Morrispresident, Miss Louise Person, vice-president, Miss Rosa Foote, recording secretary, Miss Harriette Person, corresponding secretary, Miss Katie Drake, treasurer. In 1893, married women and men were invited to join this circle.

This is a charitable organization and the motto is: "Our work shall be whatsoever our hands finds to do." The purpose of this organization is to develope spiritual life and stimulate Christian activities. In order to provide funds, food sales, luncheons, etc., are held. The president now serves a term of two years, however some of the earlier ones served much longer. The late Mrs. L. A. Smith was president from April 16, 1923 until 1933. Mrs.Smith was a faithful and untiring worker and the Junior Circle, organized a few years ago , was named in her honor, LEILA SMITH CIRCLE.

The In As Much Circle meets each month and the present officers are, Mrs. Oren Segrest, leader, Mrs. G. L. Disharoon, vice-leader, Mrs. Kate Magruder, secretary, Mrs. Edgar Shaifer, treasurer. There are fifty members at present. (2)

(1) Miss Frances Person, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Mrs. Edgar Shaifer, Port Gibson, Miss.

The following article, in regard to the organization of the Parent Teacher Association, is taken from the Port Gibson Reveille of November 18, 1915.

"On Friday 12th inst. a body of teachers and mothers met at the Public School for the purpose of effecting the organization of the PARENT'S TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION , the object of which to promote closer cooperation between the teachers and mothers of the community. Permanent organization was effected by the election of Mrs. A.B. Sanders, president; Mrs. L. B. Allen, vice president; Mrs. W.E. Daugherty, secretary. The office of treasurer was felt to be filled at a later meeting.

The importance of close and harmonious relations between parents and teachers cannot be overestimated, and it is to be hoped every mother of the community will see the desirability of the movement and will join in promoting its success."**********

Since that time this organization has been very active in Port Gibson. The present officers are: Mrs. Thomas Freeland, president, Mrs. J. W. Heath, vice president, Mrs. J. E. McKewen, secretary, Mrs. Oren Segrest, treasurer.

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## Civic Clubs

The Port Gibson LION'S CLUB was organized in September, 1928, with thirty-two business men as members, ~~and with~~ Mr. H.D. Cudabac, Field Director of the Lion's International, was present to assist. (1) The club languished and died after a short existence. (2)

In November, 1933, Mr. J.L. Clarkson of Chicago, representing the Lion's International, visited Port Gibson in an endeavor to reorganize the local club. This was done, and the following officers were elected; H.D. Brownlee, president; Karl Weil, first vice-president; J.S. Brown, second vice-president, J.D. Schooler, third vice-president; E.T. Crisler, secretary; I.R. Meyer, treasurer; J.H. Bare, tailtwister; H.H. Crisler, H.R. Guthrie, J.W. Person, and Dr. W.N. Jenkins directors. (3) John H. Bare and George Abraham have successfully served one term each as president. Dr. W.N. Jenkins is now president of the club. (4)

The club has been outstanding for its civic activities since reorganization. Its most noteworthy accomplishments have been for agricultural industry, when it was instrumental in securing, for the county, one of the government Soil Conservation Demonstrations for the Baker's Creek Watershed, lying in Claiborne and Jefferson Counties, an area consisting approximately of 26,000 acres. (5) This demonstration has now been going on for over two years and much work has been done in contouring, gully control, pasture clearing, seeding and tree planting, keeping in mind, always, that the farmer has first to make a living. (6)

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(1) Port Gibson Reveille, Jan. 24, 1929
(2) Carl Bloomquist, Port Gibson, Miss.
(3) Port Gibson Reveille, Nov.9,1933
(4) I.R.Meyer, Port Gibson, Miss.
(5) W.T. McKell, Port Gibson, Miss.
(6) Ira Carpenter, Port Gibson, Miss.

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Another outstanding accomplishment for the agricultural industry, by the Lion's Club, has been the encouragement and aid in securing for the county the Southwest Mississippi Fat Stock Show, an annual event, inaugurated in 1936. This has attracted widespread attention to this section. (1)

The Lion's Club has been very active in sponsoring other movements, among them, Irwin Russell Bridge, street improvements, Boy's Scouts, Christmas trees for the poor, school lunches for underprivileged children, and the Historical Research Contest. This club is also sponsoring an advertising campaign for this section, with the purpose of establishing a unit of the Natchez Trace through this county.

At present there are twenty-eight members. (2)

Among the earliest farmer's organizations was the GRANGE. The improvement in science and art of agriculture was the purpose of this organization. The life of this organization was short.

"Mrs. Helen A. Abby of Claiborne County served as secretary of the Grange in 1880." (3) These movements led to the establishment of Agricultural schools.

(1) Port Gibson Reveille, March 18,1937
(2) I.R. Meyer, Port Gibson, Miss.
(3) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol.11-p 114



## Patriotic Clubs

The American Legion Post No. 54 was organized in 1919 by S.H. Bagnell, who remained commander of the post for several years. The post was first named the N.J. Owen Post in memory of N. Jeffries Owen, who lost his life in the World War. In recent years, since the death of Major R.L. Montgomery, the name of the post has been changed to the OWEN-MONTGOMERY POST NO. 54.

At present, the post has fifty members, with the following officers: Sylvester Montgomery, son of Major R.L. Montgomery, Commander; W.H. Bedford, Adjutant, and William Arenz, Vice-Commander. The post is now planning to purchase a location for a club room.

This post cooperates with state and national American Legion activities and contributes to various charitable causes.

The UNITED DAUGHTERS OF CONFEDERACY was organized in 1907. The present officers are: Mrs. L. B. Allen, president, Mrs. G. L. Disharoon, secretary and treasurer. Thirty-four members make up the organization. Mrs. Joseph T. Drake, who preceeded Mrs. Allen as president, has for many years been a force in the club.

This club sponsors Memorial Day, erected the Confederate monument, and has recently erected a stand in the cemetery as a memorial to the soldiers. (1) The Frank H. Foote chapter was located at Hermanville. (2) THE PATHFINDER CHAPTER of the DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION was organized in 1913. At that time, there were thirty members.

Mrs. Lawrence Pearson was for many years a prominent member of this organization, being president several times, both Miss Harriette

(1) Mrs. G. L. Disharoon, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Port Gibson Reveille Jan. 28, 1915

Person and Mrs. Roberta Gage served as president of this organization. The last regent was Mrs. Emma Allen Morehead with Mrs. Helen Jenkins as vice-regent, Mrs. Mary Daniel Bagnell, treasurer, and Mrs. Fannie Magruder Eaton, rehistrar. Some members have dropped out and some have passed away.
Regular meetings are not held. Occasionally there is a get together of officers. At the present time there are only sixteen members. (1)

The UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS CAMP # 167, a patriotic order, was organized a number of years after the War between the States, and held regular meetings here until 1934, when the last meteran passed away.

(1) Miss Harriette Person, Port Gibson, Miss.

## Miscellaneous Organizations

The following is a list of organizations of which little information can be found:

The TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION was organized January 2, 1843. Richard Parkinson, president, and Edwin Junius Foster, secretary. There were one hunderd and eleven members. (1)

In the Southern Reveille of March 17, 1877 there is an announcement of the REPHEDIAN LODGE NO. 230- I.O.B.B. When this lodge was organized and when it disbanded is not known.

The PORT GIBSON DIVISION NO.3 SONS OF TEMPERANCE was established May 10, 1847, under the jurisdiction of the National division at Philadelphia. (2)

The following is quoted from the Port Gibson Correspondent and Mississippi General Advertiser of March 3, 1832.

"CLAIBORNE COUNTY COLONIZATION SOCIETY

A geheral meeting of this society will be held at the Court House in Port Gibson on Saturday the 10th inst. at 11 o'clock. The members and friends of the cause are invited to attend. P. Hoopes. president Brooks Hill, secretary."

The Southern Reveille of February 24, 1883 has the following announcement: "COEUR DE LION COMMANDRY NO.13- K.T."

Captain N.S. Walker was a charter member of the Coeur de Lion Commandry No.13. In 1888, he was grand commander of the grand commandry of the state of Mississippi. (3)

(1) Port Gibson Herald, Jan.5, 1843
(2) Port Gibson Herald, May 14, 1847
(3) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi.Vol.II-p-971

## Club Leaders

MISS HARRIETTE AMANDA PERSON (See chap.15 The Arts) was born June 20, 1868 in Port Gibson, where she spent the greater part of her life.(1) She was one of the organizers of the Women's Club, Book Club, and also Library. Miss Person was one of the most active members in the civic and cultural organizations, having effeciently served as president of both clubs and custodian of the library. She was a faithful and lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church. (2)

Miss Person was a woman of scholarly attainments, who dedicated her powers and talents to the service of others, and her labors have been productive of great good. Her pronounced ability, her undoubted sincerity, and her marked public spirit have established her high in the regard of her fellowmen. Her death on October 18, 1937, was a severe loss to the entire community.

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(1) Miss Frances Person, Port Gibson, Miss.
(2) Port Gibson Reveille, Oct.21, 1937

2nd copy

COMPILATION

Enid Richmond

Claiborne County

Chapter XXIII

CIVIC LEADERS

(Not mentioned elsewhere)

Since the organization of Claiborne County, it has had, and still has many men who are vitally interested in both civic and political affairs of their county. Many of these are mentioned in other chapters where they figured more prominently. Possibly some of these have not been mentioned, however, it is impossible to name each and every public spirited person who has been active in the development of his county.

Along with these prominent men, a number of women have been actively engaged in civic welfare. Many of whom have been mentioned elsewhere in this history.

Captain NELSON S. WALKER was born in New York, August 21, 1835. He received his early educational training in the common schools of New York, after which, he entered the West Winfield Academy of Herkimer County. He came to Claiborne County, Mississippi at an early age, and engaged in the merchantile business, until the opening of the War between the States. Enlisting as a private, he was promoted through the various stages and made captain after the battle of Manassas. He was in thirty two engagements during the war, and surrendered with Lee at Appomattox court house.

Returning home, Mr. Walker xxx once more commenced as a salesman, but was soon after elected to the position as treasurer of Claiborne County and held that position until Governor xxxxxxx/Ames compelled him to evacuate. In 1875, he was chosen clerk of the circuit court; upon the death of J.P. Briscoe, the chancery clerk, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term, making him the incumbent of two important offices at one time; in 1878, he was appointed by Governor Stone to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the sheriff.

During the Negro insurrection of 1875, Mr. Walker displayed much coolness and courage in quelling the turbulent spirits of Negroes and whites. Captain Walker was a public spirited man, and an honored, useful, and influential citizen.

He was married November 26, 1867, to Miss Frances Kennard; (1) he died in 1895.

CHARLES E. BUCK was a native of Claiborne County, born April 4,1836.

"The early training of Charles E. Buck was received in the old field

(1) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vol.11-971

Schools, from which he entered the once famous Oakland College of Mississippi in which he graduated in the classical course. He next entered Princeton College, New Jersey, and in the year 1856 graduated with honors."

After his graduation from this institution, he entered the University of Virginia, as a medical student. He was a close and faithful student at all times.

After leaving college, he was compelled to abandon his practice and devote his attention to his landed interests.

At the opening of the War between the States Dr. Buck was a volunteer in the first regiment from Claiborne County. After two years in Virginia, he was elected captain of his company. He went through the entire service without receiving a wound or being captured. Returning home, he commenced to rebuild his fortunes. He adhered to principals of the Democratic party, and was elected sheriff in 1876. "His reputation as a pure and intelligent official was the very best, and and he became beloved and popular for his many worthy traits, and for his simplicity and gentleness in manner"

He died November 29, 1878 while performing his duty as sheriff. (1)

(1) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Voll. pp-452-453

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"HORATIO N. SPENCER was born in the town of [illegible], Connecticut, November 22, 1798, and came to this place in 1827. He was a graduate of high rank of Yale College, and after studying his profession entered upon the practice of law in this place and continued, with satisfactory success, until enabled to retire from his profession to his country ~~EMMK~~ seat near town, engaging largely in the pursuits of the planter. His intellectual endowments, his never tiring energy, his great systematic business capacity, and his moral and methodical life made him conspicuous as one of the most useful of men.

"Mr. Spencer was an elder in the Presbyterian Church nearly forty years and almost a life long member. To him, perhaps more than any other man, except the late lamented pastor of the church, Rev. Zebulon Butler, are our people indebted for one of the largest and most useful churches of that denomination in the State, and whilst others contributed liberally, it was mainly through his great energy that we are indebted for the splendid church edifice which graces and adorns our town, a building which cost nearly $40,000. For many years, Mr. Spencer was president of the Bank of Port Gibson and in 1851 when the present railroad which to-day is the basis and foundation of our commercial prosperity, was projected, he came forward without any other interest than that of zeal for the town, for his wealth lay in other sections, and led off with a subscription of $8,000 in stock, being, as was then thought one tenth of the amount needed. The second year after the completion of the road, he was made president of the company, and retained the position until the war left the porperty in ruins."

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"When the war began, he was a man of large wealth, it was swept away, but left him cheerful and trusting, as though he deemed the calamity a blessing in disguise. He died in 1876, after a brief illness." **********(1)

JAMES CRAFTON SPENCER was born September 13, 1844. He received his early education from tutors and was in his first year at Oakland College when the War between the States was declared. He was only sixteen years old when he entered service and served four years in Cowan's Battery, Army of Tennessee. He was prisoner on Johnson's Island during the last six months of the war.

Mr. Spencer served two years in congress under Cleveland's Administration in 1894-1896. He was the father of the bill creating the state revenue agent and was largely instrumental in establishing the office of state insurance commissioner.

He was a life long member of the Presbyterian Church and for sixty years an elder. Mr. Spencer was an active civic leader and a loyal citizen, always interested in the affairs of the community. He was local agent for the Lamar Life Insurance Company at the time of his death, February 22, 1926. (2)

THOMAS Y. RICHMOND was born in Claiborne County, March 17, 1848. His parents were Jasper Warren and Eilza Richmond, the former a native of Ohio. He received his early educational training under tutors. When the War between the States began, he was a mere boy, anxious even then th enter the service, his elder brother, Warren, having joined the army soon after hostilities began. He remained at home for

(1) Southern Reveille, Appil 22, 1876
(2) Port Gibson Reveill; Feb.25, 1926.

a while, however, he enlisted in the Confederate services when but fifteen years of age and served during the last two years of the conflict. He played an important part during the days of Reconstruction, and was a prominent figure in the local affairs of the county many years, having been a member and president of the Board of Supervisors for seventeen years; and was serving as county treasurer at the time of his death, August 20, 1899. As a citizen, he was of material benefit to the county in which he lived, as an officer he was cool in judgement and excellent in execution. He had a host of warm friends whose confidence and esteem spoke volumes for his many admirable qualities.

JAMES M. TAYLOR - acting president of the Mississippi Southern Bank of Port Gibson, (See chap. 17 Industry) has for a period of over fifty years or more been one of Claiborne Countys outstanding citizens.

He was born in Scott County in 1869. His family moved to Grand Gulf when he was one year old, his father having bought a small farm near there. He attended the four month session schools which were common to that day. Being unusually bright, energetic and trustworthy, he assumed the resppnsibility of a man at the eary age of thirteen years. His father was neither wealthy or physically strong, and "Jim", as his devoted mother called him, soon became the power behind the throne. He was ambitious, studied hard and at the age of seventeen taught his first school there in Grand Gulf. He completed his education at Chamberlain Hunt Academy, Valparaso, Indiana and Gladsgow, Kentucky. Many years of his early life was spent in educational work (See chap. 14 Education). For a number of years he was principal of the Port Gibson Public School, had supervision of institutes, both white and colored, in the county, never once ceasing to carry on his farming interests.



Mr. Taylor represented his county in the legislature at one time and filled the place most satisfactorily.

At the age of thirty he married Miss Betty Berry, daughter of T.Y. Berry, and to this union was born one daughter, Bessie Berry Taylor.

For the past twenty-five years, he has given untiring efforts to the county in encouraging and persuading farmers to wake up to the value of rotation of crops; planting of vetch in winter, and principally the possibilities of profit in stock raising. For himself, he has accumulated considerable wealth and always provided his family with every luxury. He has been instrumental in the shaping of many a man's destiny, often with wise counsil and as often with financial assistance. Although in failing health and constantly under the care of a physician he is seldom absent from his office at the bank. (1)

Claiborne County has long contributed men and women to practically all of the professions, many of whom excelled in his or her special line of endeavor. Within the past half century it has given three of its sons to the world of finance--two to New York and the other to Texas. We refer to S.R. BERTRON, SIDNEY BERNHEIMER of New York, (See chap.17 Industry) and S.R.BERTRON JR., of Houston, Texas, a nephew of the first named.

"Mr.Bertron made his fortune from an humble beginning. Leaving Yale almost penniless, he soon became a financial power in Wall Street. Though he suffered many losses during the recent war--having investments in foreign countries--his large fortunes remain as a monument to his ability and perseverance. Mr. Bertron has been very close to some of the presidents of the country, and has been a power for the good of the nation. He has never forgotten the little town in which he received his early training, and many gifts have demonstrated this

(1) Mrs. Cornelia Brashear, Port Gibson, Miss.

interest. He died in the spring of 1938.

"S.R. Bertron, Jr. is at the head of the Houston Light and Traction Company, besides having many other interests. Like his uncle, he is a born financier, having made his own way in the business world; and in time he, too, promises to become a power of finance.

"Sindey Bernheimer had a much more propitious beginning, falling heir to a part of the estate of his father who was a prosperous Port Gibson merchant. However, he has demonstrated, as a New York merchant, his ability as a great financier.

"Both Mr. Bernheimer and Mr. Bertron,Jr., are as vitally interested in the "old home town" as those who still reside here." (1)

February 20,1846,
JOHN B. MCMURCHY was born/in Jefferson County, coming when a mere boy to Claiborne where he spent the greater part of his life.
He served Claiborne in various ways. First he was a justice of peace of the fourth district, represented his district on the Board of Supervisors, and later was elected sheriff.

Mr. McMurchy was a Confederate soldier, an officer in the Methodist Church and a good citizen. He died April 21, 1923. (2)

(1) Port Gibson,Reveille,Aug.19, 1926
(2) C. W. McMurchy, Hermanville, Miss.



MR. FRED S. WOLCOTT was born in Onondago, Michigan in 1882. Twenty years ago, he and his family came to this county. He purchased Glensade, a beautiful ante-bellum home, where he lived until the spring of 1936, when it was destroyed by fire. After locating here, Mr. Wolcott immediately identified himself with the people of the county.
He is a zealous worker, and a large share of his attention is given to civic activities. At one time he was an energetic member of the Lion's Club. Mr. Wolcott measures up to the full statue of American manhood and citizenship. His influence upon the life of his community has been of the highest order.

Among civic leaders of today, may be mentioned S.H. BAGNELL and B.H. MOREHEAD, both of whom have served efficiently as county officials during the past three score years. These men, along with other civic leaders, have always had the interest of the people, town, and county at heart, and have played a conspicuous part in the recent development of the county.

State-wide Historical Research Project Canvassers;

County History Miss Mary Manson

Assignment Thirteen Mrs. S. T. Hamilton

SUBJECT: INTERVIEWS

Interview with Mr. J. J. Kelley on the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878.

One of the worst things that could happen to Port Gibson as well as Claiborne County right after the Reconstruction was the "Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878". It was not known that the mosquito carried the disease. Mr. J. J. Kelly who was inthis epidemic told me the following:

"On the morning of August 8, a man by the name of Augusto Simonson, an employee of the Grand Gulf and Port Gibson Rail Road died. For several days before his death he had been quite sick with high fever. He was sent to his boarding house, the Louder Hotel, located where the Port Gibson Bank now is. One doctor said he had bilious fever, another said intermittent fever but one of the same doctors saw him the day before he died and said he had a genuine case of yellow fever. Then the stampede started. Everybody that could get a horse, a carriage, a cart or any other conveyance, and many on foot, left town.

I was working in a store for Mr. Crane who told me to put down everything and find a way to get to the country to hunt a place for both families. I went out and found a negro with a horse. I tried to get him to lend him to me but he said he couldn't. I took the horse, anyway, and rode off.

About three miles from town Mrs. Mackey, a friend of my mother, lived in a two-story house at Elwood Springs. I told her what had happened and what I was looking for. She said, 'Go home and bring both families out here. There is plenty of room!' So I went back and they were all packed up to leave.



Assignment Thirteen.

Interview with Mr. Kelley on the Yellow Fever Epidemic--------(continued)

I had to get two wagons to move us out. By sun down we reached the home of Mr. Broughton, and there spent the night. Early next morning we left for Mrs. Mackey's. Although there were several in her family she could always find room for others.

Everybody in the house, even the negroes, had the fever except me. There were no nurses so I had to wait on the sick. I waited on everybody I could get the wood and hauled the water from the spring, went to town, as far as the quarantine station, for every thing they needed and did not take the fever. My brother, the eldest, had a bad case of the fever and had what we called 'Black vomit'. I didn't know what to do for him so I gave him a lot of ice water with plenty of lemon in it. Then I started for the doctor but the vomit had stopped before we returned. When I told the doctor what I had done he said, 'Well, Johnnie, I'm afraid you've killed your brother'. When we reached home my brother was much better. He soon recovered from the fever.

Another man had the fever, so I went down and heated a bottle of whiskey to rub him with. I found I had forgotten the sponge. So I went down to get it and when I returned I found the whiskey was gone. The man had drank it up. 'Well' I said, 'you will surely be dead in a little while'. But he said, 'No, I'll be able to help you soon'. And so he did.

The cook had the fever and she had a little negro girl that had the fever, too. A tub of water had been put in the room for some cause, and when I came in the little negro was in the tub of water. I said, 'What are you doing in that water, don't you know it will kill you?' She said, 'Yas, suh Boss. I'se jest been washing off the yallow fever.' Her mother died but

Interview with Mr. Kelley on the Yellow Fever Epidemic---------(continued)

she got well.

There were not enough doctors or well people in town to wait on the sick and dying. Sometimes it took several days to get the dead buried as so many died each day. Over four hundred died of the fever in town. When the fever first started Howard Associations were formed to provide food, medicine, and even coffins to bury the dead. Mr. James A. Gage was elected president and Mr. W. B. Fulkerson was elected secretary and treasurer. The negroes elected Thomas Richardson (colored) for president of their association."

"It would be impossible to describe the pestilence when in the height of its fury. From the 8th of August to the 31st fifty de.the occurred, and during that month and September utter silence reigned in our streets-every home was a hospital- the dying and the dead were all around- corpses, just as the victims died, wrapped in sheets and blankets and hurriedly encoffined, were stealthily lifted out of doors, and sometimes out of windows, and buried in haste at sunrise- after dark, by dim lanterns, and frequently lay all night long in the graveyard unburied. The colored people with few exceptions were down with the fever and it proved unusually fatal to them. Very many of them were found doing their duty and some of them were among the successful nurses."(1)

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1. The above was copied from the pamphlet, History of Port Gibson, Miss. by Rev. H. C. Hawkins. It is an excerpt from the first newspaper printed after the suspension of the paper during the yellow fever epidemic of 1878

Assignment Thirteen.

In an interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke, a former school teachor, she gave me the following sketch of "The Natchez Trace" which she had written.

Early History Of The Natchez Trace Through Claiborne County, Mississippi, by Mrs. W. A. Clarke, Carlisle, Mississippi.

"In those exciting and thrilling days of immigration and adventure, when our ancestors from the Atlantic sea board emigrated to the Natchez country, the Indian trail leading from Natchez to Nashville was little more than a mere bridle path, over which the Indians and traders of early days traveled. This trail was in use during the English and Spanish rule in what is now Mississippi.

It extends in a south westward course through Claiborne County, passing Rocky Springs, Grind Stone Ford and the cultured and historic town of Port Gibson, located on the south bank of Little Bayou Pierre. From here the road passes southward into Jefferson County.

Along this trail one sees the evidence of the Indian's wise ideas to follow ridges, and thus avoid valleys and ravines. In the course of time in many places this road has worn down by both erosion and usage to deep embankments on each side of the road bed.

This old Natchez Trace means so much to us of today, because it was in use prior to any other road in this section. Along its crooks and turns, through the fertile valleys and over the cane hills of Claiborne County were dotted here and there, the old primitive homes first constructed of logs. At a later day rose the famous palatial mansions typical of the South. These homes were noted for their elegance and true hospitality whih was unsurpassed in any section of the country.

Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".------(continued)

In the north eastern corner of Claiborne County is a little stream whose waters flow into Big Black River. The old Trail crosses this creek. It was here that Gov. Wm. Charles Cole Claiborne sent three commissioners to confer with the Choctaw Indians to permit the white settlers to occupy the land east of this creek. A satisfactory agreement was made, and the Indians were paid for their hunting grounds. Since that time the stream has been known as "Commissioners Creek".

When the survey was made the next creek east on the Natchez trail was named Five Mile, while the next stream was called Fourteen Mile Creek. The distance was, in each instance, measured from Commissioners Creek as a starting point.

In 1801 General Wilkinson made a treaty at Fort Adams with the Choctaws to open the Trail as a post road to unite with the road through the Chickasaw lands. General Wilkinson asked that white families be allowed to establish taverns and inns along the Natchez Trace. This, the Indians were clever enough to refuse; as they preferred to keep this privilege for themselves.

From Claiborne's History it is stated that many of the half-caste Indians moved to the Trace and rapidly increased in opulence as they collected money from their patrons.

Although the Choctaws usurped this privilege, there were four taverns in Claiborne County open to travelers, and these were owned by white settlers. One was located at Commissioners Creek and owned by Eleazer Haring, a pioneer settler, who came to Mississippi Territory from Pennsyl vania. The home of Eleazer Haring served as a public inn also. It was known as "The



Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".------(continued)

Old Line House". An earlier name given this place was "Gregg's Stand".

The next Tavern was located at Rocky Springs and was owned by Issac Powers. This house was constructed of logs and the exterior was painted dark red; thus, acquiring the name "The Red House". The owner became quite wealthy, and was a large slave holder and planter in those days.

It was at "The Red House" that General Jackson is said to have stopped on his return from New Orleans to Nashville, Tenn. in 1815. The Powers family has long preserved the bed upon which General Jackson slept. This tavern on the Natchez Trace sheltered the aristocrat, as well as those of little means; the just and the unjust. Into its portals frequently wayside travelers, worn and weary, would enter. Of course, they were unknown to their host. These mysterious persons were none other than the notorious Samuel and John Mason and Wiley Harp, traveling always under assumed names. The famous bandits robbed all who carried money over the Natchez Trail, and committed many atrocious crimes in their day.

Isaac Powers and his family are sleeping in the old cemetery over looking this famous old road at Rocky Springs. His descendants today may be found scattered over Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana. The Red House was burned in 1926 after having stood the test of time since 1798.

The little village of Rocky Springs which was founded about 1796 is replete with historical lore. Here was built the first Methodist Church in Claiborne County outside of the town of Port Gibson. This old sanctuary, at whose altar our forefathers worshiped so devoutly, is in a perfect state of preservation today and services have continued without any break since 1837. The building is of brick baked in a nearby kiln. The contractor

Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".-------(continued)

engaged to build this church was from the North. His name was GeorgeW. Reynolds and during his employment at Rocky Springs he made the home of Henry Powers his headquarters. He also built an imposing residence near the church for the minister, the Rev. Thomas Owens. The timber and all parts for this house were shipped by boats to Grand Gulf, Mississippi from Pittsburg, Pa. and hauled to Rocky Springs. This old home of other days is no more, and Rev. Thomas Owens and his sainted wife, Rebecca, who both contributed so much spiritually and financially to this church have long since joined the Immortal throng; while the stately oaks and evergreens stand as sentinels over their tombs on the old Natchez Trace they loved so much.

This journey of today is not complete. One must pause to relate other bits of lore as they are recalled.

On the Trace two miles south of Rocky Springs is located the house site and burying ground of Walter Leake, who was governor of Mississippi 1830-1832. In 1815 Gov. Leake owned a large plantation three miles north of Rocky Springs on Big Black River. This place was known as "Spring Plains". The old Leake home on the Trace has long since been destroyed. But the tomb over the graves of the two Leake children was long a land mark of interest to those who traveled this road. The marble slabs amy be seen there now, but some one removed the brick from the vault more than thirty years ago. How sad, to desecrate the graves of the dead.

Educational institutions were in keeping with other progress along old Natchez Trace. There once stood a flourishing college at the cross roads hamlet near Commissioners Creek. This place of learning was the Southern Fe-



Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".------(continued)

male College. It was established and financed by the opulent planters of the surrounding counties. The Civil War was forced the trustees to close the college for lack of funds, and at the end of the war one of the stockholders purchased the building as a residence for his family. This gentleman was CaptainJoseph Regan; at that time a member of the Mississippi Legislature.

A second institution on the much used Trail was a school for boys known as Union Academy, and at one time presided over by a scholarly Irish gentleman named Flanagan. He knew the art of wielding the rod in teaching the "Three R's".

Among the students of these promising boys was T. Marshall Miller, a nephew of General Earl Van Dorn of Port Gibson. Young Miller was a diligent and untiring boy in his studies. In time he became a brilliant lawyer, and served as Attorney General of Mississippi.

In the days of opulence prior to the Civil War a race track near "The Red House" extended over one mile of the Natchez Trace. This was the scene of exciting horse races. It was here that Andrew Jackson sometimes raced. The neighboring gentlemen who loved sportfrequently tried out their thoroughbreds on this track. Among the owners of fine horses were Ignatius and Goldsboro Flowers who resided near Rocky Springs.

In the early part of the last century one finds the names of some of the pioneer settlers who lived east of Rocky Springs, mentioned in Claiborne's History of Mississippi. They are: White, Calvert, Owens, Hutchins, Regan, Henderson, Powers, Flowers, Brown, Luster and Haring.

Assignment Thirteen.

Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".--------(continued)

In a reminiscence of the past events along the Natchez Trace this communication has covered only about ten miles of the distance traveling south through Claiborne County.

The next point of interest after leaving Rocky Springs, one passes the old Lorenzo Dow Spring, where the weary traveler quenched his thirst.from the cooling waters of Nature's fountain at the foot of alarge beech tree. A tree that was a relic of the past, and had withstood the wind and storms for more than century. The name "Lorenzo Dow---1803" was carved on the body of this tree with a pocket knife. This man of God was a beloved missionary to the Natchez country in behalf of Methodism. He was a native of Connecticutt. For many years he rode his horse from Nashville to Natchez doing all in his power to promote the cause of Chris in the settlements along the Trace.

The pages of time turn. Sixty years pass, again we visit the Dow Spring, and there on the sturdy beech tree another name is deeply cut into its bark U. S. Grant---May 1863.

The battle of Port Gibson occurred May 1st, 1863.

General Grant with 40,000 troups marched up the Natchez Trace to attack Vicksburg on the east.

It is said lightning seldom strikes a beech tree. In 1904 the old beech was hit by lightning. The owner of this farm was the late Joseph A. Regan. He had the tree cut and sawed out the section containing the names of the two illustrious characters. This block he sent to Whitworth College, a

Assignment Thirteen.

Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".---------(continued)

Methodist institution, at Brookhaven, Mississippi. Rev. J. W. Chambers - was at that time president of this college. It was placed in the museum as a very valuable bit of religious and military history.

The old Dow spring is flowing on at the same bend in the road; the pines whisper overhead as the winds waft their boughs over this historical spot, where the Indians once roamed in hordes over their rough narrow trail. Later the trail was cut to form a road where two horsemen could ride abreast.

Six miles southwest of Rocky Springs is one of the typical log houses of early days. This was owned by Mrs. Woolridge in 1818, and she entertained travelers at her inn when darkness or inclement weather drove them to shelter.

Another tavern was located on the north side of Big Bayou Pierre, one mile from the station, Grind Stone Ford. This inn was owned and operated by Alexander McGilvary, a sturdy pioneer Scotchman. His wife was a Miss Mandeville of English descent. This couple lived, died and are buried on the Natchez Trace in the McGilvary-Burnett private cemetery.

The Burnett home was noted for its true Southern hospitality. Many persons of note and affluence were entertained within its portals.

Daniel Burnett married the widow of Col. Ralph Humphreys of Revolutionary fame. It was in their home at Grind Stone Ford, that Col. Richard Sparks ~~WAS XSiX~~ died in 1815 and was buried in this cemetery by the road side. Col. Sparks was stationed at Fort Pickering (now Memphis) in 1801 with a smallcommand. Later he was transferred to Natchez. His wife was a dau-

Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".-------(continued)

ghter of Gov. John Sevier of Tennessee. She afterwards married Daniel Vertner, an early settler from Virginia. He resided at Burlington Plantation two miles south of Port Gibson on the Natchez Trace.

The beautiful Grind Stone Ford Lane leading by Buena Vista was one mile long and perfectly level. In the old days this lane was used as a race track by the young men who loved horse races.
The traveler passes on from these scenes.

The old Buena Vista Plantation with its magnificent palatial mansion, its productive lands bordering on Bayou Pierre gave evidence of the wealth, the intellect, and the environment of true Southern Culture. The owner of this home was James Watson a descendant of Captain Silas Crane, a pioneer from Mass. in English Rule of British West Florida.

At Buena Vista a small creek fed by springs was a welcome spot for the traveler's horses. This stream is known as Rapalje Creek. A Knickerbocker from New York by that name lived nearby in Territorial days; hence the name

Buena Vista as a name for the Watson home was well chosen. It is Spanish for beautiful view. Like many old ante-bellum homes that have to withstand the elements. This beautiful residence was burned about fifteen years ago. The vast estate has fallen into other hands.

Fair View on Bayou Pierre and fronting on the Natchez Trace is still in a good state of preservation today. Its early master, John Taylor Moore contributed largely to the building of the Catholic Church in Port Gibson. He also donated the land for the Catholic Cemetery in that town.
John Taylor Moore was a brother-in-law of Rezin and James Bowie. Rezin in-



Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".------(continued)

vented the famous Bowie knife. James was martyr to the cause of Texas in 1846. He fell at the siege of the Alamo.

The next plantation with an imposing antebellum residence was first owned by the Maury family, numbered among the first settlers at Port Gibson.

The next to become master of Lucknow was Benjamin G. Humphreys who resided there until elected Governor of Mississippi; after which he moved to Jackson. He was driven from the State House and Mansion during the Carpet Bag rule in Mississippi. Gov. Adelbert Ames was installed in his stead as military governor. This home "Lucknow" on the Natchez Trace had many prominent personalities to come over its threshold. The Maurys were numbered among lawyers, physicians and statesmen.

The artist, Thomas Healy, resided here and his splendid talent is depicted in numbers of family portraits adorning the walls of the old Claiborne County antebellum homes.

One must not overlook the fourth and last tavern of those early dgys. This was at Gibson's Port, as the village was called until 1811. The hostlery was kept by Domingo Beloso, a Spaniard. This was a brick building and was erected in 1807.

In 1797 Samuel Gibson, originally from South Carolina, moved to Port Gibson and located on Little Bayou Pierre. This farm attracted other settlers. From Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia they came, bringing with them that rare culture, intellect and intrepidity to launch out into a wilderness and cast their lives among Indians and unseen dangers. To Forefathers like these Port Gibson owes her existence today; and these splendid

Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".-------(continued)

qualities of manhood and womanhood may be found in their descendants.

Just beyond Port Gibson as one passes south is an old residence erected by Peter A. Van Dorn. Here General Earl Van Dorn was born in 1820. A valiant soldier and Confederate officer.

The journey now brings into view the interesting antebellum home of Daniel Vertner, a pioneer from Virginia. This plantation was Burlington. Memories of the past cling to this historic wayside home on the Natchez Trace. It was here that Rosa Vertner Griffith Johnson passed her young life. Her foster father, Daniel Vertner, gave Rosa every educational advantage, and in time she became the first Southern Woman poet to receive recognition in the United States.

The old home of Judge Henry T. Ellett stands today fronting on the Natchez Trace in the residence section of Port Gibson on Church Street.

The trail leads past the old Belmont plantation. The Cotton brothers, James and Thomas, were early pioneers here. They aided extensively in the building up of the town of Port Gibson. When James and Thomas Cotton died a niece Mrs. Montgomery, inherited the Belmont estate.

As the miles pass by there comes to view another home known in those days for its culture and wealth. This was "The Ark". A more hospitable home did not exist. Joseph Davenport was its master. A storm destroyed the second story of The Ark some years past, but the building is still standing, though not so imposing as before. It is still an heir loom of the Davenport descendants.

The journey is nearing the Jefferson County line, but one pauses to become



Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke on "The Natchez Trace".-------(continued)

enraptured with the palatial mansion "Holly Hill" noted in the days of yore for its beauty, its true Southern hospitality and its charming host and hostess--The Watson family. Its broad acres extended west of what is now Russum on Highway 61. Holly Hill and Mt. Pleasant, another magnificent place, were both owned by this wealthy family. Mt. Pleasant is just over the line in Jefferson County.

It has now been more than twenty two years since an Indian has passed over the road established by them more than 200 years ago. But their traditions, customs and past history are full ofinterest and their memory, we find today perpetuated in the names of rivers, towns, states, counties and highways."

Mrs. Nannie Humphreys, school teacher in the Port Gibson High School and daughter of Mr. Watt Magruder, at one time Representative, tells me about the Ku Klux Klan that was organized at the close of the War between the States or during the Reconstruction days.

She says, "The government of the state gave the citizens almost no protection from the Carpet-Baggers, Scalawags and negroes as this element of people ruled and held all offices in the county. The better class of white people had to devise some means of government or protection other than by power of office holding.

For this reason a secret organization, the Ku Klux Klan, was organized in 1866, not even the members or officers being known, as it was a dangerous undertaking. As a rule these white men were property owners and good citizens. The members of the Ku Klux Klan when on duty wore masks. These masks were really pillow slips which had eye holes and a place for breathing cut

Interview with Mrs. Fannie Humphreys on the Ku Klux Klan------(continued)

out. These improvised masks were pulled over the Klansman's head. His body was covered with a long ghostly robe made from a sheet. Sometimes they would have the faces of the masks painted with black charcoal to enlarge the eyes, etc. When they rode, their horses were also ghostly apparitions, being entirely covered with a white sheet. Sometimes they brandished crosses of fire in their hands as they visited the various culprits at night. They rode at night, visiting unruly blacks and made the freedmen work. This could be done by intimidation only. It was the duty of every member to report any misdemeanors of negroes and a special meeting was called if the matter was urgent. Once a negro was accused of being impudent to a soldier's widow. The Klan sent men to punish him. Orders were given not to shoot except in case of serious attack. The negro's house was surrounded and he attempted to run but was caught. He was given 100 lashes and the white leader solemnly said, 'If we hear any more from you, we will come again.'

The negroes were very superstitious. Sometimes the Klan would stop at a negro's house when he had been unruly, and ask for a bucket of water. The negro would bring the water and the Klansman would pretend to drink the water. Instead, he poured it into a rubber container under his hood. After seeing this Klansman drink fifteen or sixteen buckets of water the negro would be convinced that he was a supernatural being and would be ready to obey his slightest command.

The Klan held most of its meetings at the cemetery. If a negro passed by and saw the lights he thought it was a meeting of theghosts and shades that inhabited the graveyard and slipped quietly away so the Klan was never bothered with any unwelcome visitors.



Interview with Mrs. Fannie Humphreys on the Ku Klux Klan-------(continued)

At one time the negroes planned to have an uprising. They met on a vacant lot across the Bayou. Some men found out about this meeting and the Klan was soon ready. They surrounded the crowd and the negroes soon disappeared.

As soon as law and order was restored the Klan was disbanded."

Interview with Mrs. Maud Kennard Shelby, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Jeffries.

"My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Jeffries, moved to Scrogy (a beautiful and extensive plantation three miles southeast of Port Gibson) in Claiborne County from a place known as Contentment in Jefferson County. They lived in a palatial home amidst bountiful luxuries, each daughter having a maid of her own and a riding horse.

Among their many slaves there was one whose memory has been perpetuated by a service rendered his mistress. He was an African prince of considerable intelligence and gifted in the art of mixing herbs and roots into medicines suited to various ailments. Mrs. Jeffries had suffered from a prolonged illness over a longthy period and all available doctors had despaired of her life, when one day this slave known by the name of Joe went to Mr. Jeffries and asked that he be allowed to prepare a medicine for Mrs. Jeffries. Mr. Jeffries agreed and almost immediately Mrs. Jeffries showed improvement. She lived many years after this occured. So grateful was Mr. Jeffries to his slave for this deed that he released him from slavery, giving him land and animals to begin work for himself.

Two sons of Mrs. James Jeffries, Edward and James, went to the army. One night during the war Mrs. Jeffries was awakened by footsteps coming up the walk and had an apparition of her son. She immediately called all members

Interview with Mrs. Maud Kennard Shelby----------(continued)

of the family and told them she knew her son had been killed. Within a day or two she received news that he was killed at the same time she had had the presentiment. Ever after this they frequently heard footsteps coming up this walk.

In later years a grand-daughter of Mrs. Jeffries, Mrs. Whitfield, had the same experience. Her son was drowned in Bayou Pierre. Mrs. Whitfield was in her garden at the time and heard him call her very distinctly. She raised up and looked all about to see if she could see him. Very shortly after she received a message that he had drowned.

The Kennard family(who were living in Port Gibson at the time of the Battle of Port Gibson) had an unusual experience with General Grant which demonstrated his kind spirit. On the same day of the battle, very, very early in the morning the youngest son of the family died. General Grant, hearing of the bereavement, placed guards around their entire premises in order that they be spared the anxiety and terror prevailing at that time."

Interview with Mrs. Byron H. Levy, life-long resident of Port Gibson and an active member of the U.D.C.

Mrs. Levy gives an interesting account of the unveiling ceremonies of the monument erected by the U. D. C. and D. A. R. chapters to the memory of the Confederate troops who fell at the battle of Magnolia Church on May 1, 1863.

"The unveiling took place on March 5, 1915 and regardless of the threatening weather which kept some away, there was a representative gathering of seventy five who took part in the historical event. The monument occupies a place on an eminence just outside of the lawn surrounding the residence

Assignment Thirteen.

Interview with Mrs. Byron H. Levy----------(continued)

of Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Shaifer and overlooking the Port Gibson and Rodney road. Here it is said the first shot was fired, while just southwest, in a ravine, two companies of Confederate troops strongly opposed the advancing enemy.

Little Misses Marjorie Allen and Evana Shelby removed the Confederate battle flag which veiled the marker and presented it to Color Bearer Shaifer, who then led the small body of veterans to the cedar grove in his yard where the exercises were held. Here Dr. Leatherston offered a fervent prayer, which was followed by the singing of "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground". Then Mr. J. McC. Martin, orator of the occasion, delivered an address. He ~~delivered~~ recited the incidents leading to the battle, and related some personal experiences on the memorable day. The speaker digressed long enough to show how inseparable the two organizations of the D.A.R. and U.D.C. are linked together, and stated that any criticism regarding the part taken by the first named erecting the monument is foolish.

At the conclusion of the address the president of the Daughters of the Confederacy, Mrs. D. H. Smith, after Mrs. Byron H. Levy had read the rules governing the bestowal of crosses, presented crosses to Mrs. E. A. Humphreys daughter of a veteran, and E. C. Foster, a veteran.

This ended the exercises and Dr. Leatherston dismissed the gathering.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaifer were hosts of the occasion. They had a number of relics of the battle on display which aroused interest."

Interview with Mrs. Mary L. Richmond.

Yesterday I went to see Mrs. Mary L. Richmond, the widow of a Confederate soldier. Mrs. Richmond was a little girl when Grant's army invaded this county. She has spent her life in Claiborne County and her husband, Thos. Y. Richmond, was active in public affairs of the county, having been a county officer when he died. She told me the following interesting story.

"After leaving Port Gibson on the way to Vicksburg, Grant's army marched by our home. When we heard of the approach of the army, my mother and several of the ladies in the neighborhood (the men being in the army), after a hasty conference decided to leave home and camp in the woods. My mother took a few treasured possessions and her two children in the buggy and left. The next day the "Yankees" found the camp and took the horse and buggy. She went to Gen. Grant explained what had happened to her. He had the horse and buggy returned and gave her protection papers. Soon the soldiers returned and were taking the horse the second time, but as soon as my mother showed them the protection papers, the soldiers left her unmolested.

When we returned to our homes, we found things completely wrecked. The long mirrors on the walls had been broken by sticking the bayonets in them; the bureau drawers had been carried into the yards and used as feed troughs for horses; feather pillows ripped open and countless other things destroyed. But I must not talk longer on this subject. The younger generations will never know the privation we endured in those harrowing days."



Interview with Mr. W. Myles Smith, son of E. J. Smith, officer in the Confederate Army and office-holder in Claiborne County.

"My father, E. J. Smith, told me how, when he was a lad of eleven or twelve when he was going after plums for his mother, that he passed down on the Bayou Pierre the camp of a company of soldiers waiting passage for the Mexican War. He was told by one of the soldiers, Moses Gough, that he would pay him (E. J. Smith) twenty-five cents for every lizard brought to camp, pretending that the soldiers found them great delicacies. My father toiled for an hour or two gathering his plums and stringing lizards. When he returned to camp, the would-be purchaser laughed him to scorn, saying he had no use for the lizards. But Captain Shivers had overheard the original bargain and the lad to be paid. The lizards, numbering exactly twenty, were counted, my father in return received five dollars, and returned with joy to his mother. My father was later first-lieutenant under Captain Shivers in the Port Gibson Riflemen."

Interview with Mrs. Samuel Bagnell.

Mrs. Bagnell tells an interesting occurence connected with the War between the States. The story was told her by her husband Samuel Bagnell and was a true experience concerning his own family.

"Mr. Bagnell was about fifteen years old, living with his father intheir plantation home just this side of Big Black River almost halfway between Vicksburg and Port Gibson and on what is now known as Highway 61. Grant and his troups were all around in that section and Grant himself stayed for a week in the above mentioned home. On finding that young Mr. Bagnell had typhoid fever, he rendered every service within his power to relieve their suffering. He ordered his physician to visit Mr. Bagnell daily. He had

Interview with Mrs. Samuel Bagnell----------(continued)

nourishing food brought from his reserve supplies and Mr. Bagnell's recovery was largely due to the kindness of General Grant.

General Grant had with him his son Fred. To this son he gave a valuable imported Shetland pony taken from a helpless southern family. Fred was engaged in riding this pony to and fro across the Bagnell porch when General Grant learned of the Bagnell'boy's illness. He immediately called his son and forbade his riding the pony on the porch. This was just another demonstration of his kindly spirit."

Mrs. Bagnell has in her home today the bed, table, wash stand and other furniture which furnished the room occupied by Gen. Grant. It is the firm belief of the Bagnell family that Grant planned the siege of Vicksburg in their home on the very same little table they are using now.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.



Interview with Mrs. Maria Briscoe.

Mrs. Maria Briscoe, one of Claiborne County's most intelligent ladies was interviewed on this date. In spite of her eighty-five years her mind is alert and if her physical strength permitted a mine of information could be secured from her. Unfortunately, she can talk for only a few minutes at a time.

Mrs. Briscoe's early life was spent near Grindstone Ford on Bayou Pierre which at that time was on the Natchez Trace. Mrs. Briscoe's father, J. W. Watson, of whom she talks, was the nephew of Mrs. Clarissa Crane Young (his foster mother) and the son of Malinda Crane Watson. J. W. Watson was orphaned at the age of 2 weeks and Mr. William Young and Mrs. Clarissa Young became his foster parents.

Mrs. Briscoe's grandfather Young was a Scotchman coming from Scotland to New Orleans, thence to Claiborne County. Mrs. Clarissa Young was a daughter of Waterman Crane. Waterman Crane was the son of Silas Crane from Connecticutt who came south to escape the horrors of the Revolutionary War. Silas Crane settled near Greenwood, Mississippi. Waterman Crane was an estimable man and a remarkable shot. He volunteered in 1812 and fought with Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans. He was elected captain of his company and was presented with a handsome sword by Gen'l Jackson for his gallantry in this battle.

She speaks of her father as being exceptionally well-educated. He graduated from Princeton in 1844. Following his education Mr. Young wanted him to remain with him but, being ambitious, he chose to move to himself. At this time Mr. Young gave him $10,000 with which to buy a home. Mr. Watson and John Taylor Moore wanted to purchase Fair View from

Interview with Mrs. Maria Briscoe.---------- -------(continued)

Mr. J. G. Grieves, an old commission merchant who would come here from New Orleans in the summer to traffic and trade. Mr. Grieves died and they were able to purchase this very desirable place and divided it. Mr. Watson and John Taylor Moore tossed a coin to determinewhich one would withhold the name, Fair View. Mr. Moore won. So Mr. Watson built a handsome spacious dwelling on his part of the place in the year 1847 and called it "Buena Vista". This was said to be one of the best constructed and comfortably arranged homes in the county. He married Miss Maria Flower from Bayou Sara, Louisiana in 1848. To this union were born Samuel Dalton, William Young, James W., and Maria.

Mr. Watson was much interested in public affairs. He was a strong Whig and very conservative. He was always afraid the Democrats were going to do something rash.

The Humphreys, all politically, financially, and socially strong, were dear friends of J. W. Watson.

Mrs. Briscoe becomes pleasantly animated when she remembers Gov. Humphreys sitting on their porch at Buena Vista talking and stating his views:
Gov. Humphreys; "Jim, look here, this secession talk is going to bring trouble, and when we get in I want you to be here to help our side out." "Pa", feeling so much anxiety agreed that he would be there.

She said her father thought it would be such a terrible thing to have war that he and Gov. Humphreys stumped the country in an effort to stay the tide but to no avail.



Interview with Mrs. Maria Briscoe.----------(continued)

She remembers the old toll bridge at Grindstone Ford. People traveling to Vicksburg were obliged to cross on the toll bridge. Later the county wanted to build a new bridge and gave the contract to Weldon Bro.(new comers from Paris, seeking a fortune in this great country) who went to New York and purchased materials necessary for the kind of bridge they wanted. Mr. Watson had a saw mill and furnished timber materials that were needed. They were very proud of the bridge which was over a year under construction, and which was burned only a short while after completion during the ravages of war.

Grindstone Ford community was the center of elaborate social entertainment as Mrs. Briscoe remembers it.

She also allowed canvasser to copy the following letter which is 150 years old. It was written in 1786 by Jonathan Crane from Horton, Novia Scotia, to his father, Captain Silas Crane, at "Natchez on the River Mississippi".

"Nova Scotia
Oct. 1786

Hon. Sir:-

I have wrote you several letters, Icould wish to know if you would be willing to move back to Levanon or Novia Scotia, if so, I will buy you a farm at either place. I wish to know how you like the Mississippi. I understand you now live in the State of Georgis.

If you think of coming to this province or Connecticut will

Interview with Mrs. Maria Briscoe.----------(continued)

send a vessel for you.

Your children are tolerably blessed in temporal affairs. I have acquired considerable interest, at the same time think I have the approbation of my neighbors, having been a county representative at two different elections. And as we have some excellent preachers in the province of Westles Methodist have had more serious thoughts on religion than formerly, which is a principal thing.

My wife I believe to be a good woman. Has one daughter and four boys.

(In writing family news he writes that his nephew was killed by the Indians in the late unnatural war.)

I am Hon. Sir

Your dutiful son,

Jonathan Crane."

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Supervisor Historical Research Project.



I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:

2. Historians:

(a) Land grants.

"Following is a list of the first English-speaking settlers in Claiborne county, and the grants their land was given from: P. B. Bruin, Spanish, French and Georgia; Abs. Green, Spanish; Robert Cochman, Spanish; Waterman Crane, Spanish; Samuel Cobun, Spanish; Samuel Gibson, Spanish; Tobias Brashears, Spanish; Daniel Burnet, Spanish; S. Holliday, Georgia; Robert Moore, Spanish; John McCaleb, French; Elias Barnes, Georgia; Anthony Glass, Georgia; William Neely, Spanish; Joseph White, Georgia; James McCaleb, French; James Nailor, French; John Anderton, Georgia; Thomas White, Georgia." (1)

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

1. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I, Page 179.

Claiborne County
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Interview with Mrs. D. A. Morehead, Cont'd.

While the Yankees were searching for rebels they rode up to the home of the Morehead home at Ingleside, five miles from Port Gibson, and asked a small son of the house "where is your daddy" the boy replied "he is off killing Yankees," the officer then asked "where is your uncle," the boy then reluctantly answered, "there he is in that closet" whereupon the uncle was very promptly taken away.

THIS IS AN EPISODE OCCURRING AT THE HOME OF MR. D. A. MOREHEAD'S GRANDFATHER.

Mrs. Morehead has a picture of her father wearing uniform made by her mother. They were to be married and he had nothing to wear so her mother went to Vicksburg, bought the material for the uniform and smuggled it through the federal lines. She looped the material in folds over a stout string and tied it around her waist, under her hoop skirt and walked up to the guard and innocently asked to be allowed to pass--her request was granted. Her cousin Kate Rousseau was with her. She was taking her sweetheart a pair of boots in the same way and was very much embarrassed by the fact that with every step she took the heels of the boot persisted in knocking together in a very audible manner. Evidently the guard did not hear it as she also was successful in passing.

CLAIBORNE COUNTY — Page 1.

State-Wide Historical Research Project — Canvassers:

County History — Miss Mary Naasson

Supplement to Assignment Three — Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

I. Narratives on Interviews

3. Officials and Ex-officials:

(c) Other historic documents of note, etc.

Indenture- In possession of Mrs. Marian Briscoe Person.

"Know all men by these presents that I Reuben White of Claiborne County and state of Mississippi am held and firmly bound unto William Richardson Buck of the same place in the sum of three thousand dollars lawful money of the United States for which payments well and truly to be made to him the said R Buck his heirs or ofsprign. I bind myself, my heirs executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with my seal and signet with my hand at Port Gibson in said county this fourteenth day of November 1823.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereon William Scott and Margaret his wife hath this day transfered and set over to the above named Reuben White all the right title, Interest and claim which they have or can have in and to a certain tract of land containing three hundred and fifty acres as called for in a certain certificate from the land office west of Pearl River. Which land adjoins the said Reuben White's land on which he resides and of which said part of three hundred and fifty acres he the said William Scott hath heretofore sold to the above named William R. Buck two hundred and twenty five acres. Now if the said Reuben White his heirs executors, administrators shall and do by a proper deed of conveyance good in the law make title to the said W. R. Buck

Supplement to Assignment Three.

I. Narratives on Interviews----------(continued)

3. Officials and Ex-officials:----------(continued)

(c) Other historic documents of note, etc.--------(continued)

Indenture----------(continued)

to two hundred and twenty five acres of said tract of three hundred and fifty acres to hold, by said William Scott as aforsaid and as surveyed and laid off to and for said Buck so soon as in the said Reuben White shall obtain a patent of said tract on_____ certificate through the above obligation."

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.



State-Wide Historical Research Project
County History
Supplement to Assignment Three

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Isaacson
Mrs. S.T.Hamilton

I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:

4. Any other interesting interviews.

Claiborne County Library

In a personal interview with the Librarian, Miss Harriette Person, she told me the following :

"On a rainy afternoon in January, 1915, a few people gathered in the office of the Chancery Clerk, Mr. J. M. Magruder, to formally open the Claiborne County Library. The Library idea had been discussed by several women in the early summer, and Miss Harriette Person had the promise of the active support in establishing a library on her return from Chautauqua, New York, in the fall. During the summer I (Miss Harriette Person) conferred with the head of the Library School at Chautauqua and on the advice given a Claiborne County Library Association was organized as a Subscription Public Library $1.00 a year dues, under a Board of Trustees, and looking forward to the time when municipal and county aid could be secured, and it could become a Free Public Library. The Library was to give equal service to town and county, and all work was to be volunteer. All dues were to be used for books, and Mr. J.M. Magruder, chancery clerk, offered his office for housing. Accession books, borrowers record book, cards, labels, and other library material were presented by the local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. The stated aim was 'A little library growing with the years and finding an honorable place in the town's history'.

Inspiring talks were made that afternoon by that little group of book

I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:----------(continued)

4. Any other interesting interviews.----------(continued)

Claiborne County Library----------(continued)

lovers. Trustees were elected, and I was elected Librarian with Mrs. Mose Meidenrich, Mrs. Sadie Sager, and Mr. Magruder as assistants. The library was moved from place to place in the Court House and finally in 1920 the town gave housing in an attractive office building. The town acting under special charter, could not give the appropriation of $300.00 annually that was asked by the board of trustees. With an uncertain income, composed of dues, donations, and benefits no budget could be made, and no compensation paid for work. In January, 1927 the county appropriated $300.00 annually allowed by the laws of 1924, and in March, 1928 the town appropriated $300 annually, allowed by local and Private bill in the 1928 Legislature. The long fight for official recognition was ended, a budget could be made, monthly orders for books given, and a small compensation paid to the librarian.

We thought we were safe.

The change from a Subscription Public Library to a Free Public Library was made, and the Claiborn County Library Association became an Association doing Public Work under agreement for Municipal and County aid, under the control of a Board of Trustees, and making annual reports to Board of Mayor and Aldermen and Board of Supervisors of all important transactions of the twelve previous months, including finances, statistics, books, and the use and progress of the Library. The history of the library is one of



I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:----------(continued)

4. Any other interesting interviews----------(continued)

Claiborne County Library----------(continued)

slow but steady progress since that opening day in January, 1915.

Our most important services cannot be measured statistically. I shall not attempt to speak of these, only to say we have held to our standard in our books selection, output in circulation, and we have made and are making Readers.

The library's motive is helpfulness; its scope, instruction, culture, and recreation; its purpose, the enlightenment of all; its aspiration still greater usefulness. There have been ups and downs, and hills to climb, but we have taken sometime defeats as a challenge, and have gone forward. Our most loyal support has always come from the members of the Woman's Club, young college men and women who have grown up with us, and from the children who love the library. The librarian's reward is to look back through the years.

The library has become a Community and Cultural center for varied activities, patriotic celebrations, memorials, annual Book Week programs, the annual Christmas Pageant, and the annual Spring Exhibition of Paintings and prints. Patrons and friends have made generous gifts of books and money. Memorial gifts have been presented, and the International Mind Alcove grows by quarterly gifts from the Carnegie Foundation. One unusual gift is that presented by Mr. Joseph K. Lilly of Indianapolis, of the set of Reproductions of the works of Stephen Foster in a steel cabinet, with framed picture of Foster, an author's copy of "Stephen Foster,

I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:---------- --------(continued)

4. Any other interesting interviews.----------(continued)

Claiborne County Library----------(continued)

American's Troubadour" by John T. Howard, and the Bulletins of Foster Hall, the memorial building that Mr. Lilly gave in memory of Stephen Foster, "For the love that he shares with millions of his country men". Mr. Lilly's father was a Federal Colonel here in the War between the States. His father's memories of Port Gibson prompted this gift.

We have a particular shining conscience when we point to the shelves of children's books. Here are treasures old and new, in the old and the beautiful new editions. We are making a Golden Road for children in our library. With the work we are doing we had every reason to believe that we were on a sure foundation, and that the next step would be a larger appropriation from town and county. Then came the depression, and no public work in the south suffered more than the libraries. In February, 1932 the county appropriation was suddenly dropped, and in January, 1933 the town appropriation was cut $10.00 a month, $7.00 for Rent, and $2.00 for librarian (which had to be used for fuel). We were where we started with only faith and work to run on. In February, 1934 the opportunity came for a CWA Project, and new quarters in the municipally owned old Port Gibson College, restored under a CWA Project as the Irwin Russell Memorial and Town Hall. The project was approved and gave us new quarters, new shelves, and tables and benches, and one of our greatest needs, to be put in standard classification. We will never forget the eight weeks of intensive work under the direction of Miss Irene Halloway of Oxford as cataloguer and the six assistants working with us.



I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:----------(continued)

4. Any other interesting interviews.----------(continued)

Claiborne County Library----------(continued)

We will never forget the community out pouring on our Opening evening, the room filled with spring flowers, our new eight tall seven-branch standards with the lighted tapers, the new tables and shelves and books, shellacked and lettered, and filed in the Dewey decimal classification, and the feeling that with larger quarters we could give larger service. In ending my talk that evening I raised a silver loving cup to pour out a libation to our foremost citizen, the President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to whom we are indebted for the nation wide recognition of library service. From it came a shower of rose leaves, and one rose geranium leaf for remembrance and a pansy for heart's ease.

This project was followed by a few weeks County Survey, and then the librarian was appointed County Library Director under the Library Extension Project. Seven branch stations were established, three serving as volunteers. The library had come home to the people.

You can hear good talk in the library, book talk, appraisals of new books, reactions to others, a quick give and take at the librarians desk, as ideas are released. There is no institutional look to the library. We move away from the institutional toward the personal. The large room with nine large deep-silled windows looks out on giant oaks, open book shelves invite, old prints and old documents stir memories, and research workers dig and question and write, and children wander around with delight. The vacation Readers Club is in full swing right now.

Supplement to Assignment Three

I. NARRATIVES ON INTERVIEWS:----------(continued)

4. Any other interesting interviews.----------(continued)

Claiborne County Library----------(continued)

The most important of all is our collection of books. These speak for themselves. These are my special pride."

The work of the librarian under the ERA closed December 30th, 1934 but she continues to give generously of her time to the larger WPA Project. At present the WPA County Library Director, Miss Frances Person, is extending the work to far corners and into county schools, with six stations, and also using six NYA workers under her project.

It is the people's high hope that this will mean permanent service to the county. The former town and county appropriation of $300.00 from each was reinstated and the library is again on its way.

The loving cup on the librarian's desk bears this inscription:

"Presented to Miss Harriette Person
By the Civic League
For Public Spirit
and Public Service
Establishing the Claiborne County Library
1915"

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

Accepted
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~~CLAIBORNE COUNTY~~

State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Supplement to Assignment Three

4. Any other interesting interviews.

An interview with Mrs. B. H. Morehead, Regent of the D. A. R. Chapter, Port Gibson.

" Grandma did you ever tell a lie? asked my little grandson one day. When I had been telling to him about the sin of telling stories and trying to impress it upon him by saying God did not love little boys who told lies.

Why do you ask such a question dear? Because, when Grandpa came in while you were talking to me, he looked at you so funny, just like he wanted to say something, but he didn't.

I expect I know what Grandpa wanted to say and if you and little cousin will listen I will tell you about a time that Grandma did tell a lie, and for grandpa too.

It was forty-one years ago, during that terrible war between the North and the South that you know nothing about.

I was a young girl then, my father was dead, but my mother and I were forced to leave our home on the Mississippi River, and go to the home of my mother's sister, thirty miles or more from the river.

It was after the surrender of Vicksburg to Gen'l Grant, and parties of Federal Cavalry would ride some distance beyond the

lines, hoping to pick up some rebel scout who might venture a little too near.

My Aunt lived about three miles outside what was called General Grant's lines. Her house was visited frequently by both Federal and Confederates.

Your grandpa and my brother, (your Uncle Joe) were both confederate scouts. Not many weeks passing without their paying us a flying visit.

One dark night after Aunt, mother, Cousin Kate and I had all retired to our rooms and were asleep. Kate and I were wakened by a tapping on our window, for those times, unnecessary noises did not startle us as they would now. We threw up the window, and were greeted by brother Joe and your grandpa,- on their horses, close up to the house, they asked in low tones if any Yankees were there, told us all our army news, and then argued together, whether they might venture for one-half night to come in and enjoy the luxery of a bed. Finally, deciding to try it, they fastened their horses near, slipped quietly into the house and up the stairs into my brother's old room without wakening either Aunt or Mother.

Soon all were asleep again, when, about an hour before day a clattering of horses feet startled us all. With a bound we were at the windows, turning the blinds, saw by the starlight, that the house was surrounded by Cavalry, and, at same time a knocking at the Hall door, demanding it be opened at once.

Auntie went to the door, began fumbling with the key, while I rushed on up the stairs calling to the boys, in a loud a voice



as I dared, to waken and come out with me, the Yankees were there.

They thought were was not much chance for escape, but I insisted they follow me. I'd try to hide them both. We slipped quietly down, through the Hall, while Aunt was pretending she could not unlock the door, and the officer outside shaking the lock and declaring if she did not open it, he would break the door down.

As soon as we passed through and closed the bed-room door, she opened the Hall door and a crowd of soldiers, led by a Lieut. came in and began their search, going straight way up the stairs, as if knowing some one was there.

In short time I was not idle. In my room was a large old-fashioned armoir, with its carved top reaching almost to the ceiling cove. I had often thought, when hiding our silver and other valuables, that the deep recess on top of this armoir, would hide a good many things; and now suggested to your grandpa that he climb up there and try it. No sooner said than done and he disappeared in a twinkling.

Brother Joe inquired if it would hide both, but I told him to get in my bed and trust to Kate and I to deceive those Yankees.

We could hear them going from room to room, swearing they knew they were there, and would soon have them.

In a very short time they were at our door, asking, "what room is this", who is in here?

Mother followed them saying it was her daughter's room and she hoped they would not force the girls to come out.

They came in, looked under the bed, in the bureau drawers, into all the corners, opened the armour doors, punched their swords thr - ough our dresses hanging in there, while I sat up in bed and abused them for doubting a lady's truth, and searching her bed-room, when she had told them there was no one there.

The Lieut. seemed not to hear me but finally said. "Well! boys, they got away, we were too slow getting in."

He called his men to mount and as they were leaving the yard another Lieut. rode up, we could hear him saying he had been all around the grounds and it was impossible they could have escaped, they were still in the house.

During their conference in front of the house, brother Joe jumped up and called "Come Charley let us get out, there is no one in the back yard."

No sooner said than they were out and gone, as they passed behind the corner of the carriage house a second squad were ordered to the back, and another search.

Mother asked the Lieut. if he would wait until we were dressed before searching our room again which he granted, very kindly.

Of course they searched to no purpose.

Just before leaving, the Lieut. turned to me and said. "Well, miss, they are gone, we acknowledge you told the truth; but will you now gratify our curiosity and tell us how they went?"

I answered promptly. "Certainly Sir, they went out of the window." "What window miss?" for the life of me, I could not think



which window was up but in a second answered, "didn't you find one raised;" "Yes, we did, upstairs, and they must have gone down that tree near the window and escaped. Let us be gone, day is breaking."

In a few moments they had all gone and we had a chance to send out, and find what had really become of our boys.

About breakfast time, they came in, saying they had been finishing their ways in the woods.

A few days after, we heard the Yankee Lieut. had given a glowing account of his advantured and how he came near falling in love with a rebel girl, she looked so happy when she told him of how her sweetheart had escaped.

"Now children, that is how Grandma told a story, at least that is one of the times. You can ask Grandpa if he can remember any more."

Eve.

THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER OF MRS. B. H. MCHENRY'S MOTHER, MRS. C.B. ALLEN, TO HER GRANDCHILDREN.

Many years later a son of Chas. B. Allen happened to be in Washington during a Federal reunion and heard one of the old Vetrans tell of this episode. Stepping forward he made himself known to this gentleman. The gentleman's first question was "how did your father really escape?" He answered "out of the

Claiborne County.
Supplement to Assign. No. 3.

-6-

back door." The veteran replied "impossible, the back premises were guarded". Then Seguine Allen reminded him of the conference the officer called at the front of the house. Which the veteran remembered and aswered, "But we were only gone five minutes". Mr. Allen replied "that was ample time for two scared rebels to escape."

THE CHAS. B. ALLEN ESTATE WAS A SPANISH GRANT TO THE ALLEN FAMILY 200 YEARS AGO AND STILL OWNED BY THE DESCENDENTS

CLAIBORNE COUNTY



State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Supplement to Assignment Three on

Antebellum Homes

I. Narratives on Interviews:

1. Pioneers:

(b) Antebellum homes

Mt. Serratt, Home of William Clarke-Interview with Mrs. W. A. Clarke.

In 1818, one year after Mississippi was admitted to the Union as a state, William Clarke of Jefferson County moved to the Bayou Pierre section in Claiborne County, northwest of what is now Carlisle. He entered his first claim with the U. S. Government and later purchased adjoining lands. The extent of his plantation was 1500 acres.

The first home was built of logs from the nearby forest.by slave labor in 1820.

The lowlands along Bayou Pierre were infested with mosquitoes, and as the years passed, the master of Mt. Serratt saw his first wife fall a victim to the deadly malaria.

Time moved on, and he was bereft of his little childre, two dying in one week.

The idea came to him that if a house were built far back into the hills, this would be a good location for the health of the second mother and little one. In 1841 the building was started and completed in 1846. The bricks for pillars and chimneys were baked in

Supplement to Assignment Three on

Antebellum Homes

I. Narratives on Interviews:

1. Pioneers:

(b) Antebellum homes

a kiln nearby. The timber was cut and shaped by hand-oak for the foundation, and cypress for walls, ceiling and floors. Each plank was planed by hand. The heavy columns on the long front gallery were made in the same way. Heavy tall doors with highly polished brass knobs, and very high mantels, a solid walnut stairway leading to the second floor gibe the old antebellum home that distinctive touch of colonial days. In the closed hall with large double doors, the chandelier hung from the ceiling. The unique and beautiful curtain supports on each side of the windows may still be seen. Each one is done in opalescent glass, exquisitely shaped into a rose 4½ inches in diameter.

A luxuriant growth of shrubbery today bears evidence of an attractive lawn well-kept in those other days by the faithful gardener. Some shrubs were planted in a desultory manner, here and there. Those most admired are the hedges of crepe myrtle, althea, mock orange, ocean willow, cape jasmine, boxwood and cedar. These were planted in the late 40's and their beauty adds to the quaint touch of a great-grand mother's hand in leaving this memorial of her aesthetic taste for the fourth generation to admire, as well as cherish.

After 118 years the same descendants of William Clarke walk over the

Supplement to Assignment Three on

Antebellum Homes

I. Narratives on Interviews:

1. Pioneers:

(b) Antebellum homes

same threshold, read his same books in the old library, and watch the blossoms unfold as spring time appears.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

Reverend Herschel Brownlee

Rev. H. H. Brownlee was born in Washington County, Penn.in 1854. He was educated at Westminster College, Allegheny, Penn. Later he married Miss Florence Smith of Elizabeth, Ohio. At that time he was engaged in missionary work in North Dakota. From North Dakota he came to Port Gibson, Miss. in 1890 to become the pastor of the Presbyterian Church where he served the local church for more than a quarter of a century. Later he resigned and became President of Silliman Institute a college for girls at Clinton, La. After remaining there for nine years he came back to Port Gibson and was again called to the pastorate of the church, serving from that time until 1926 when he resigned. He preached his farewell sermon in the Presbyterian Church, Sunday, June 27, 1926, after filling the pulpit for many years, thus finishing a half century as a minister and retired to private life. "In appreciation of the faithful work of this beloved minister, Dr. Huntley of the Methodist Church omitted service there,and the congregation of that denomination worshipped with the Presbyterians. The service was a very feeling one, and those who were privileged toattend thoroughly appreciated the solemnity of the occasion."(1)

"Mr. Brownlee is regarded as one of the ablest preachers in the state,

1. Port Gibson Reveille of July 1, 1926.



Reverend Herschel Brownlee----------(continued)

and the local church and community have suffered a distince loss by his resignation from the active work in which he has been engag ed for 50 years. He completed his half century of service in March of the present year."(1926)(1)

Mr. Brownlee's wife died March 21, 1932. He is at present living near Port Gibson with his son, Malcolm, and daughter, Mrs. Helen Baldwin.

Enid Richmond
Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

1. Port Gibson Reveille of June 10. 1926.

2nd Copy

1877
CLAIBORNE COUNTY

COUNTY OFFICERS

C.E.Buck, sheriff; John G.Hastings, Jr., treasurer; W.H.Benton, assessor; L. John Butler, surveyor; J.B.Jordan, coroner. Special election for chancery clerk in Claiborne County - A.K.Jones.

SUPERVISORS

No returns

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Nothing listed

CONSTABLES

Not listed

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1878 - 79
COUNTY OFFICERS

N.S.Walker, sheriff; A.K.Jones, chancery clerk; E.L.Smith, circuit clerk; John G. Hastings, Jr., treasurer; W.H.Benton, assessor; Frank C. Englesing, Jr., surveyor; Dr.E.H.Thomas, coroner & ranger.

SUPERVISORS

W.B.Murdock, 1st; John P.Taylor, 2nd; Samuel Bagnell, 3rd; Thos. J. Aby 4th; C.H.Phillips, 4th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

H.B.Pegram, J.M.Tilghman, 1st; Charles Johnson, Sr., W. Laughlin, 2nd; J.F.Girault, John Cassidy, Jr., 3rd; J.B.McMurchy, T.P.Ellis, 4th; W.A.Jones, B.F.Shannon, 5th.

CONSTABLES

Fielding Lowry, 1st; Wm. Sanders, 2nd; C.E.Porter, 3rd; C.McMurchy, 4th; J.C.Albritton, 5th.

1880 - 1881

COUNTY OFFICERS

N.S.Walker, sheriff; J.G.Hastings, Jr., treasurer; W.H.Benton, assessor; A.Shields, Sr., surveyor; Philip Bethea, coroner & ranger.

SUPERVISOR

T.M.Rea, 1st; H.B.H.Morehead, 2nd; Hiram Fisher, 3rd; T.Y.Richmond, 4th; J.M.Hedrick, 5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

E.H.Ikerd, H.B.Pegram, 1st; Em. Laughlin, Collin Jones, 2nd; G.E.Lum, N.B.Fisher, 3rd; J. B. McMurchy, T.P.Ellis, 4th; B.F.Shannon, 5th.

CONSTABLES

R.F.Watson, 1st; T.J.Sanders, 2nd; A.W.Tarpley, 3rd; Calvin McMurchy, 4th; Ed Johnson, 5th.

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1882 - 1883 COUNTY OFFICERS

N.S.Walker, sheriff; A.K.Jones, chancery clerk; E.J.Smith, circuit clerk; John G. Hastings, treasurer; W.H.Benton, assessor, A.Shields, surveyor.

SUPERVISORS

A.M.Arneth, coroner; Wm. Hughes, 1st; G.W.Humphreys 2nd; G.E.Lum, 3rd; T.Y.Richmond, 4th; Hiram C. Grest, 5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

H.B.Pegram, E.H.Ikerd, 1st; W.S.Balfour, James Seaton, 2dn; G.P.McLain, Byron Fisher, 3rd; J.B.McMurchy, T.P.Ellis, 4th; B.F.Shannon, Sam Nesmith, 5th.

CONSTABLES R.Valentine, 1st; W.C.Johnson, 2nd; T.S.McCay 3rd; Calom McMurchy, 4th; John Harmon, 5th.

1884 - 1885
COUNTY OFFICERS

M.R.Jones, representative; N.S.Walker, sheriff; William McGilvary, treasurer; W.D.Patterson, assessor; Aratus Shields, surveyor; W.R.Smith, coroner & ranger.

SUPERVISORS

Amos Burnet, 1st; W.J.Pearson, 2nd; Samuel Bagnell, 3rd; T.Y. Richmond, 4th; C.H.Phillips, 5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

H.B.Pegram, D.D.Irvin, 1st; Chas. Johnson, T.D.Willis, 2nd; Wm. Alexander, Geo. P. McLean, 3rd; Jno. B. McMurchy, T.P.Ellis, 4th; Sam Nesmith, D.O.Perkins, 5th.

CONSTABLES

B.H. Shaefer, 1st; R.D.Griffith, 2nd; T.R.Adair, 3rd; A.D.Ragsdale, 4th; R.B.Jones, 5th.

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1888 - 1889

COUNTY OFFICERS

N.S.Walker, sheriff; S.Bagnell, treasurer; W.H.Benton, assessor; R.G.Seddon, surveyor; W.A.Doremus, coroner & ranger.

SUPERVISORS

N. McDougall, 1st; W.J.Pearson, 2nd; J.A.Reagan, 3rd; T.Y. Richmond, 4th; D.J.Cannon, 5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

H.B.Pegram, J.W.Davenport, 1st; T.D.Willis, Chas. Johnson, Sr., 2nd; N.B.Fisher, G.E.Lum, 3rd; J.B.McMurchy, J.S.Greenlee, 4th; S. Nesmith, M.F.Mitchell, 5th.

CONSTABLES

R.B.Evans, 1st; Jeff Wade, 2nd; C.W.Ewell, 3rd; A.D.Ragsdale, 4th; L.B.Westrope, 5th.

1890 - 1891

COUNTY OFFICERS

A.K.Jones, chancery clerk; W.D.Patterson, circuit clerk; N.S.Walker, sheriff; J.R.Moore, treasurer; W.H.Benton, assessor; A. Shields, surveyor; F.C.Hall, coroner & ranger.

SUPERVISORS

B.H.Shaefer, 1st; B.H. Moorehead, second; J.A.Regan, 3rd; T.Y. Richmond, 4th; E.S.Jefferies, 5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

H.B.Pegram, R.W. Magruder, 1st; D.V.McAlpin, C. Johnson, 2nd; S. Farmer, E.W.Lum, 3rd; F.B.McMurchie, J.S.Greenlea, 4th; Samuel Nesmith, M.L.Mitchell, 5th.

CONSTABLES

R.T.Watson, 1st; Tom Willis, Jr., 2nd; Ben Richie, Jr., 3rd; A.J. Fife, 4th; T.B.Westrope 5th/

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1894 - 1895
COUNTY OFFICERS

A.K.Jones, chancery clerk; A.K.Brashear, circuit clerk; R.C.McCoy, sheriff; T.Y.Richardson, treasurer; W.H.Benton, assessor; Aratus Shields, surveyor; Charles H. Regan, supt. of education.

SUPERVISORS

Henry Marx, 1st; R.H.Moorehead, 2nd; J.W.Jett, 3rd; J.W.Lord, 4th; T.L.Rush, 5th.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

H.B.Pegram, J.W.Davis, 1st; T.D.Willis, N.Pearl 2nd; G.E.Lum, N.B.Fisher, 3rd; J.B.McMurchy, J.S.Greenlee, 4th; J. W.Lord, J.A. Hedrick, 5th.

CONSTABLES

H.S.Hawkins, 1st; K.E.Floyd, 2nd; B.H.Richie, Jr., 3rd; C.B.Tilman, 4th; H.C.Daniels, 5th

1896 - 1897

COUNTY OFFICERS

A.K.Jones, chancery clerk; A.K.Brashear, circuit clerk; R.C.McCay, sheriff; T.Y.Richardson, treasurer; W.H.Benton, assessor.

SUPERVISORS

Henry Mart, 1st; R.H.Moorhead,2nd;J.W.Jett, 3rd; J.W.Lord, 4th; T.L.Rush, 5th.

JUSTICE OF THEPEACE

H.B.Pegram, J.W.Davis, 1st; T.D.Willis, N.Pearl, 2nd; G.E.Lum, N.B.Fisher, 3rd; J.B.McMurchy, J.S.Greenlee, 4th; J.W.Lord, J.A.Hedrick, 5th.

CONSTABES

H.S.Hawkins, 1st; K.E.Floyd, 2nd; B.H.Richie, Jr.,3rd; C.B. Tillman, 4th; H.C.Daniels, 5th.

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1898 - 1899

COUNTY OFFICERS

A.K.Brashear, circuit clerk; R.C.McCay, chancery clerk; J.B.McMurchy, sheriff; C.B.Dotherman, treasurer; E.S.Jeffries, assessor; F.A. Polsley, surveyor; J.M.Taylor supt. of education.

SUPERVISORS

1st, John D. Kindred; 2nd, H. Tyler; 3rd,J.F.Stoker; 4th, James Ingram; 5th, G.E.Cartledge.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, M.V.Branch,W.M.Townsend,; 2nd, J.A.Castillo, E.F.Thompson; 3rd, Dave Dotson, J.H.Hood; 4th, G.A.Spivey, G.W.Pittman; 5th, J. J. Boyd, J.S.Whisenant.

CONSTABLES

1st, Frank Stafford; 2nd, A.M.Caldwell; 3rd, John David Johnson; 4th, T.K McCain; 5th, J.S.Bland.

1899 - 1801

COUNTY OFFICERS

A.K.Brashear, circuit clerk; R.C.McCay, chancery clerk; J.B.McMurchy, sheriff; C.B.Dotherman, treasurer; E.S.Jeffries, assessor; F.A. Polsley, surveyor; J.M.Taylor, supt. of education.

SUPERVISORS

1st, H. Marx; 2nd, R.H.Moorehead; 3rd, J.W.Jett; 4th, J.A.Lord; 5th, T.L.Rush.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, H.P.Pregram, Earl Barber; 2nd, T.D.Willis, A.Faulk; 3rd, E.W. Lumm, T.J.Trevillion; 4th, W.A.Fife, George Robinson; 5th, M.F. Mitchell, H.C.Daniels.

CONSTABLES

1st, L.A.Simms; 2nd, T.D.Willis, Jr.,;3rd, W.E.Dean; 4th,W.G. Herrington; 5th, W.P.Furr.

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1901 - 1903
COUNTY OFFICERS

S.J.Russell, Supt. of education; A.K.Brashear, circuit clerk; R.C.McCay, chancery clerk; C.S.McGee, sheriff; T.L.Rush, treasurer; E.S.Jeffries, assessor; F.P.Powell, surveyor.

SUPERVISOR

1st, J.A.Craig; 2nd, W.L.Taylor; 3rd,J.A.Regan; 4th,W.R.Trim; 5th, C.L.Young.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, H.B.Pegram,H.M.Colson; 2nd, T.D.Willis, A.Faulk; 3rd,J.M.Nelson, E.W.Lum; ~~3rd~~ 4th, W.G.Herrington, B.W.Smith; 5th,M.F.Mitchell,J.P.Martin

CONSTABLES

1st, L.A.Simms; 2nd, L.T.Norwood; 3rd, J.M.Crawford; 4th, S.A. Townsend; 5th, Ben Goza.

1903 - 1905

COUNTY OFFICERS same as Book 1901 - 1903

SUPERVISORS SAME AS 1901 - 1903

JUSTICE OF PEACE (not given)

CONSTABLES (not given)

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1905 - 1907

COUNTY OFFFICERS

T.V.Rush, supt. of education; S.H.Bagnell, circuit clerk; A.K.Brashear, chancery clerk; B .H.Moorehead, sheriff; J.L.Lord, treasurer; J.E. Ross, assessor;

SUPERVISORS

1st, B.H.Shaifer; 2nd, W.L.Taylor; 3rd, J.M.Nelson; 4th, J.B.McMurchy; 5th, L. Allred

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, H.M.Colson, E.W.Davis; 2nd, W.J.Pearson, TD.Willis; 3rd, E.W.Lum, N.B.Fisher; 4th, W.G.Herrington, A.R.Chunn; 5th, J.P.Martin, H.C.Daniels.

CONSTABLES

1st, W.S.Beard ; 2nd, L.T.Norwood; 3rd, J.L.Crawford; 4th, Jno. G. Griffing; 5th, Jno. McClure.

1907 - 1909

COUNTY OFFICERS Same as 1905 - 1907

SUPERVISORS Same as 1905 - 1907

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (not given)

CONSTABLES (not given)

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1909 - 1911

COUNTY OFFICERS

T.V.Rush, supt. of education; J.M.Magruder, circuit clerk; B.H.Moorehead, chancery clerk; S.H.Bagnell, sheriff; J.A.Bolls, treasurer; D.V.Herlong, assessor;

SUPERVISORS

1st, Jas. W. Person; 2nd, Wm. J. Pearson; 3rd, F.A.Peyton; 4th, W.R.Trim; 5th, Chas. B. Darden.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, E.W.Davis, J.A.Hedrick; 2nd, J.W.Ragland; 3rd, E.".Lum; 4th, W.G.Herrington, A.R.Chunn; 5th, J.P.Martin, Jno. C.Wilkinson.

CONSTABLES

1st, W.S.Beard; 3rd, J.L.Crawford; 4th, J.E.Stevens; 5th, C.O.Perkins.

Book 1911 - 1913

1912, 13, 14, 15

COUNTY OFFICERS

T.V.Rush, supt. of education; J.M.Magruder, circuit clerk; B.H.Moorehead, chancery clerk; S.H.Bagnell, sheriff; J.A .Bolls, treasurer; D.V. Herlong, assessor;

SUPERVISORS

Jas. W. Person, 1st; 2nd, Wm. J. Pearson; 3rd, F.A.Peyton;; 4th, W.R.Trim; 5th, Chas. B. Darden.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - Not given

CONSTABLES (not given)

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Book 1913 - 1915

COUNTY OFFICERS TOEN OUT

SUPERVISORS

L.B.Allen, 1st;2nd, A.C.Callendar; 3rd, J.M.Nelson, 4th, W.P.Trim; 5th, I.W.Fife

JUSTICE OF TE PEACE

1st, J.W.Mitchell, J.A.Hedrick; 2nd, John W. Ragland; 3rd, G.G.Wallace, J.E.Ross; 4th, W.G.Herrington, A.R.Chunn; 5th, J.P.Martin, J.C.Wilkinson

CONSTABLES

1st, W.S.Beard; 3rd, G.Jack Ross; 4th, W.L.Mitchell; 5th, Anderson Hennington.

1917 - 1921 Book

1920,21, 22, 23

COUNTY OFFICERS

M.M.Satterfield prosecuting attorney; C.A. McAmis, supt of education; W.L.Allen, circuit clerk; B.H.Moorehead, chancery clerk; S.H.Bagnell, sheriff; J.A.Bolls, treasurer; D.V.Herlong, assessor;

SUPERVISORS

1st, A.G.Hootsel; 2nd, H.B.Vaughan; 3rd, J.F.Carter; 4th, W.H.Wilson; 5th, G.L.Powlett;

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, Wm. A. Diers; 2nd, L.F.Fowler; 3rd, K.F.Frazier; 4th, W.A.Foster; 5th, L.C.Marsh.

CONSTABLES (not given)

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Book 1921-1923

1924,25,26,27

COUNTY OFFICERS

M.M Satterfield, attorney; J.Mack Jones, supt. of education; Mrs. Louise Berger, circuit clerk; W.L.Allen, chancery clerk; B.H.Moorehead, sheriff; Jos. Davenport, assessor;

SUPERVISORS

1st, Lawrence Pearson; 2nd, D.J.Taylor; 3rd, F.A.Peyton; 4th, Tom R.Trinn; 5th, B.D.Segrest.

JUSICE OF THE PEACE

1st, R.M.Magruder, R.E.Walne; 2nd, Jas. J.Moore; 3rd, J.E.Ross; 4th, A.R.Chum; 5th, B.F.Hynum, J.A.McFatter.

CONSTABLES

1st, W.S.Beard; 3rd, J.B.Flowers; 5th, W.L.Dixon

Book 1923,1925

COUNTY OFFICERS

SAME AS BOOK 1921 - 1923

SUPERVISORS

SAME AS IN BOOK 1921 - 1923

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, R.M.Magruder, J.A.B olls; 2nd, Jas. J.Moore; 3rd, J.E.Ross; 4th, W.B.Williams, A.R.Chum; 5th, B.F.Hynum, J.A.McFatter;

CONSTABLES

1st, W.S.Beard; 2nd not given; 3rd, J.B.Flowers; 4th, M.D.Foster; 5th, W.L.Dixon.

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Book 1925 - 1927 1928,29,30,31

COUNTY OFFICERS

M.M.Satterfield, attorney; J.Mack Jones, supt. of education; Mrs. Louise Berger, circuit clerk; W.L.Allen, chancery clerk; S.H.Bagnell, sheriff; D.V.Herlong, assessor;

SUPERVISORS

1st, J.V.Gage; 2nd, M.R.Headly; 3rd, F.A.Peyton; 4th, R.B.Callender; 5th, T.L.Rush.

JUSTICE OF THE PEAEE

1st, A. Berger, R.B.Smith; 2nd, R.H.Callender; 3rd, J.E.Ross; 4th, A.R.Chum, J.L.Torvey; 5th, B.F.Hynum, J.A.McFatter.

CONSTABLES

1st, W.S.Beard; 3rd, Clyde Nelson; 4th,M.D.Foster; 5thW.L.Dixon.

Book 1927 - 1929 1928,29,30,31

COUNTY OFFICERS

SAME AS BOOK 1925 - 1927

SUPERVISORS

1st, J.V.Gage; 2nd, D.J.Taylor; 3rd, F.A.Peyton; 4th, R.B.Callender; 5th, T.L.Rush.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, A.Berger, R.B.Smith; 2nd, J.T.Trevilon; 3rd, R.C.McCoy; 4th, W.B. Williams; 5th, B.F.Hynum, J.A.McFatter.

CONSTABLES

1st, W.S.Beard; & D.E.McCaa, Jr.,; 2nd not given; 3rd, Clyde Nelson; 4th not given; 5th, E.P.Dixon.

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Book 1929 - 1931 1932,33,34,35

COUNTY OFFICERS

R.H.Moorehead, sheriff; Eula S. Allen,chancery clerk; Louise H.Berger, circuit clerk; J. Mack Jones, supt. of education; M.C.Foster, assessor; G.S.Watson, attorney;

SUPERVISORS

1st, J.V.Gage; 2nd, M.R.Headly; 3rd, R.B.McKay; 4th, R.B.Callender; 5th, T.L.Rush

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, A.Berger, M.J.Spencer; 2nd, D.J.Taylor, J.J.Anderson; 3rd, R.C. McCay; 4th, W.B.Williams, J.C.Wilkinson;

CONSTABLES

1st, W.S.Beard; 2nd, W.L.Harmon; 3rd, L.N.Brown; 4th, Dan Miller; 5th, None

Book 1931 - 1933 1932,33,34,35

COUNTY OFFICERS

SAME AS BOOK 1929 - 1931

SUPERVISORS

SAME AS BOOK 1929 - 1931

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1st, A. Berger;M.J.Spencer; 2nd, D.J.Taylor, J. J. Anderson; 3rd, R.C.McCay; 4th, W.B.Williams,5th, B.F.Hynum,J.C.Wilkinson.

CONSTABLES

SAME AS BOOK 1929 - 1931

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

State-Wide Historical Research Project

COUNTY HISTORY

Assignment One

1. Sources of Material:

Court House and County Offices: Chancery Clerk's Office
Circuit Clerk's Office

City Hall

Historical Societies: D.A.R. and U.D.C.

Civic and Cultural Organizations: Lions Club
King's Daughters
Woman's Club
American Legion
Reading Circle

Libraries: County Library
School Libraries: Port Gibson High School
Chamberlain-Hunt Academy

County Newspaper: "The Port Gibson Reveille"

Irwin Russell Memorial Museum

Pioneers:

Samuel Gibson; received Spanish grant of 850 acres. Founder town of Port Gibson.

Peter B. Bruin; received Spanish, French, and Georgia grant and established one of the early settlements of the county, Bruinsburg.

Waterman Crane, Bruinsburg. Spanish grant. Of distinguished Revolutionary fame.

Tobias Brashear, Grand Gulf. Spanish grant. Prominent in the early educational and political life of the county.

Benjamin Hughes, Port Gibson. President of Grand Gulf Bank and Captain in the War of 1812.

Jacob Coburn, Port Gibson. Spanish grant. First white person to settle in the county.

**Pioneers**

In addition to pkoneers on our list proper, we find the following named in "Lowry and McCardle's History" and feel that they should be included even though no further information can be secured about them:

Thomas Freeland

James H. Maury, father of Mrs. Benjamin G. Humphreys

Stephen D. Carson

Henry G. Johnson

John Henderson

Thomas Gale

William Sillers, lawyer and planter

William H. Martin, father of J. McC. Martin

James I. Person

Dr. Robert Harper

B. D. Stockton

Major James S. Mason, many years editor local paper

John B. Thrasher

John L. Torrey

Richard Valentine

Passmore Hoopes

Samuel H. Abbey

Robert Hume

Chas. A. Pearson

Joseph L. Kennard

Thomas Berry

Amos Whiting

George Lake

Robert Scott

Nahum Chunn

Joseph E. Jones

Charles B. Clarke

Cornelius Herring

The McIntyres

_____ Davenport

William Dodson

Volney E. Stamps

James Patton

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

**Pioneers** (continued)

Horatio N. Spencer, Port Gibson. Prominent lawyer in 1829 and President of the Port Gibson Bank and of the Port Gibson-Grand Gulf Railroad.

James McCaleb, Port Gibson. French grant.

Thomas Farror, Port Gibson. Colonel in the Revolutionary War.

Parmenas Briscoe, Port Gibson. General in the War of 1812 and author of the "Briscoe Bill" passed July 26, 1843.

Zebulon Butler, Port Gibson. Important in the early religious life of the county and for 33 years the pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

Ralph Humphreys, Port Gibson. Father of Ralph Humphreys, Colonel in the Revolutionary War, and great-great grandfather of Governor Benjamin Humphreys.

James Jefferies, Port Gibson. Founder of a large family, one of whose sons aided in purchasing of a female academy at Port Gibson and left a large bequest to the church in his will.

Smith Coffee Daniell, Westside. Planter of great wealth and builder of "Windsor", the magnificent ruins of which still stand.

Thomas B. Magruder, Port Gibson. Member of the lower house of the Mississippi legislature in the years, 1839, 1842, and 1881.

Peter Van Dorn, Port Gibson. Clerk of the first Mississippi legislature in 1817. Father of Earl Van Dorn of Civil War fame.

Thomas Barnes, Port Gibson. President Legislative Council of Mississippi Territory 1809-1810, and speaker of the first legislature of the state in 1817.

Daniel Burnett, Port Gibson. Spanish grant. Private in the Revolutionary War.

Pioneers, continued

Joshua G. Clarke, Port Gibson. First Chancellor of Mississippi in 1821.

Charles Shreve, Port Gibson. Founded a drug business in Grand Gulf in 1836. Later moved to Port Gibson, it has continued in his family to the present time.

II. Outstanding Points of Interest to Tourists:

(a) Unusual Geological Formation:

Rock Falls. Located in the southeastern part of the county. An unusual formation of shale rock in layers extending for about 30 miles. At the point of the falls forming a natural swimming pool fed by the waters of the south fork of Bayou Pierre.

Grand Gulf Sandstone. This geologic formation is presented in a mass immediately above Grand Gulf in the western part of the county. It has often been quarried.

Lignite and Iron Pyrites: strata 6 inches to 1½ feet wide along streams near Big Black.

Wall of undertermined origin. In the south eastern part of the county near Brandywine.

Remains of Prehistoric Animals. Found frequently in strata along James Creek in southwestern part of county. A collection of teeth and jawbones has been sent to Smithsonian Institute.

(b) Indian Mounds, Caves:

Three mounds in southern part of county on plantation of Mrs. J.W. Magruder; one moundin northern part of county on Pinola Plantation on Big Black; a small mound on ~~on~~ Woodlawn plantation in southeast part of county. All built, it is thought, by the Choctaw Indians.

These have been explored by amateurs and have been found to be Indian burying places.



(b) Indian Mounds, Caves (continued)

Cave near Grand Gulf when found contained medicine man's outfit, pestle and so on.

What appear to be several small rooms in rocky formation on the Bernheimer place six miles northeast of Port Gibson on the old Hermanville Road.

(c) Recreational Facilities:

Rock Falls. In the southeastern part of the county on the plantation of J. W. Person is this natural swimming pool frequented by people for miles in every direction.

The Bath Tub. A swimming pool of rock formation with picturesque falls situated two miles south of Port Gibson on the Old Rodney Road.

(d) Unusual Hunting and Fishing:

Karnac Lake, River Lake, and Grand Gulf Lake, formed by changes in the course of the Mississippi River are located in the region of Grand Gulf on the western boundary of the county. They are equipped with boats and furnish a paradise for the lover of game fishing.

Yucatan Bar, north of Grand Gulf; White Hall, South of Grand Gulf; and Point Facile, south of Grand Gulf, all in the extreme western part of the county form excellent feeding places for wild geese, ducks, and deer and hence afford good hunting. Fox hunting over the county is a popular sport. Trapping of fur bearing animals is carried on to considerable extent.

(e) Scenic Beauties:

All roads of the county, particularly the Natchez Trace, which extends diagonally through the county and the old Rodney Road running south from Port Gibson to Rodney. With their deep cuts, moss draped trees, and in the spring the blossoming yellow jasmine, red bud, and dog wood.

(e) Scenic Beauties (continued):

Sunset Hill, the highest point in the county, 2½ miles southeast of Port Gibson on the Colony Road, affords a wonderful view of the county and is a popular place for picknickers and campers.

Church Street, the main residential street of Port Gibson is noted for its beautiful churches and broad spreading trees.

(f) Periodic Festivals and Fairs with Local Color:

Annual Christmas Pageant: Under the auspices of the Kings' Daughters, this has been presented since 1910 by the Little Players, the children of the community, in Port Gibson. The second generation of children is now enacting the parts of this Christmas story.

Annual Spring Art Exhibit of Southern Painters: Held each year in the county library in Port Gibson, it is an unusual exhibition for a small town.

Forty Thieves' Parade: An annual parade staged during the early 80's in the town of Port Gibson, portraying by means of floats and costumes scenes in early mythology.

(g) Rare Old Homes and Buildings Historically or Architecturally Interesting:

Birth place of Irwin Russell, poet of national reputation, located in Port Gibson.

Home of Earl Van Dorn, confederate general, in Port Gibson.

Home of the Leven Williams family in Port Gibson, very old and quaint.

Former "Ryan House" in the courthouse square in Port Gibson, an inn frequented by Burr and Blennerhassett.

"Windsor", unique ruins of the Daniell home on the Rodney Road 12 miles southwest of Port Gibson.

Anchuka. Ante bellum home with wonderful winding stairway, 2½ miles southeast of Port Gibson on the Pattison Road.

Idlewild, Ante bellum home, the scene of some of Stephen C. Foster's songs, located in Port Gibson.



(g) Rare Old Homes (continued)

Glensade (recently burned); ante bellum home on Highway 61, one mile north of Port Gibson; noted social center in the early days.

Vaucluse, former home of Governor B.G. Humphreys, four miles southeast of Port Gibson on Pattison Road.

The Red Inn (burned), famous tavern on the Natchez Trace, stopping place of Lafayette and Andrew Jackson. Located at Rocky Springs in the northeastern part of the county.

Home of Judge R. D. Gage in Port Gibson; slave quarters in the rear.

Former home of Henry T. Ellett in Port Gibson; member of committee which drew up the articles of secession.

Former home of the Maury family in Port Gibson and now occupied by a descendant of this family. Once home of Irwin Russell.

Claremont, just south of Port Gibson, ½ mile off Highway 61. Once the home of Joshua G. Clark, first Chancellor of the state; and later of S. R. Bertron, pioneer citizen. Now in possession of a descendant of the Bertron family.

La Cache (burned), once the home of Blennerhassett. Located ten miles southeast of Port Gibson on the Tillman Road.

Hopewell (burned), home of Mrs. Olivia Hastings where the bill creating the Industrial Institute and College (now M.S.C.W.) was drafted. Near St. Elmo in the eastern part of the county.

Magnolia Grove. Ante bellum home built by William Richardson Buck who was awarded a sword by Congress for gallantry in the War of 1812. Located southwest of Port Gibson four miles, on old Rodney Road and now occupied by descendant of the builder. On the site of Battle of Port Gibson.

Home of the Shaifer family, located on the site of the Battle of Port Gibson and bearing marks of that battle. Five miles west of Port Gibson.

Chapel of Oakland College (now Alcorn A.& M. College) fifteen miles south of Port Gibson on the Rodney Road. Oakland College was built in 1830 and over a long period was the Alma Mater of many prominent men.

Brashear Female Academy ( now extinct, the buildings serving as an Annex for the Presbyterian Church in Port Gibson. Erected in 1857.

Chamberlain-Hunt Academy on the outskirts of Port Gibson. Successor to Oakland College. A modern structure under Presbyterian Church.

Irwin Russell Memorial in Port Gibson. Built in the early 40's for educational purposes, it now houses the City Hall, the County Library, and the Irwin Russell Memorial Room.

Home of the Hughes family, Port Gibson. Birth place of Henry Hughes, noted sociologist. Irwin Russell once lived here.

(g) Rare Old Homes (continued)

Magnolia Church . Located four miles southwest of Port Gibson on the site of the Battle of Port Gibson, it still bears the marks of that battle. On old Rodney Road.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Port Gibson. Built in 1850. Contains picture of Christ painted by Tom Healy, noted artist of the period and carved altar rail and beams executed by Foley who later made a name for himself in this line of work.

Presbyterian Church in Port Gibson. Cornerstone laid in 1828. Contains chandeliers from the old steamboat Robert E. Lee and the hand on the steeple is unique, having been recently featured in Ripley's "Believe it or Not".

Methodist Church in Port Gibson. This was built in 1853, a successor to one built in 1826 which burned.

Methodist Church at Rocky Springs in the extreme northern part of the county on the Natchez Trace, a brick structure about 100 years old.

Planter's Hotel. Erected in the 1820s, this is one of the oldest structures in Port Gibson. Near the court house on Highway 61. It long since ceased serving its original purpose.

(h) Citizens of Unusual Note:

Richard Sparks of Grindstone Ford, a colonel in the Revolutionary War.

William McCaleb, address unknown, buried at Hermitage Plantation in eastern part of county, captain in the Revolutionary War.

Samuel Reading Bertron, pioneer and stockholder in Port Gibson-Grand Gulf Railroad. Lived in Port Gibson.

Walter Leake of Rocky Springs in northern part of county, Governor of Mississippi 1822-1825.

Benjamin G. Humphreys of Grindstone Ford, Governor of Miss. 1865.

Harmon Blennerhassett, Port Gibson, associate of Aaron Burr.

Henry T. Ellett, Port Gibson, member of committee to draft Articles of Secession.

Earl Van Dorn, Port Gibson, Major-General in Confederate Army.

Henry Hughes, Port Gibson, pioneer citizen and noted sociologist.

Irwin Russell, Port Gibson, noted poet.

Tom Healy, Port Gibson, artist of some note and brother of G.P.A. Healy, famous French painter.



2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists.

(c) Citizens of unusual note.

**Irwin Russell**

Dr. Wm. Russell, the father of Irwin Russell, originally from Ohio, settled in Port Gibson when quite a young man and with the exception of a short stay in St. Louis before, and again just after, the civil war, was a practicing and prominent physician here until his death in April, 1879.

Mrs. Russell, whose frail body and brilliant intellect her son inherited came here from New York, and as Miss Elizabeth Allen taught for several years at the Port Gibson Female College, and it was in the large old fashioned parlor of the main building that she and Dr. Russell were married in the month of August, 1850. She died in 1902 in Los Angeles, California, where she had gone to reside after the death of Dr. Russell, and where the three remaining children, Sarah(Mrs. Wesley Clark), William and Mary, are now living.

Irwin Russell was born in the old Episcopal Rectory on June 3rd, 1853. His early education was acquired in his own home until sent to St. Louis where he graduated at the University of St. Louis conducted by the Jesuit fathers. On returning home he studied law under Judge L.N. Baldwin in the office now occupied by Dr. W. N. Jenkins. He was later admitted to the bar, but finding the work uncongenial practiced but a short time.

Supplement to Assignment One

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists---------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell

Born a student, Irwin Russell was from childhood encouraged and assisted in every possible way by an adoring mother. Mrs. Russell with her refined face, her quiet grace, and force of intellect dominated his whole life. Her mother love, discerning through the weakness of the body that frailty of spirit that was to make him a wanderer on the face of the earth, determined to give to the world the genius that was apparent from his earliest childhood. She kept him always with her, day and night she guided and guarded him, so that isolated and away from the roughening contact with other boys he spent his early years with no companions save books and his mother. That irrepressible spirit, that seems always to have been his, finding no outlet, it is not surprising that once released it carried him beyond bounds.

His genius was evident from the very beginning of his life. At four years he could read without hesitating, and at the age of six he was able to read and understand Milton's poems. He was possessed of rare musical ability and even as a boy was expert on the banjo and piano. He was equally expert in higher mathematics, and was sogifted in drawing that at one time he thought of becoming an architect. Apart from all this he possessed in a marvelous degree the ability to read rapidly The longest and most abstruse volume would be read and digested in just a few hours. The result was a mental equipment of immense range and most profound.



Supplement to Assignment One.

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell

It was when a boy in St. Louis that he became the victim of that insatiable thirst for stimulant that later was to become his master. Amiable, lovable, tractable as a child, this fatal weakness, that was ~~never~~ a vice with Irwin Russell, he was never able to overcome. It brought him to poverty, and led him among strangers to die. For his indomitable pride always impelled him to avoid his friends and to shut himself away from the hearts he knew he was breaking. For it is not true that Irwin Russell died friendless, nor should it be true that he died penniless. Not a man on the newspapers of New Orleans, for which he wrote, but was his friend. In Port Gibson, in New Orleans and in New York he had legions of friends who would have helped him had it been possible to help him. The press of both cities eagerly, gladly accepted his work, his parents impoverished themselves in their efforts to give him a start in life, and Judge Baldwin, through a merchant in New Orleans, gave gladly of his means to make every provision for him that he might not suffer, but everything provided went the same way, and no effort of loved ones could spare him a desolate, comfortless, friendless death bed.

In spite of his charm and geniality an isolating loneliness seemed to pervade his whole life. Barred from intimate communion with his fellows by his very genius, and by a weakness above which he could never rise, with an intellect stored with the best the literature of the world could afford, and a fund of humor exquisite in its refinement, the South's gifted poet walked life's way alone.

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists---------- (continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.---------- (continued)

Irwin Russell

Irwin Russell made many starts in life, many efforts to get away from himself and begin anew. Like so many young men at that time he was seized with a desire to go West. He started to California, but stopping in Tennessee he became ill and was compelled to return. Time and time again he went away, but an empty purse and illness always brought back.

But as time passed and he grew older Irwin Russell also grew steadier in purpose and more stable in character, and when he re-entered Judge Baldwin's office in 1877 he seemed to have found himself. He devoted himself to his work and made a success of it. In his moments of leisure he still wrote--but usually prose. All might have been well had it not been for the coming of the yellow fever.

He remained here throughout the epidemic, during which he endeared himself to every member of the community by acts of kindness that are house hold stories today. He nursed the sick, buried the dead, and prayed and sang over those who would otherwise have gone without prayer of hymn. He was profoundly affected by those experiences. They dimmed his bright touch, and ever after his poems had a touch of sadness and melancholy.

The epidemic following so closely on the Reconstruction period left Port Gibson prostrate financially. No one was able to employ a lawyer so there was no choice but to leave. This he did in late December, 1878 at the call of the leading literary men of New York. There he was received with outstretched hands by the Scribner Bros., his publishers,



2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell

and by Henry C. Bunne, Richard Watson Gilder and Robert Underwood Johnson. Every courtesy was extended him, cordiality, kindness, consideration met him on every side, the outlook was propitious, the prospect fair. But there was no resting place of Irwin Russell. Illness and that specter that forever clogged his footsteps and shadowed his life drove him forth again and back to the land of his birth. Weak and penniless he worked his way on the Knickerbocker, one of the steamers plying between New York and New Orleans, and arrived in the latter city gaunt, friendless and helpless, "a very devil of despair" in his heart to find as always friends and renewed hope.

It was late in August that he returned to Port Gibson, to the home he had left just a few months before. His father was dead, his family gone. After a few days with Judge Baldwin he returned to New Orleans, and though for the next few months he was attached to the staff of the Times, the sands had run low. It was too late. He seemed to feel the threads slipping from his hands and to know that the end was near. By what seemed to the world a strange coincidence, his last published lines were on the subject of his own grave. As given they appeared in the Times, December 14th.

THE CEMETERY

I stand within this solemn place
And think of days gone by;

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note----------(continued)

Irwin Russell

THE CEMETERY-------(continued)

I think of many an old-time face--
Here's where those faces lie.

I think of when, what time God please,
The hour shall come to me
That, covered by the clay, like these
My face shall masked be.

No marble monument will rise
Above that grave of mine;
No loving friends will wipe their eyes
When life I shall resign.

But when I leave my life--have left
My every present care--
I'll find a home of care bereft--
My friends are living there.

His thoughts had reverted to this, his childhood home. He stood once more in the peaceful old cemetery on the hill where he hoped to lie. He died December 23rd, 1879. With all the glad world throbbing with Christmas joy he went forth--alone.

He was buried in New Orleans, but later his body was removed to St. Louis as were those of his father and mother.



2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Irwin Russell

So ended the twenty-six years of life that were Irwin Russell's. "Few men ever got so many buffets from the hands of fate and still fewer so little benefit." Over all the heartache, all the anguish of disappointed hopes, over the never ending struggle against the disintegration of a lofty soul and a spirit weighed down by an ever present premonition of failure, we pass softly and in silence.(1)

MAGGIE W. MUSGROVE

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.

1. Taken from clippings of the Port Gibson Reveille, found in an old scrapbook belonging to Mrs. Cornelia Clarke.

State-Wide Historical Research Project

County History

Supplement to Assignment One

Canvassers:
Miss Mary Isaacson
Mrs. S.T. Hamilton

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists.

(c) Citizens of unusual note.

Dr. Ernest Peyton Jones

Dr. Ernest Peyton Jones was born in the year 1865, a son of Dr. Dudley W. and Laura Peyton Jones. Dr. Dudley W. Jones, his father, was a son of Dr. A. P. Jones whose father John Jones, came to Mississippi from Charleston, S.C. in 1780. John Jones's father was an officer in the Revolutionary War.

Dr. Ernest Peyton Jones, our subject, graduated at Tuland University in 1887. He began the practice of his profession in Claiborne County. Here he met and married Annie Richmond, a daughter of Thos. Y. Richmond. Dr. Jones is now a popular practitioner at Hermanville where he has been actively engaged in the practice of medicine for almost a half a century. He is a careful, successful physician, well read in his profession and well posted on current events. His standing is high socially, professionally, and politically. He is an entertaining conversationalist and most popular among all.



Supplement to Assignment One

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists--------(continued)

(c) Citizins of unusual note.----------(continued)

Dr. George W. Acker

Dr. Acker has for forty-five years been a very prominent citizen of Claiborne. He was born in Mobile, Alabama in 1867, educated in the Mobile Academy, Towles Institute and Medical College of Alabama. In addition to his extensive education and experience he has proven himself to be possessed of natural talent in his profession, which is often spoken of as a "gift from the gods". He came to Port Gibson in1891 and has practiced continuously up to this date. While acquiring a fortune for himself, he has given freely of his services to underprivileged people.

During the yellow fever epidemic of 1899, he was sent out by the Federal Government as supervisor of the state of Mississippi. He was in charge completely of the city of McHenry, Mississippi. He was also in charge of the Port Gibson epidemic in 1905.

His military career is deserving of honorable mention. He was major surgeon for the 3rd regiment of the Mississippi National Guards. In the Spanish-American war he was examining surgeon of the 1st and 2nd regiments of the Mississippi Voluntary Infantry. He was mustered out of service at request on the 29th of January, 1899. He gave his services free during the World War as examining surgeon of recruits.(1)

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1. Information secured from Dr. G. W. Acker.

Supplement to Assignment One.

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Hon. E. S. Drake

The Hon. E. S. Drake was a native of Jefferson County where he spent his early childhood and received his early education, later becoming a student in Centenary College, where he graduated with the honors of his class in 1860.

Mr. Drake, upon returning from the Confederate Army, found himself with no means whatsoever, so in order to obtain necessary funds, he opened a private school and devoted his leisure moments to the study of law. Soon after he was admitted to the bar, Mr. Drake moved to Port Gibson, August, 1867, opened a law office at this place, and was one of the most public-minded citizens, one of its foremost and eminent lawyers.

Notwithstanding the fact that he was a very active business man, he never neglected hisreligious duties.(1)

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1. Biog. and Hist. Memoirs of Mississippi, Page 661.



Supplement to Assignment One

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note. ----------(continued)

Horatio N. Spencer

"Mr. Spencer was born in the town of Lyme, Connecticut, Nov. 22, 1798, and came to this place in 1828. He was a graduate of high rank of Yale College, and after studying his profession entered upon the practice of law in this place , and continued, with satisfactory success, until enabled to retire from his profession to his country seat near town, engaging largely in the pursuits of the planter. His intellectual endowments, his never tiring energy, his great systematic business capacity and his moral and methodical life made him conspicuous as one of the most useful of men. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church nearly forty years and almost a life long member. To him, perhaps more than to any other man, except the late lamented pastor of the Church, Rev. Dr. Butler, are our people indebted for one of the largest and most useful churches of that denomination in the State, and whilst others contributed liberally, it was mainly through his great energy that we are indebted for the splendid church edifice which graces and adorns our town, a building which cost nearly $40,000. For many years Mr. Spencer was president of the Bank of Port Gibson and in 1851 when the present railroad which to-day is the basis and foundation of our commercial prosperity, was projected, Mr. Spencer came forward, without any other interest than that of zeal for the town, for his wealth lay in other sections, and led off with a subscription of $8,000 in stock, being, as was then thought one tenth of the amount needed. The second year after the completion of the road he was made president of the company, and retained the position until the war left the property

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Horatio N. Spencer----------(continued)

in ruins.

Mr. Spencer was three times married and his domestic life was always that of perpetual sunshine. His surviving wife was to him a household joy, a congenial, social, domestic, and religious companion, and to his children, her step children, she was the most devoted of mothers. When the war began he was a man of large wealth. It was swept away, but left him cheerful and trusting, as though he deemed the calamity a blessing in disguise.

Died 1876 after a brief illness. The funeral of the deceased was a scene of great solemnity, the pulpit, and the pew in which he had so long sat were draped in mourning, and the sermon of his pastor, Rev. Mr. Planck, was a glowing and feeling tribute to the faithful servant of the church."

"Servant of God, well done!
Praise be thy new employ;
And while eternal ages run,
Rest in thy Savior's joy.

Soldiers of Christ well done!
Rest from thy loved employ-
The battle fought, The victory won,
Enter thy master's joy." (1)

1. Southern Reveille, Saturday, April 22, 1876.



2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists ----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Dr. James F. McCaleb

"Dr. McCaleb is a member of an old Claiborne county family, his ancestors for generations having resided in the same neighborhood where he now lives. His father was one of the ablest lawyers in New Orleans and a near-relative, Judge McCaleb, was the youngest supreme court justice Louisiana has ever had. For more than thirty years Dr. McCaleb has been a valued correspondent of the Reveille." (1)

James S. Mason

"James S. Mason, one of the earliest editors of the Southern Reveille, was born April 1, 1818, at Milford, Delaware, and died September 1, 1887, at the age of 69 years and five months.

In early manhood Mr. Mason came to Port Gibson where he soon became prominent figure in the affairs of the community, both because of his education and of his personality. He first engaged in merchandise, but later his talents led him into the newspaper business, becoming editor of several papers. Finally he took charge of the Southern Reveille, and it is said that it was he who suggested the name when the paper was organized.

Mr. Mason was a graceful and attractive writer and was regarded as one of the leading editors of the state. He had decided convictions on public measures and policy, and advocated them with zeal. He was an untiring worker, and only relinquished control of the paper, the destinies of which

1. Port Gibson Reveille, Aug. 19, 1926-Semi-Centennial Edition.

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

James S. Mason----------(continued)

he had guided so long, until disease had rendered him helpless."(1)

Governor Benjamin G. Humphreys

Gov. B. G. Humphreys was born in Claiborne County in 1808 and died in 1882. He was the war governor, elected by the people and was ejected by military force from the mansion at Jackson by an appointee of the Federal Government. His home near Port Gibson was at different times headquarters for both Confederate and Federal armies during the war of Secession, and was the first headquarters in this section of the Ku Klux Klan.

Charles Shreve

Charles Shreve came to Port Gibson from Kentucky in 1835. In 1836 he s started a pharmacist business in Grand Gulf. In 1852 he returned to Port Gibson where he died of yellow fever in 1878. His business was taken over by his son in 1854. One of the oldest businesses in Port Gibson, it is still in the hands of the Shreve family, having continued in their possession for three generations.(2)

1. Port Gibson Reveille, Aug. 19, 1926-Semi-Centennial Edition.
2. Biog. and Hist. Memoirs of Miss., Vol. II, Page 765.



2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Blennerhassett--Something of the Life of Aaron Burr's Associate, by the late A. C. Wharton.

"Blennerhassett left England, it appears, to escape the ostracism which he encountered after his marriage in 1796 with Margaret Agnew, daughter of his sister Catherine. At the time of this ill-starred union Blennerhassett was well-bred and well-educated; his wife was an accomplished girl of eighteen. A few months later they landed in America, and so carefully was the secret guarded that none of their children ever suspected them of being uncle and niece.

While occupying the home that he had established on an island in the Ohio river, Blennerhassett became interested in the schemes of Aaron Burr--whatever they may have been--and in January, 1807, followed him down the Mississippi. It was possibly in 1808 that he settled in Claiborne county, about six miles from Port Gibson, on a thousand-acre tract of dense woodland, belonging to Drury W. Breazeale, a prominent lawyer and planter. Pleased with its fertility and wild beauty, in February, 1810, he purchased the tract for $4000, calling it La Cache, in token of his purpose to lead a life of seclusion. There this polished man of the world and his delicately reared wife spent the next eleven years, their only neighbors a few pioneers scattered in the wilderness around. Two children were born to them at La Cache, a daughter who died in infancy--and, in 1812, a son, Joseph Lewis, their youngest child, and the last surviving member of the family.

Blennerhassett seems quickly to have identified himself with the people of

2. Outstanding points fo interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Blennerhassett----------(continued)

Claiborne county. In 1809 his name appears in the public records as a commissioner appointed to mark out a road to the Jefferson county line; and in September, 1813, during the great Indian panic, caused by the massacre at Fort Mims, he was one of the men selected by the citizens to superintend the erection of stockade forts for refuge from the expected invaders. Doubtless his wealth helped to make him prominent, for he had retained an English property that yielded $6600 per annum--a great income in that primitive community.

One of his neighbors was the lawyer Breazeale, from whom he had purchased La Cache plantation. The families were intimate but on one occassion a difficulty arose between the two men that came near costing Blennerhassett his life. Riding over to Breazeale's one morning to discuss some matter of business, he had an interview with the latter which ended in high words. Breazeale, a man of impetuous spirit, was so incensed by a remark made by Blennerhassett that he seized an ax lying near them in the yard and advanced with the weapon uplifted. Fortunately, his arm was stayed by his daughter, Sarah, who clung to him and impeded his movement until his passion had time to cool. This daughter, afterward Mrs. Joseph Callender, died in New Orleans about the year 1875,,and it is on her authority that this incident is here related. She described Mrs. Blennerhassett, whom she knew well, as an attractive women, of superior culture and intelligence.



2. Outstanding pointsoof interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Blennerhassett----------(continued)

In 1813-14 Blennerhassett's affairs went badly. Debts accumulated; sixteen suits against him were pending in the county court at one time, and losing heart, he advertised an auction sale of his household effects, with the purpose of leaving Mississippi. Soon, however, his considerable income freed him from these difficulties, and he decided to remain and build a handsome residence on his plantation.

But while preparing for this work, he got into a feud with a neighbor, one John Hays, which upset all his plans, and eventually decided him to sell out and leave. This affair shows him in a very bad light. A dispute about the trespassing of some hogs belonging to Hays led to an exchange of threats; and one evening, after dark, in February, 1818, Blennerhassett and his son Dominick went to Hays' dwelling on an adjoining plantation, called him to the gate, and beat him to insensibility.

The folhowing month the Blennerhassetrs were arraigned before the county court on a charge of assault with intent to murder. Public opinion being strongly against hhem in Claiborne, they procured a change of venue to Jefferson. This affair rendered Blennerhassett so unpopular that life in Claiborne county became unpleasant for him. Accordingly, in December, 1818, he sold La Cache plantation, together with eighteen slaves, for $25,000, and soon afterwards removed to New York and thence to Montreal. Failing to establish a law practice in Canada, he returned to England in 1822 and there made his home with a maiden sister. Finally, broken in

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Blennerhasset----------(continued)

health and spirits, he died in 1831, while on a visit to the Island of Guernsey."(1)

Present-Day Financiers--an article in the Reveille.

"Claiborne county has long contributed men and women to practically all of the professions, many of whom excelled in his or her special line of endeavor. Within the past half century it has given three of its sons to the world of finance--two to New York and the other to Texas. We refer to S. R. Bertron, Sidney Bernheimer of New York, and S. R. Bertron, Jr., of Houston, Texas, a nephew of the first named.

Mr. Bertron made his fortune from an humble beginning. Leaving Yale almost penniless, he soon became a financial power on Wall Street. Though he suffered many losses during the recent war--having investments in foreign countries--his large fortune remains as a monument to his ability and perseverance.

Mr. Bertron has been very close to some of the presidents of the country, and has been a power for the good of the nation. He has never forgotten the little town in which he received his early training, and many gifts have demonstrated this interest.

1. Port Gibson Reveille, Aug. 19, 1926, Semi-Centennial Edition.



2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Present-Day Financiers----------(continued)

Mr. Bernheimer had a much more propituous beginning, falling heir to a part of the estate of his father who was a prosperous Port Gibson merchant. However, he has demonstrated, as a New York merchant, his ability as a great financier.

S. R. Bertron, Jr., is at the head of the Houston Light & Traction Co., besides having many other interests. Like his uncle, he is a born financier, having made his own way in the business world; and in time he too promises to become a powereof finance.

Both Mr. Bernheimer and Bertron, Jr., are as vitally interested in the "old home town" as those who still reside here."(1)

Hon. John McCaleb Martin

In interviewing Mrs. Martin in regard to her husband's life, she gave me several newspapers that she said would tell me more than she could. SO I am quoting from a piece in the Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Sunday morning, Sept. 7, 1924 by Edgar S. Wilson:

"John McCaleb Martin was a great Mississippian. He loved his state because it was his own, and scorned to give aught other reason why. Like some tall cliff towered above small things. He despised hypocracy. So when he came to wrap the drapery of his couch about him, his splendid brilliant life was a s chaste as the icicle curded by the purest snow that Shakespeare saw hanging on Dian's temple.

1. Port Gibson Reveille, Aug. 19, 1926, Semi-Centennial Edition.

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Hon. John McCaleb Martin----------(continued)

As soldier, lawyer, statesman, citizen and patriot, he has indelibly left the imprint of his devoted usefulness upon the brightest page of Mississippi's brightest history."

"His great service rendered to the south during the trying reconstruction days when he was a leader in Claiborne County in putting down the carpet bag rule and the negro rule. In the social and political revolution of 1875 the white plume of John McCaleb Martin nodded in the forefront of the hardest battle. In Mississippi as in other southern states the alien was driven out and the people of Claiborne County praised Mr. Martin as an outstanding figure who had contributed largely to the restoration of home government and white supremacy."

"Mr. Martin is survived by his brilliant, devoted and popular widow," who was Miss Amanda Myles. Mrs. Martin is most affectionately recalled here at the capital by many friends and admirers who met and knew this charming woman when she attended the sessions of the Legislature with her distinguished husband."(1)

He drafted, while a member of the Legislature, the bill creating the Mississippi Institute and College for the white girls in 1884. He was a trustee of this college for many years, the college now having been changed to the Mississippi State College for Women.

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne Co. Supervisor.

1. The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Sept. 7, 1924.



2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Samuel Weil

"Samuel Weil, who has been actively identified with mercantile interests in Port Gibson during the past third of a century, became the successor of S. Bernheimer & Sons on the 15th of February, 1916, and has since conducted business independently as a merchant and cotton factor. He is a native of Steinsfurth, Germany, born on the 5th of November, 1866, and received a high school education in that country. It was in August, 1883, when a youth of seventeen years, that he crossed the Atlantic to the United States and took up his abode in Greenville, Alabama. He was there employed as salesman in the general mercantile establishment of the firm of Drum & Ezekiel until 1891, which year witnessed his arrival in Port Gibson, Mississippi. Here he accepted the position of general manager and buyer with S. Bernheimer & Sons, who had established a general mercantile and cotton business in Port Gibson in 1847 and conducted one of the oldest, most successful and largest enterprises of the kind in the state. On the 15th of February, 1916, after twenty-five years' connection therewith, Mr. Weil purchased the business of S. Bernheimer & Sons, who attributed no little of their later success to his able services in their behalf. During the past decade Mr. Weil has carried on a general mercantile and cotton business on his own account with gratifying results. He has a New York office at Nos. 114 and 115 Fifth avenue. Possessed of untiring energy and quick perception, he forms his plans readily and is determined in their execution, and his close application to business and his excellent management have brought to him the high degree of prosperity

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Samuel Weil----------(continued)

which is today his. He does an extensive advancing business helping the farmers to make crops of all kinds, especially cotton. He has been associated with the Mississippi Southern Bank since its organization as a diretor and chairman of the board. His life has ever been actuated by honorable principles,while the sterling worth of his character is attested by all with whom he has come into contact."(1)

James Bennett Allen

"In the memorial annals of Mississippi and of the whole cotton growing country in the south, there are few names entitled to more respectful and grateful remembrance than that of the late James Bennett Allen, whose passing at his pleasant home in Port Gibson, Claiborne county, in the spring of 1919, was the occasion of general and sincere regret in the circles in which he long had moved and in which he was held in such high esteem. The service Mr. Allen rendered the cotton growers of this country and the obligation of memory thus created in his behalf, ever will stand as memorials to his name, more enduring than marble obelisks or granite shafts, for by his painstaking efforts and thoughtful research he effected a revolutionary and incalculably profitable change in the cotton industry and as the ori-

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1. Mississippi, The Heart of the South (Biographical) Vol.IV, Page 510.



2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

James Bennett Allen----------(continued)

ginator and producer of the first marketable upland long-staple cotton ever will be known as one of the country's benefactors.

A soldier of the Confederacy during the time of the Civil war, Mr. Allen became engaged in cotton growing after he had settled down in the quiet paths of peace and while thus engaged, along in the '70s, after a period of careful and painstaking experimentation, he produced what came to be recognized as a new and immensely valuable variety of cotton, the first upland long-staple product of the southern cotton fields. This product naturally attracted instant attention, promising, as it did, a revolution in the south's basic industry. By cultivation this original product was developed and brought to a higher state of perfection until a staple of one and five-eighths inches had been attained, a product unheard of before that time. From this beginning Mr. Allen perfected his several noted varieties of staple, the Allen Hybrid, the Allen Yellow Bloom and the Unknown, and the sale of the seed of these widely sought varieties all over the cotton-growing country proved the basis of the considerable fortune he built up and the foundation of the fine estate he left in Claiborne county, an estate to which his son, Leigh Briscoe Allen, planter, banker and civic promoter, is a worthy successor.

Though not a native son of Mississippi, the late James Bennett Allen had

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

James Bennett Allen---- ----------(continued)

been a resident of this state from the days of his boyhood and was thus as much devoted to the old Bayou commonwealth and her interests as though indeed "native and to the manner born", and he never proudly did his part in promoting such movements as would redound to her advantage. He was born in the city of Newark, New Jersey, August 12, 1846, and was the only son of his parents, Jacob and Catherin (Bennett) Allen, the latter also a native of New Jersey, born in Trenton. They also had a daughter, Mrs. Fannie M. Ballard, who died near her home in New York city, on October 30, 1919. Jacob Allen, who was the chie f of the Newark fire department, was killed by a falling wall while fighting a destructive fire in that city in 1857, the son, James, being then eleven years of age. The latter then became a member of the household of his paternal uncle, James Allen, who had become established in Nanachehaw, Warren county, Mississippi, a place to which the railway name of Allen later was given, and it was there on the hospitable plantation on the Big Black river that he was reared, his education being completed under the tutorship of Professor Hensler, a cultured German.

Mr. Allen was eighteen years of age when the war came to an end. He resumed his place on his uncle's plantation in Warren county and it was there that he began his original experiments in cotton culture-experiments that intime were to prove of far-reaching consequence in the cotton trade. He was married when thirty-four years of age and his home thereafter was made in Port Gibson, his wife's family seat, where he gradually developed an extensive business as planter and banker and where he rendered considera ble



2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

James Bennett Allen----------(continued)

public service, serving at one time and another several terms as alderman in and for the town of Port Gibson. Mr. Allen was a stanch democrat and was long regarded as one of the leaders of that party in Claiborne county. After his marriage and upon taking up his residence in Port Gibson, he became connected with the local congregation of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, and was ever thereafter a substantial supporter of the church In the days of his young manhood he became affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and continued to the end an earnest worker in the ranks of that ancient order. He also took an active part in the affairs of the Patrons of Husbandry ( Grangers ) during the height of the Grange movement.and later in life became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Allen's cotton interests were his chief concern and he developed a fine plantation of eight hundred acres, the interests of which now are being looked after by his son. He had other interests of a substantial character including a place on the directorate of the old Mississippi National Bank and when in 1907 that institution was transformed into the present Mississippi Southern Bank of Port Gibson he was elected vice president of the latter and at the time of his death was the acting president of the bank. Mr. Allen died on March 31, 1919, then being in the seventy-third year of his age, and his passing was widely mourned, for he had done well his part in all the relations of life."(1)

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1. Mississippi, The Heart of the South(Biographical) , Vol.III, P. 58

Supplement to Assignment One

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Robert Buckner Anderson

"Robert Buckner Anderson, attorney at law and ex-member of the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Legislature, was born at Port Gibson, Mississippi, on January 24, 1876, the son of Lomax and Nellie (Buckner) Anderson. Lomax Anderson was born at Bladon Springs, Alabama, on January 23, 1846, and his wife was born in Clinton, Mississippi, on May 5, 1846, both families being of English and Scotch descent. Robert B. Anderson was educated in the high school of Port Gibson, then entered the University of Mississippi at Oxford where he was graduated in June, 1897, with the degree of LL. B. After his graduation Mr. Anderson began the practice of his profession the same year and is now regarded as one of the most distinguished members of the bar of Claiborne county, having practiced law continuously since that time. He was elected mayor of Port Gibson in 1899 and served to 1905. In 1908 he became a member of the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Legislature, serving to 1910, having during his incumbency the best interests of his constituents at heart.

Mr. Anderson belongs to the Masonic fraternity and his church associations are in the Presbyterian church of Port Gibson. In politics he is a democrat and in all matters pertaining to public welfare he is a prominent factor."(1)

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1. Mississippi, The Heart of the South by [illegible] Vol. IV, P. 521.



Supplement to Assignment One

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Mr. J. M. Taylor.

Mr. J. M. Taylor, acting President of the Mississippi Southern Bank of Port Gibson, has for a period of over 50 years or more been one of Claiborne's outstanding citizens.

He was born in Scott County in 1869. His family moved to Grand Gulf when he was one year old, his father having bought a small farm near there. He attended the four month session schools which were common to that day. Being unusually bright and energetic and trustworthy he assumed the responsibilities of a man at the early age of thirteen years. His father was neither wealthy or physically strong, and "Jim" as his devoted mother called him soon became the power behind the throne. Being ambitious he studied hard and at the age of 17 taught his first school there in Grand Gulf. He completed his education at Chamberlain Hunt Academy, Valparaiso, Indiana, and Gladsgow, Kentucky.

Many years of his early life were spent in educational work. For a number of years he was principal of the Port Gibson public school, had supervision of normal schools, both white and colored in the county, never once ceasing to carry on his farming interests.

Mr. Taylor represented his county in the legislature at one time and filled this place most satisfactorily. At the age of 30 years he married Betty Berry, daughter of Judge T. Y. Berry, and to this union was born one daughter, Bessie Berry Taylor.

Supplement to Assignment One.

2. Outstanding points of interest to tourists----------(continued)

(c) Citizens of unusual note.----------(continued)

Mr. J. M. Taylor.----------(continued)

For the past twenty years Mr. Taylor has given his untiring efforts to the county in encouraging and persuading farmers to wake up to the value of rotation of crops; planting of vetch in winter, and principally, the possibilities of profits in stock raising.

For himself he accumulated considerable wealth and always provided his family with every luxury. He has been instrumental in the shaping of many a man's destiny, often with wise counsel and as often with financial assistance.

Although in failing health and constantly under the care of a physician he is seldom absent from his office in the bank.

Enid Richmond

Miss Enid Richmond, Claiborne County
Historical Research Project Supervisor.



accepted S.L. 5

Supplement to Special Assignment

Miss Mary Naasson
Canvasser

Samuel Gibson

"Samuel Gibson, the founder of our town, was born in South Carolina August 1, 1748, one hundred and thirty-nine years ago. There is some reason to think that his home was in Marion County, from which part of South Carolina so many settlers came to Mississippi in early times. That county at the present day has a postoffice called Gibson, and families of that name are still living there.

Mr. Gibson came to Mississippi in the year 1772, at the age of twenty-four, and seems to have settled first in what is now Jefferson County; for records in the land office at Washington show that in Oct., 1777, he obtained from the British authorities then in power here, a grant of one hundred acres on Boyd's (now Cole's) Creek. On the 11th of December in the same year, he married Rebecca Cobun, who was, like himself, an immigrant from South Carolina. She was a sister of Samuel Cobun, who settled in Claiborne County some years later and became a prominent citizen here.

Samuel Gibson also acquired two tracts of land on St. Catherine's Creek in Adams County, one tract bearing date 1784, and the other 1789. On the 22nd of August, 1788, he obtained from the Spanish government established at Natchez, which had supplanted the

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"Port Gibson Reveille" August 19, 1926

British, a grant of 850 acres on the waters of Bayou Pierre. This tract covered the site of Port Gibson, since the first settlement of which, therefore, ninety-nine years have passed.

White people had begun coming into this county as early as 1774, and probably a few years before that; but they had settled nearer the river on the lower course of Bayou Pierre and Big Black and around Grand Gulf. Mr. Gibson was doubtless the second man to penetrate so far from the river into the untrodden wilderness. All around him, and for an unknown distance to the east, stretched a trackless forest inhabited only by savages and wild animals.

The pioneer who preceded him to this neighborhood was Jacob Cobun (in all probability hisfather-in-law), who, the year before (January 11, 1787) had located a Spanish grant of 800 acres near here, which land was afterwards held by Elizabeth and Ann Cobun, sisters of Mrs. Gibson, and lay three or four miles south of Port Gibson, on the Red Lick road. A grant of 700 acres obtained in 1789 by Samuel Gibson for his son John, then a boy ten years old, being the tract now known as the Montgomery place. Samuel Cobun, Mr. Gibson's brother-in 1790 also got from the Spanish authorities a grant of 300 acres (now Cabinwood, the home of the late Dr. T.B. Magruder.)

When Mr. Gibson settled on the beautiful plateau where Port Gibson now stands, it was an almost im enetrable forest, with a huge undergrowth of cane. His last surviving child, Mrs. Ann Minor, who died here in 1863, at the age of seventy-four, used to tell of bears, wolves, and panthers prowling about the yard within



a few feet of the house. The latter, which was a log structure, was built near where Mrs. Sevier now lives. Afterward the family removed to a spot where the Turner property now is,adjoining the Protestant cemetery,and still later Mr. Gibson built a small frame house near the present loc tion of the Female Academy. Here the latter part of his life was spent, and h re he died.

He brought with him to his Bayou Pierre home a few slaves, some of them native Africans. They lived a simple life in their forest home, raised all of their food except sugar, tea, and coffee. They had a grist mill on which both corn and wheat were ground, and some years later a cotton gin, one of the earliest in the county. All the plantation, white and black, wore garments made of home grown cotton and wool, the spinning and weaving being carried on under Mrs. Gibson's superintendence. This industrious woman prepared even the starch that was used on the place. The home contained a library of 160 volumes.

Mr. Gibson died at his home here December 17, 1817, at the age of 69 years and was buried in the family graveyard, which has since become the protestant cemetery.

Miss Enid Richmond
County Supervisor